MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1999 notice is hereby given that the following meeting will held in the Council Chambers, Mount Barker Homemaker Centre, 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker on Monday 4 August 2025.

7.00 pm Council Meeting

A. Stuart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

29 July 2025

Further information on Council's meeting procedures can be found on Council's website – www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au Council / Documents / Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures

Mount Barker District Council – Monday 4 August 2025 – 7.00pm

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1. COUNCIL OPENING

EXPRESSION OF FAITH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

1.1 Leave of Absence
1.2 Apologies

2. QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY (15 MINUTES)

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Recommendation

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 7 July 2025 as circulated to members be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Council Members are reminded of the requirements for disclosure by Members of a general or material conflict of interest in relation to items listed for consideration on the agenda.

Any declaration of a conflict of interest by a council member needs to include the following:

- If the conflict is general or material;
- Which agenda item the conflict relates to; and
- If a general conflict of interest is declared – whether or not the member proposes to participate in the discussion of the matter and if so, how the member intends to deal with the conflict of interest including whether the member intends to vote on the matter and their reasons for participating in the discussion of the matter.
- If a material conflict of interest is declared, the member is to leave the room for the discussion of the matter unless the Minister has granted an approval to the member to participate in the discussion of the matter.

5. DEPUTATIONS

NIL

6. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

6.1 TITLE: REGIONAL IMPOUND FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY
DATE: 4 AUGUST 2025
FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/101331

Questions asked by Councillor Voogt

1. After being contacted by residents regarding excessive, growing numbers of free roaming animals in their area, specifically the impact of stray/displaced cats and the consequences they have on native environments and wildlife, pet chickens etc. and the need to rehabilitate and rehome these animals, could staff reaffirm what role Council plays in managing stray/displaced pets in the district?

2. Considering the growth in housing in the area and the likelihood of more of these types of issues, how does Council propose to handle these cases into the future?

3. Effective cat management starts with desexing. Other Councils, such as the District Council of Yankalilla, are offering fully funded cat desexing programs that replace subsidies models to reflect “a strategic shift towards removing financial barriers that may prevent responsible pet owners”. Is this a possible strategy or something Mount Barker Council can consider?

4. Council has allocated in its most recent Annual Business Plan 2025-26 resources to investigate the potential of establishing a Regional Impound Facility. Can staff elaborate on why this investigation is now a priority?

5. What is the potential for Council to partner with external stakeholders, not-for-profits or other Councils in trying to establish a impound facility, or does/can Council going it alone?

6. What would be some key benefits and advantages for Council and the community more broadly regarding the establishment of this type of service? Can staff speak to how widespread/significant/damaging/costly stray and displaced pets in our district?

Councillor Voogt
18 July 2025

Council Officer response:

1. Since late 2019 Council has had a Cat By-law which addresses a number of issues one of which is the impact that cats have on residents and native wildlife. The role Council plays in regard to cat management is:
    - Promoting responsible cat ownership
    - Responding to cat complaints
    - Reuniting lost cats with their owners
    - Rehoming cats that are not claimed by their owners or are unowned and suitable for rehoming

2. Council will continue to undertake its cat management activities which ultimately benefits the community and local wildlife. Trapping cats is now a last resort due to impounding costs and challenges in rehoming unclaimed cats.
   This change to our process as well as a focus on community education in areas where there are cat management issues is working well as it raises awareness and changes behaviours which ultimately means that cat owners are preventing their cats from causing issues.

3. Desexing is an important component of effective cat management. In South Australia desexing is compulsory for all dogs and cats that are born after 1 July 2018.
   Council has participated in the National Desexing Network (NDN) program since 2022. The NDN program is a nationwide referral system which provides low cost-desexing to low income residents.
   Both Council and the Dog and Cat Management Board have contributed money to this popular initiative.
   The NDN program also offers low cost microchipping which greatly assists Council's Animal Management Officers reunite lost cats with their owners.

4. The Animal Welfare League and RSPCA used to regularly accept dogs and cats from Councils for rehoming. However they have recently changed their business model and are no longer accepting cats and dogs from Councils. This affects many Councils in South Australia and for Mount Barker District Council the main issue is the impounding and rehoming of cats.

5. There is the potential for Council to partner with a range of stakeholders in regard to impounding and rehoming of dogs and cats. Potential stakeholders could be nearby Councils, other rehoming agencies and potentially veterinarians. Council staff were part of the recent Impounding and Rehoming Project Steering Committee, a report has been produced and is currently with the three sub-committees of the LGA Board:

- The Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC)
- The South Australian Regional Organisation of Committee (SAROC); and
- The CEO Advisory Group.

6. The advantages of a regional/partnership approach are:
    - Cost savings
    - Increased capacity to be able to handle impounding and rehoming of dogs and cats
    - Improved animal welfare outcomes
    - Potential for commercial partnerships

Council's priority is to reunite lost pets with their owners, if this can't be achieved then we make every attempt to rehome the dog or cat. This depends on the health and suitability of the dog or cat to be rehomed and this decision is made in conjunction with our local vets.

Council's animal management team will continue to perform this role whether it relates to an individual animal or numerous animals that may be present at a property as a result of animal hoarding.

Jamie Tann
A/g General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services

6.2 TITLE: FANUA CARE DURING TREE REMOVAL
DATE: 4 AUGUST 2025
FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/106422

Background provided by Councillor Grosser

Most hollows in old remnant trees are inhabited by fauna, especially during the spring breeding season. In addition, nests are often present in branches.
During vegetation removal, many animals leap in panic from trees and are killed or injured by various means. Volunteer fauna rescue groups are sometimes then called in to rescue and rehabilitate injured animals, often incurring veterinary costs.
A member of Save Our Wildlife Foundation recently led tours for elected members to view trees mooted for removal on Fidler Lane at night and observed the presence of many ring tailed possums and brushtail possums.

Questions asked by Councillor Grosser

1. Could staff detail any legislation, guidance, pre-clearance habitat assessments or procedural steps required to be undertaken to identify any native wildlife present, prior to the removal of habitat supporting trees.

2. Does Council have policy to care for fauna impacted by vegetation removal during its own projects or minimise impacts eg by avoiding works in spring?

3. Does Council have any means of requiring developers, utilities or other levels of government to have a wildlife carer present during vegetation removal to care for impacted fauna or minimise impacts, including by avoiding clearance during the spring breeding season?

4. What practices do Onkaparinga Council and Adelaide City Council use to protect fauna during tree removal? Under what circumstances do they engage carers from Save Our Wildlife Foundation?

Councillor Grosser
28 July 2025

Council Officer response:

Question 1:
Native vegetation removal forming part of the Development Assessment process requires a report prepared in accordance with Regulation 18(2)(a) of the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017 that establishes clearance categorisation. As part of this assessment regard is given to threatened fauna under the Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 and threatened fauna species under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972. The report is assisted by a field survey and review of the Biological Database of South Australia. Where required a statutory referral and/or permit is required from the Native Vegetation Council.

Regulated trees proposed to be removed require assessment against the relevant provisions of the Planning and Design Code. This includes provisions regarding required fauna habitat and biodiversity.

Question 2:
Staff and contractors are rarely removing something with habitat value. If removal of habitat was necessary, Council would do a preclearance habitat assessment check which would highlight when best to conduct the removal. If immediate removal was required due to the trees impending failure, Council would involve the appropriate fauna rescue group as required.

If Council staff know a tree has a habitat potential, they will always opt to retain the tree and framework it (selectively prune) rather than full removal. Council has preferred contractors who can conduct this specialised arboriculture work.

When considering undertaking any wildlife management, consideration must be given to all relevant legislation including the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (NPW Act) a permit is required to:

- take (catch, restrain, euthanase, destroy) protected animals or the eggs of protected animals
- keep and/or release (move, relocate) protected animals or the eggs of protected animals.

It is an offence to undertake these activities without a permit. Interactions with any animal must also meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1985.

Where habitat disturbance or loss is unavoidable and foreseeable, and wildlife are likely to be impacted by development or habitat disturbance, the State Government may allow wildlife management activities under a

permit for activities such as trapping and releasing, relocating within the home range, or sometimes destroying wildlife.

Council has a Tree Management Policy in place which supports increased biodiversity including through provision of habitat and food sources for fauna. This policy is due for review and will be workshopped with Council ahead of its endorsement later this year.

Question 3:
Any removal of native vegetation should be undertaken by a qualified contractor who is required to achieve relevant requirements of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, Animal Welfare Act 1985 and the Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. Removal in accordance with relevant approvals by the Native Vegetation Council are also required.

Question 4:
Council staff were unable to determine this in time before agenda publication however will engage with the Councils to investigate their practices and report back.

Phil Burton
General Manager Infrastructure

6.3 TITLE: LITTLEHAMPTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PROPOSED SHELTER AT WILLOW PARK
DATE: 4 AUGUST 2025
FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/106454

Background provided by Councillor Szilassy

The Littlehampton Community Association (LCA) is a proactive and hard-working volunteer group who work to enhance the liveability of Littlehampton and promote the history and heritage of the township. Through volunteer efforts they work to strengthen community relationships, delivering positive change and benefit to current and future Littlehampton residents.

As one of their projects, the LCA was successful in a 2022 Council grant application to co-fund a picnic bench and seating located at the entrance to Littlehampton, in Willow Park (opposite Anembo Park). All Council specifications were adhered to, with the added inclusion of a Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant concrete path leading up to the large cement foundation for the bench and seating. The LCA note that their intention was always to include a future shelter structure over the picnic setting.

To that end, in late 2023 the LCA unsuccessfully applied for Council grant funding in the Community Grants 2023/24 program to complete the Willow Park project, with co-funding requested for the project, titled: 'Roof over Willow Park Picnic Table'. The reason for the grant application being rejected at this time, I understand to be based upon staff input and advice, was recorded in the 6th November 2023 Council minutes as:
"Applicant to work with Council staff with design/plans first to ensure appropriate structure then reapply in future round".

Within the local area, shelter structures have previously been installed by Council in Littlehampton's Anembo Park, The Glebe, and Miels Park. I understand the new Totness industrial estate was also granted necessary approvals to include and install a picnic setting and all-weather shelter within the Totness precinct. The LCA remain very passionate about their community-led project to activate the town's Willow Park reserve, enticing more people to utilise this space. In working toward this goal, the LCA has a commitment of partial funding support/investment from a local benefactor to contribute towards an all-weather shelter over the picnic table setting in Willow Park.

This picnic table, nestled in a picturesque park setting off Old Princes Highway, is well used, with visitors also attracted to Willow Park by the black granite sculpture (Sculpture #15 on the Hills Sculpture Trail) and the LCA's entrance statement that contains a heritage map of Littlehampton

and related information. Presently, the picnic setting is open to the elements with no shade or all-weather shelter provision, meaning it is not able to be used to its full extent.

The LCA are very keen to take up the encouraging offer of 2023 extended by Council to work with staff on designs/plans for an appropriate shelter structure at this location.

Questions asked by Councillor Szilassy

Further to my email enquiry of 10th July (staff response received 22nd July), I ask:

1. As per written advice in the 6th November 2023 Council minutes at Item #12.3.1 Community Grant 2023/24 Round 1, Grant Application CG00337:

   "Applicant to work with Council staff with design/plans first to ensure appropriate structure then reapply in future round",

   Can Administration please detail the assistance and advice given to date to the Littlehampton Community Association (LCA) regarding designs/plans for their proposed shelter project over the picnic setting at Willow Park?

2. Referencing written advice in the 6th November 2023 Council minutes detailing that the LCA work with Council staff to ensure an appropriate shelter structure at Willow Park (as noted in Question 1), can Administration advise the process available to the LCA to progress this suggested collaboration, enabling them to reapply in the two current Council grant rounds now open for applications (these being Community Infrastructure Grants 2025/26 and Community Grants 2025/26 Round 1 programs)?

Councillor Szilassy
26 July 2025

Council Officer response:

Question 1:
In 2021/22 Littlehampton Community Association (LCA) received $2,500 from Council's Community Grants program towards their project to install tables and chairs at Willow Park. At the time, the grant application did not reference future plans to install a shelter and/or apply for Council grants to do so.

On 7 November 2023 LCA received notification that their Council Community Grant application for a shelter was declined and they received the following commentary: Please work with Council staff with the design/plans of the structure to ensure it is appropriate then reapply in a future round.

Council Officers did not receive any communication with LCA about this project throughout 2024.

In April 2025 LCA commenced conversations with Council requesting advice on preferred fabricators and designs for shade shelters. After a process of internal consultation, Council staff advised LCA that a shelter was not supported at Willow Park because it is a Local Passive Reserve and intended as a short-stay area (typically less than an hour length of stay). Council staff encouraged LCA to consider other locations in Littlehampton where a shade structure may be well utilised.

Council Officers have not heard from LCA since sending correspondence on 30 April 2025 requesting their consideration of alternative locations.

Question 2:
Council is currently developing an Open Space Strategy which proposes hierarchies on open space, and whilst not currently endorsed, the distribution of parks and reserves within Littlehampton has been considered and a local passive reserve such as Willow Park does not warrant infrastructure that encourages a stay of greater than 30 minutes. These hierarchies stipulate levels of service, supply of infrastructure, maintenance and other considerations. Council Officers do not wish to dampen LCA's enthusiasm and note they have their own funds for this project. There are other sites in Littlehampton more suited to shade shelters such as *District* and even some *Neighbourhood* level spaces , namely Anembo Park and The Glebe. Please note the infrastructure in the Totness Industrial Estate was installed by the Developer.

Council's open space planning, asset planning and grant making processes have matured since 2022. This maturity means Council Officers can provide open, transparent and consistent advice to community groups seeking to undertake projects in Council's open spaces moving forward. Council should avoid situations where its grant funds are used by groups undertaking projects considered as Council core business. It can create situations where infrastructure and maintenance of sites are over-serviced, duplicated and not equitably provisioned across the Mount Barker District. It can also work to unfairly raise community expectations about what Council can provide and maintain.

The newly adopted Community Funding and In-Kind Support policy emphasises that grant applications will not be considered for projects deemed to result in an ongoing dependency on Council or be inconsistent with any other Council policy/ strategy.

Ben Footner
Manager Customer Experience

7. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE – COUNCILLORS

8. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

8.1 TITLE: HAHNDORF MAIN STREET SAFETY REPORT
DATE: 4 AUGUST 2025
FILE: DOC/25/101319

Motion

1. Council investigates and report on safety concerns including tripping hazards, and more broadly the paving condition of Hahndorf's main street and develop footpath/verge maintenance service standards for the Hahndorf main street, including intervention tolerances to ensure measurable performance standards.

2. Council consult and collaborates with the local Community Association (HCA), as well as other local relevant organisations including the Hahndorf Business and Tourism Association (HBTA), and the Hahndorf Memorial Institute Committee (HMIC), to inform decision-making and the development of future works programs.

3. Upon the development of the standards, Council considers what available options exist to meet the financial investment to develop a routine maintenance program to meet this service standard, including resources being allocated through a future budget review for the 2025/26 financial year if required.

4. Subject to the adoption of this program, Council staff to provide reports on works delivered in line with adopted standards and service levels through existing maintenance and operations quarterly reporting.

5. Council recognises the Hahndorf Main Street upgrade as an important future project and requests a report on funding options and timing while acknowledging its scale, lack of current LTFP funding, and the need to prioritise alongside other major projects.

Councillor Voogt
18 July 2025

Background information provided by Councillor Voogt

Hahndorf's main street presents Council and community with both unique and complex challenges and provides an immense source of pride for local residents and businesses alike. This motion attempts to isolate a specific issue regarding the condition of the footpaths along the main street and aims to enable tangible steps and actions be taken by Council to progress

and improve the status of the footpath in line with genuine community sentiment.

While recent maintenance works have been undertaken by Council, a recent Hahndorf Community Association (HCA) meeting expressed unanimously that tripping hazards and paving condition in certain areas still exist, and many in town wish to see these matters addressed as a matter of priority. It is well known locally that residents and visitors should exercise particular care when walking along the footpaths, many residents acknowledge severe or potentially severe incidences, and in a town where almost 40% of residents are over 60 years of age, as a matter of principle residents deserve to safely and comfortably traverse their main street.

Numerous undulations exist on the main street; some pavers are easily able to be dislodged and many stick out creating uneven walking surfaces. By working with the HCA to inform future priority works on the footpath, this motion aims to practically address these issues in a timely and considerate manner.

Council Officer Comment:

In September 2024, Council committed $200,000 to conduct footpath and kerbing repairs along the Hahndorf Main Street as part of a dedicated maintenance program to improve public safety and amenity in one of the State's premier tourist destinations.

Over 30 different areas were identified in the scope of works for the maintenance plan which included:

- Lift and relay pavers to repair trip hazards and undulations in footpaths reducing areas of ponding
- Replace sections of damaged kerbing
- Infill identified verges with natural coloured granitic sand to reduce trip hazards and improve presentation of the verge

Works commenced in April 2025 and were undertaken during both day and night to limit inconvenience to businesses and visitors. At the same time Council, with the support a local developer, installed the main street's first accessible car parking bay. All works are now complete.

A memo on the outcome of these works was provided to Council on 2 July 2025.

Council staff had a walk over of the main street with a representative of the HBTA in early July 2025 to review the works undertaken and identify any further defects. Some additional works have been scheduled as a result

within existing budgets. Council staff would be pleased to do the same with the HCA and others.

Council has resources to undertake both planned and unplanned works on footpaths across the district including main streets of townships.

Council has previously endorsed a concept design for a comprehensive upgrade of the main street including a replacement of the current footpath.

Council has endorsed the inclusion of the Hahndorf Main Street Upgrade project in its Advocacy Plan with a value of circa $30 million. Council staff continue to advocate for external funding in line with this plan.

In consideration of the highly anticipated upgrade project as foreshadowed in the Advocacy Plan, maintenance activities are carefully managed, cognisant of asset life, so as to not expend resources in an area that may be short lived.

Phil Burton
General Manager Infrastructure

9. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

For

- *requesting a report*
- *a simple matter with minor impact*
- *an urgent matter that without consideration by Council would result in a detriment to Council*

10. PETITIONS

10.1 REPORT TITLE: RECEIVE PETITION: CLOVER PARK ENTRANCE SIGN

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/106052

ATTACHMENTS: 1. DOC/25/106677 PETITION FIRST PAGE

Key Contact Sue Miller, Team Leader Risk and Governance

Manager/Sponsor Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Community Plan 2044:
The following objective/s from the Community Plan 2044 are relevant to this report:

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

Objective 25 Leadership and Vision: cultivate a culture of strong leadership within our organisation including in our Council Members, characterised by transparency, accountability and responsiveness to the diverse needs and aspirations of our community.

Objective 26 Transparent and Inclusive Decision Making: transparent and inclusive decision-making, ensuring active engagement of diverse stakeholders and fostering trust and confidence in governance outcomes.

Annual Business Plan:
Nil

Purpose:
To present to Council a petition received from Cheryl Anne Hart requesting that the Council advocate on behalf of Clover Park residents and formally request that Lanser Developers install a suitable and permanent entrance sign that clearly identifies and represents the Clover Park area.

Summary – Key Issues:
1. A petition was received by Council from Cheryl Anne Hart on 3 July 2025 on behalf of 417 signatories.

2. The petition is seeking that the Council advocate on behalf of Clover Park residents and formally request that Lanser Developers install a suitable and permanent entrance sign that clearly identifies and represents the Clover Park area .
3. The petition is required to be received by Council at the next Council meeting following the date of receipt of the petition.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. **receives the petition seeking that the Council advocate on behalf of Clover Park residents and formally request that Lanser Developers install a suitable and permanent entrance sign that clearly identifies and represents the Clover Park area; and**

2. **Note that staff will advise the head Petitioner of the Council's decision in relation to this petition and the Council report on the matter.**

Background:

1. A petition was received by Council from Cheryl Anne Hart, the head petitioner, on 3 July 2025.
2. The petition contains 417 signatories and is seeking that the Council advocate on behalf of Clover Park residents and formally request that Lanser Developers install a suitable and permanent entrance sign that clearly identifies and represents the Clover Park area.
3. Council's Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures, provides that the first page of the petition is provided as an attachment.
4. The head petitioner has been advised in writing that the petition will be presented to Council at the council meeting to be held on 4 August 2025.

Discussion:

1. All petitions received by Council are placed on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the Council as per *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations* under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

2. A copy of the petition, including a statement as to the nature of the request is provided as Attachment 1 to this report.

3. Normal practice is that a petition is simply received (not debated) to satisfy legal requirements. Council officers then assess the request and provide further information to Council at a later date, if required.

4. A letter advising what action will be taken (if any) will be provided to the head petitioner once a decision has been made.

Policy:
There is no policy applicable.

Budget:
There is no budget impact associated with receiving the petition and assessing the request.

Statutory/Legal:
Petitions are received by Council as per *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations* under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Staff Resource Requirements:
Existing staff will assess this request.

Environmental:
N/A

Social:
A petition enables members of the community to draw Council's attention to issues they believe require addressing.

Risk Assessment:
N/A

Asset Management:
N/A

Conclusion:
The petition is to be received to satisfy legal requirements.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council
NIL

PETITION TO COUNCIL

Attachment 1 to Item 10.1

MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Doc/16/76021

PETITION COVER PAGE

First page of petition – attach additional pages as required

RECEIVED
- 3 JUL 2025
MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Mount Barker District Council

We the undersigned, petition the Council to:

Advocate on behalf of Clover Park residents and formally request that Lanser Developers install a suitable and permanent entrance sign that clearly identifies and represents the Clover Park area.

For the following reasons:

1. Clover Park is a growing and vibrant community that deserves clear recognition and identity within the Mount Barker region.
2. The absence of appropriate signage makes it difficult for visitors, emergency services and delivery drivers to locate the area.
3. Permanent signage will foster a stronger sense of place, pride and community belonging for Clover Park residents.
4. Other developers in Mount Barker have provided aesthetically pleasing and consistent entrance signage, promoting community spirit and uniformity across neighbourhoods.
5. The installation of similar signage by Lanser Developers would reflect fairness and alignment with local development standards.

The contact person for this petition is (a contact number is required, and email where possible to provide written confirmation and advice to):

Name: Mrs Cheryl Anne Hart

Email: cherylhart1960@gmail.com

Phone: 0414 860 896

Date petition commenced
Date petition finalised 18/06/25
Signatures 2/07/25

Cheryl Anne Hart
25 Goodiana Gve
Mt Barker SA 5251

Office Use Only	
Total Signatures	417
Total within District	358
Total outside District	59

RECEIVED
MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL
- 3 JUL 2025
File: FOL/25/1399
Doc:

A ▷ M.Black

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

NIL

12. REPORTS

12.1 REPORT TITLE: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY FOR ENDORSEMENT

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/86633

ATTACHMENTS: 1: DOC/25/98389 ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

2: DOC/25/81787 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION AND RESPONSES

Key Contact Greg Sarre, Principal Advisor Sustainability

Manager/Sponsor Maddie Walker, Manager Community Planning and Wellbeing

Executive Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Community Plan 2044:
The following objective/s from the Community Plan 2044 are relevant to this report:

Environment
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

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

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

Objective 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.

Objective 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
Objective 12 Safety and Resilience: people feel safe throughout the district and community resilience is supported and encouraged.

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

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

Economy
Objective 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.

Annual Business Plan:
The Environment and Sustainability Strategy was committed to as part of the Annual Business Plan with $60,000 allocated.

Purpose:
To seek endorsement of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy following community consultation.

Summary – Key Issues:
1. The development of a new Environment and Sustainability (Lead) Strategy was budgeted for in the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan.

2. A draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy has been out for a period of community consultation which has informed changes to the strategy.

3. Following community consultation, the strategy is now ready for consideration and endorsement by Council.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. **Notes the feedback received from the community during consultation on the draft Environment and Sustainability Lead Strategy and the changes that have been made as a result.**

2. **Adopts the Environment and Sustainability Lead Strategy.**

3. **Notes that stage 2 of the development of the Strategy will be the development of 5 aligned action plans and that additional community engagement will be undertaken to develop these.**

Background:

1. In May 2025 Council endorsed a draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy (the Strategy) to proceed to a period of consultation.

2. Since this time, community consultation has been undertaken, submissions received and the Strategy updated.

3. The Environment and Sustainability Strategy is now being presented to Council for endorsement

Discussion:

4. Consultation was conducted between 7 May and 9 June 2025, a period of 34 days, to seek community feedback and ensure the Strategy duly reflects feedback given to inform the draft and the interests of the environment and community.

5. The consultation period saw Council staff engage with the community via the following methods:
   - Notice in The Courier
   - Displays at the Civic Centre and Library.
   - 3 Facebook posts with a total of 6354 people reached and 326 people who engaged with the posts.
   - Presentation at the Environment Muster run by Mount Barker and Districts Residents Association (just prior to Council endorsing the draft)
   - Council's YourSay project page: 239 people became aware of the project, 106 were informed and 7 people engaged with the project by completing a survey.
   - Direct communication via email with all people who participated in the workshops that were run to help develop the draft Strategy (approximately 45 people).
   - Direct communication with Peramangk and Kaurna representatives via letters from the Executive Manager
   - Written submissions: an additional 10 written submissions were received by individuals and community groups.
   - In total, 17 separate submissions were received during the consultation period.

6. Feedback was targeted around the five themes of the Strategy, namely Nature and Wildlife, Climate Change, Urban Greening, Waste to Resources and Integrated Water Management.

7. Overwhelmingly, the feedback focussed on Nature and Wildlife, Climate Change and Urban Greening (especially tree removal) with only a few comments made about waste and water.

8. Mostly submissions were centred on the dire state of nature and biodiversity in the district, the impacts of development on the environment and the need for greater levels of investment in nature conservation.

9. Attachment 2 is a summary of submissions received including commentary from staff on relevance of the submissions to the Strategy and any changes that have been made as a result of the feedback.

10. Many of the responses received relate to detail that is more appropriately addressed in the action plans that will be developed once the Strategy is endorsed.

11. Significant changes that have been made to the Strategy in response to feedback received include the following:

Feedback	Rationale and Change made
Add Biodiversity Act	Page 12. Added to state policy context section reference to new SA Biodiversity Act
Greater internal engagement emphasis	Agree that any strategy of council needs internal commitment and resourcing to implement. This is already mentioned on page 10 and 37, however we have strengthened this by adding to page 19 “By investing in internal commitment and capability, Council strengthens its ability to deliver long-term environmental outcomes across all roles.”
Stronger phrasing sustainable purchasing	Page 27. Add "and requirements". Embed sustainability considerations and requirements into procurement practices.
Unambitious community emissions target	Some respondents felt the 30% community emissions reduction target sounded unambitious. This was based on the State Governments 60% reduction target from 2005 baseline, on path to next zero by 2050. We strongly recommend Council aligns its community emissions reductions to the State’s. There is no discrete baseline from 2005 for the MBDC area, but we do have this information for 22/23. We therefore adjusted the target to be aligned to the State Government

	target but it was not clear in the draft strategy. We've revised the target to clearly express Mount Barker's contribution to the South Australian goal of net zero emissions by 2050 and converted it to tonnes. This figure reflects the best available data for the district and aligns with the state's broader climate ambition. Page 27. Replace target 2 with "Support South Australia's community emissions target by reducing local emissions to under 164,000 tonnes CO2e per year by 2035 on a pathway to net zero by 2050. Add to footnote 2 "Mount Barker District Council" to start of footnote
Earlier action on climate risk assessment	Agree. Risk assessment has been budgeted and scheduled for end of 2025. Page 27 Footnote date changed from by 2027 to by 2026.
Clarity for what acceptable levels means for climate risk	Page 27 to footnote 3 added - "Acceptable levels" refers to risk levels that align with Council's defined tolerance thresholds, which may differ by risk type or service area.
Weak tree canopy target, particularly phrase "work towards" and wish for earlier interim target for 2035 (instead of simply state government target date of 2055).	Agree. We strongly support setting SMART, time-bound targets. However reliable tree canopy data exists only for Mount Barker township (currently 16.4%). The absence of comparable baseline data for other townships makes it premature to set a meaningful 2035 target across the district. We have made target stronger and clearer about intent. Footnote remains with additional detail. Page 31 Replaced "Word towards 30% canopy cover in townships by 2055 to match State Government target" with "Increase tree canopy in all townships to support the State Government's target of 30% cover by 2055 *A tailored 2035 interim target will be developed once baseline canopy data for the district is captured."*
Protection established native trees in nature and wildlife section	There are interlinked priorities across all objectives, but particularly between Township Greening and Nature an Wildlife. To improve clarity from comments on nature and wildlife section about protective big trees, we have added "protection of big trees" to the related priorities statement on page 33 which directs people to where they are in the township greening section.
Use of Nature and Wildlife versus Biodiversity	Nature and wildlife and biodiversity are used interchangeably throughout the ESS but 'nature and wildlife' is used to match the objective phrasing set in the MBDC Community Plan 2044. It is also more accessible language with broader appeal.

	An explanation of this has been added for clarity to the glossary on page 39 for biodiversity to includes “for plain language purposes, often referred to as "nature and wildlife".
Intent clarity improvements to targets 8 and 9 in Nature and Wildlife section.	Page 33: “Increase total FTE investment (staff, contractors and volunteers) in managing biodiverse areas” replaced with “Increase investment in managing biodiversity areas, measured through staff, contractor and volunteer time, to establish a baseline and track improvement.” Replaced “Net gain of council management biodiversity areas (hectares) by 2035” with “All remnant vegetation sites over 0.5 ha under Council care have fully resourced management plans in place by 2035, with Category 1 sites completed by 2030.”
General edits	Tense updated on pages 8, 9 and 20 now that draft strategy is converting to final version. A handful of typos corrected.

12. Once the Strategy is adopted, action plans will be developed against each of its 5 themes: Nature and Wildlife, Climate Change, Urban Greening, Waste to Resources and Integrated Water Management. This process will align the various components that constitute traditional environment and sustainability planning but that have sometimes been treated separately in previous planning efforts. Focussed engagement to develop the action plans will occur with staff, community and other stakeholders invested in seeing improved outcomes across the district. Council members will be engaged as a part of this process.

Community Engagement:

Decision to be made	A new Environment and Sustainability Strategy has been developed, consulted on and Council is being asked to endorse a final Strategy.
Key factors to be considered in decision (dot points)	• The Strategy covers 5 key Environmental themes of concern. • The community has had an opportunity to review and comment on whether the Strategy adequately covers issues under each of the themes.
Area of community influence	Aspects that are fixed: There are no fixed aspects other than recognising that many solutions to environmental issues have resource implications that need to be considered.

	Key areas for community input: Community input was sought to critique and comment on elements of the draft Strategy that are of interest or concern and to suggest changes or alternative approaches.
Method of consultation, informing community & cost	The engagement was via "Your Say' on the Mount Barker District Council website and publicised on social media platforms and in the local newspaper. Individuals and groups who provided input into development of the Strategy were approached directly for input.
Feedback to stakeholders/Council	The community feedback is being fed back to Council now that the engagement period has finished. Where appropriate, feedback has been incorporated into the final Strategy document.
Timeframe for consultation	Consultation began on 7 May and concluded on 9 June.
Community input (post consultation only)	17 submissions were received and included many thoughtful and considered responses. There are high levels of concern about the state of the district environment and a desire to see a lot more done to protect and regenerate it.
Recommendations (post consultation only)	Where suggestions have been relevant and add value to the Strategy it has been updated accordingly.

Policy:
There is no existing policy that covers the broad nature of an environment and sustainability strategy. The need for policy changes or new policies will be considered as a part of the action planning component that will follow the endorsement of the Strategy.

Long Term Financial Plan:
The management of environment and sustainability issues is part of Council's responsibility under the *Local Government Act 1999* and in accordance with its Community Plan 2044. The intention of developing a Lead Strategy on this topic includes identifying future allocation of resources to be reflected in the LTFP and annual budgets.

Budget:
The Environment and Sustainability Strategy was committed to as part of the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan with $60,000 allocated. A further $60,000 has been allocated in the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan to complete the action plans and $20,000 has been allocated to conduct a climate risk assessment in parallel with

the action plans. Funding to implement the strategy will be considered as part of future budgets.

Statutory/Legal:
There are a number of relevant pieces of legislation that influence the environmental management obligations of Council and others, including:

- *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- *New State Biodiversity Act (recently passed by parliament)*
- *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*
- *Environment Protection Act 1993*
- *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)*

Staff Resource Requirements:
The Strategy has been developed with the assistance of consultants with the project managed by the Principal Advisor Sustainability with the support and input of other staff.

Resourcing implementation of the Strategy will be further developed as the action plans are developed.

Environmental:
If adopted, the Environment and Sustainability Strategy will help guide Council's response to environment and sustainability challenges for the next 10 years.

Social:
The health of the environment ultimately affects the health and wellbeing of our community.

Risk Assessment:
The risks associated with not adequately managing environmental assets are many and risk assessment has formed part of the process to develop the Strategy. Specific actions to ameliorate risk, including climate risk, will be further developed as part of the action planning process. A climate risk assessment will be conducted in parallel with the development of the action plans

Asset Management:
The Strategy and its implementation will impact how council manages all of its assets including community land, trees, native vegetation and open space, storm water infrastructure and buildings.

Conclusion:
A draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy has undergone a period of community consultation and 17 submissions have been received. All

submissions have been reviewed and changes have been made to the Strategy. The Strategy is now ready for consideration and endorsement.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	5 May 2025	CM Reference	DOC/25/33109
Title	Environment and Sustainability Strategy Draft for Community Consultation		
Purpose	To seek endorsement to community engagement on the draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy.		

Meeting Date	5 August 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/100223
Title	Environment and Sustainability Strategy Review		
Purpose	- To provide Council with a review of what has been achieved in implementing the Environment Strategy 2018; - To provide the proposed structure and process to develop a new Environment and Sustainability Strategy; and - To adopt a Community Engagement Plan to inform the Environment and Sustainability Strategy development.		

Mount Barker District Environment and Sustainability Strategy

2035

MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of country

Council acknowledges 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.

Revision	Issue Date	Distribution	Notes
1	07/04/25	Elected Members	Draft for endorsement to engage
2	04/08/25	Elected Members	Final for endorsement

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



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Vision

Connected habitat corridors, thriving biodiversity and beautiful green spaces that are highly valued - supporting a resilient future and Mount Barker as South Australia's most liveable region.



Executive Summary

The Mount Barker District Environment and Sustainability Strategy sets the direction for environmental action over the next decade to 2035. Building on the achievements of the past, this strategy reflects the evolving needs of our community, the urgency of global environmental issues, and our shared local commitment to becoming the most liveable region in South Australia.

Executive summary continued

This strategy is structured around five interlinked themes—climate change, nature and wildlife, township greening, integrated water management, and waste to resources—each supported by its own four-year action plan. These nested plans provide a coordinated approach to achieving long-term sustainability goals, ensuring actions are focused, measurable, and adaptable to emerging challenges and opportunities.

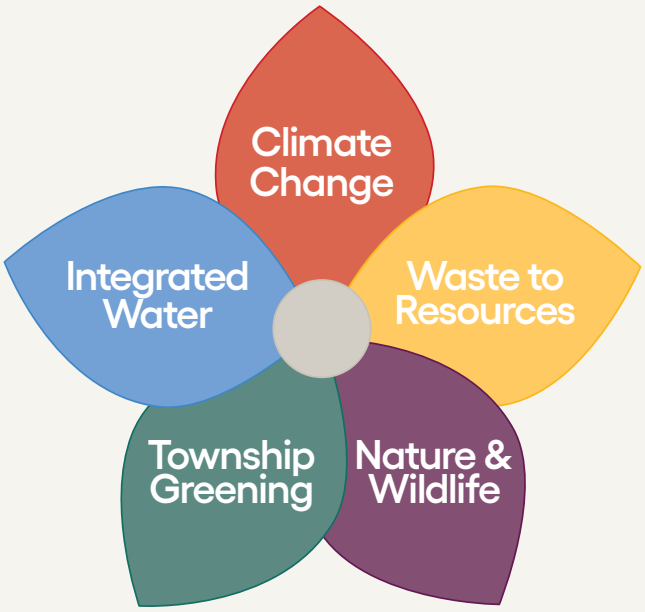


Figure 1 strategy framework

Principles

- A better future together
- Celebrate, empower and inspire
- Protect and prioritise nature
- Take urgent climate action
- Be bold yet practical

Objectives

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

Key focus areas and priorities

These are our top priorities to focus on improvements across the five action plan themes.

1. **Climate Change**

- Strengthen climate risk management
- Demonstrate sustainable purchasing
- Reduce emissions
- Support community climate action

2. **Waste to Resources**

- Recover more, waste less
- Promote waste minimisation
- Reduce contamination
- Foster the circular economy
- Strengthen development and construction waste management

3. **Township Greening**

- Grow the Mount Barker Parklands together
- Protect and connect
- Accelerate the council tree planting and management program
- Support private land greening

4. **Nature and Wildlife**

- Protect, manage and maintain biodiversity assets
- Expand and connect existing habitats for native wildlife
- Strengthen Council capacity to manage biodiversity assets
- Partner for biodiversity on private land
- Support volunteering for nature conservation

5. **Integrated Water Management**

- Strengthen stormwater and flood management
- Support greater uptake of water-sensitive urban design (WSUD)
- Maximise water efficiency in public spaces
- Optimise Council's treated water use

About the Strategy

Introduction

Mount Barker is a rapidly growing peri-urban district, supplying a significant amount of Adelaide's outer suburban housing growth whilst being rich in environmental, agricultural and cultural assets. At the same time the district is facing a climate and biodiversity crisis, with particular challenges in habitat protection and restoration, bushfire risk and water management. This context offers real risks and genuine opportunities for Council to help create a sustainable, regenerating environment that supports prosperous townships, connected and active communities, flourishing wildlife, and high quality of life.

The Mount Barker Environment and Sustainability Strategy is one of several lead strategies to guide and inform the implementation of the Mount Barker 2044 District Community Plan. With a strong understanding of the state of our environment and support from the community, the strategy provides a framework for Council and the community to protect and enhance the environment through action and collaboration.

The purpose is to:

- Align local environment and sustainability objectives with the broader strategic goals of the Mount Barker District Community Plan.
- Identify clear priorities to focus environmental and sustainability protection, resilience and improvements.
- Provide a framework that is evidence based and informed by science, local knowledge and sets targets to measure progress.

Strategic context

Mount Barker District Council's Community Plan 2044 sets a vision to be the most liveable region in South Australia. This vision is guided by five key pillars: environment, people, place, economy and leadership. The Environment and Sustainability Strategy sets a direct roadmap to support the Community Plan's delivery of the objectives of the environment pillar to:

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

Environmental challenges intersect with nearly every area of Council operations and community life. To address these complexities, each of the five objectives is supported by a four-year action plan: Climate Change, Waste to Resources, Township Greening, Nature & Wildlife, and Integrated Water Management. Developing these plans together ensures a coordinated approach that recognises the interconnected nature of environmental issues and maximises opportunities for synergy.

Together, these action plans guide Council's investment and efforts, ensuring consistency and alignment with broader strategic policies. The Environment and Sustainability Strategy serves as the overarching framework, maintaining connectivity across focus areas and reinforcing the Council's commitment to sustainability. Figure 2 illustrates how this strategy integrates with other Council documents.



Figure 2 strategic context

While the Environment and Sustainability Strategy directly aligns to the five action plan focus areas, its scope extends across all pillars of the Community Plan. Goals such as promoting integrated transport, supporting community health, clean air from wood smoke, and embedding sustainability in development planning align with objectives under People, Place, Economy, and Leadership. These shared priorities reflect Council's holistic approach to sustainability. By supporting objectives with environmental significance across Council's work, the strategy contributes to a more sustainable future for the district, aligning environmental priorities with broader community aspirations. It underscores the importance of collaboration across all areas of Council and invites partnerships with others to work together to tackle the significant challenges before us.

Global, National, State and regional policy

This strategy is aligned with global, national, state, and regional policies and frameworks, ensuring that Council's priorities meet regulatory requirements and broader strategic goals. For more detail, refer to the accompanying State of the Environment report.

Global

The Paris Agreement (2015) commits nations, including Australia, to limit global warming to well below 2°C, while the Glasgow Climate Pact (2021) calls for accelerated climate action. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set a shared vision for global sustainability by 2030, with this strategy aligning closely with Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 15 (Life on Land), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Other key frameworks include the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, the Global Biodiversity Framework (2022), and the IPCC Reports, which provide scientific guidance on addressing climate risks and building resilience.

National

Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement (2015) includes a 43% emissions reduction target by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050, supported by the Climate Change Act 2022. The National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy (2021–2025) outlines actions to manage climate risks, while the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 remains central to protecting Australia's unique ecosystems. Strategies like the Threatened Species Strategy (2021–2031) and National Waste Policy Action Plan (2019) aim to conserve biodiversity and reduce waste. The State of the Environment Report (2021) and Nature Positive Plan (2022) offer insights into environmental challenges and opportunities for restoration.

State

South Australia is a national leader in renewable energy, climate resilience, and sustainable waste management, with strong legislative and strategic frameworks guiding action. The State's targets include net zero emissions by 2050 and a 60% reduction by 2030, supported by the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007, which mandates climate planning and risk assessment. The SA Climate Change Action Plan 2021–2025 promotes clean

energy, resilient communities, and sustainable transport, while the Environment Protection Act 1993 and Green Industries SA Act 2004 drive environmental management and innovation in resource recovery. The SA Waste Strategy 2020–2025 outlines a path toward a circular economy with ambitious landfill diversion goals, further reinforced by the SA Solid Waste Levy. The Biodiversity Act SA 2025 sets the framework for conserving and restoring nature across the state. Local governments operate under the Local Government Act 1999, which integrates sustainability into council responsibilities. Together, these policies enable councils to address climate change, protect biodiversity, and promote sustainable growth.

Regional

Resilient Hills & Coasts: This regional adaptation framework supports resilience to climate impacts for communities, businesses, and ecosystems.

Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board: The Landscape Plan (2021–2026) addresses key regional issues, including biodiversity, water, and climate change, while fostering environmental stewardship.

Adelaide Hills Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA): AHRWMA promotes waste reduction and recycling, assisting member councils, including Mount Barker, in achieving waste management goals.

Mount Barker in numbers



>50,000 street and reserve trees



17.5 volunteer run 'Bush for life' sites and 4 Friends of groups



836ha of community land



364 road marker scheme sites



150kms of unmade road reserve



2,721 registered cats



234,000tons CO2e total municipal emissions (22/23). Only 5,643 tonnes from Council



54% of households have solar panels (10,203 homes)



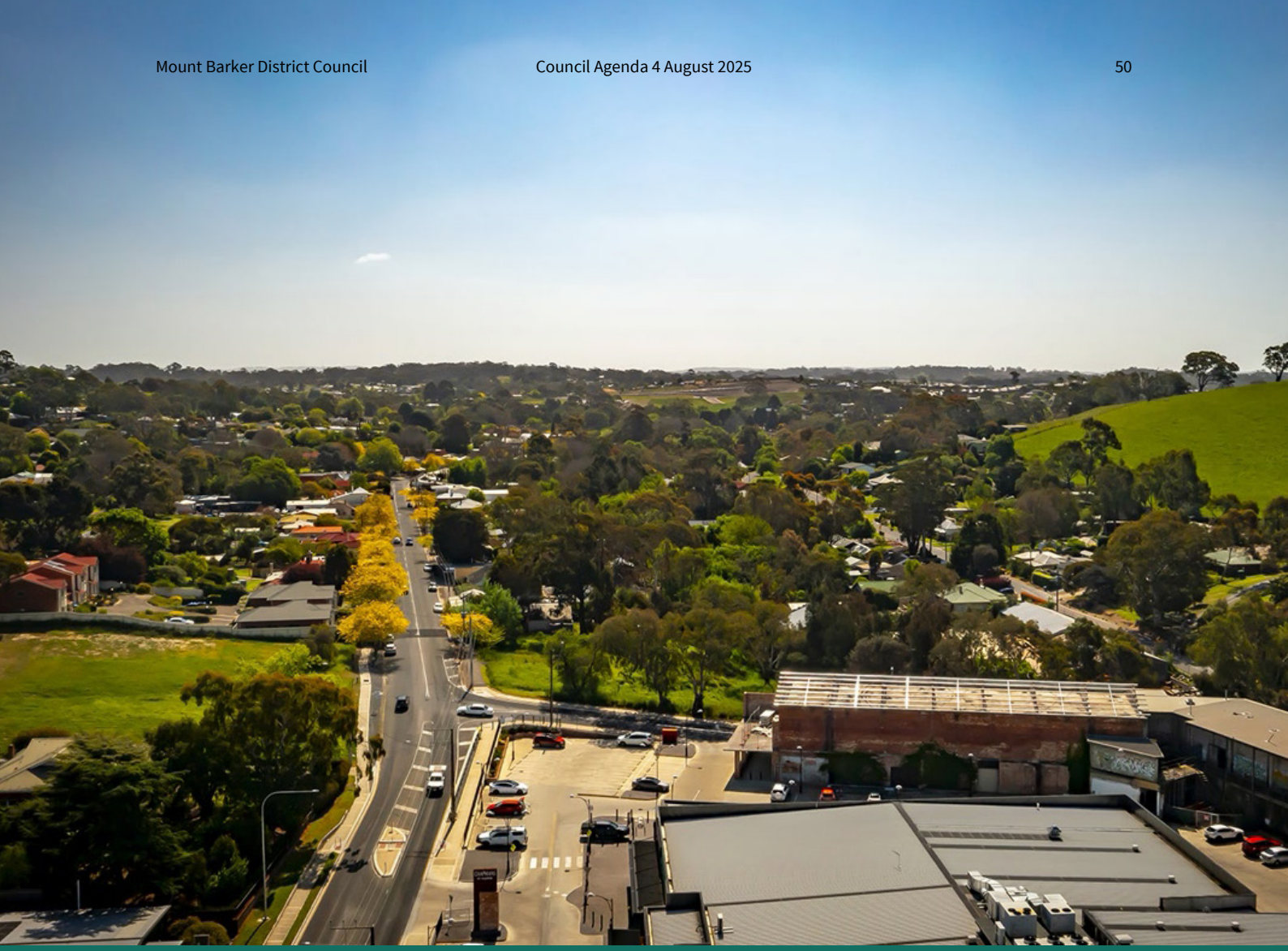
175kilolitres/year average household use mains water



21,084 tonnes of waste collected/year



16.4% average canopy cover in Mount Barker



Current and Emerging Trends

Mount Barker is undergoing rapid change, facing a blend of challenges and opportunities towards 2035 and beyond. For more detail, refer to the accompanying State of the Environment report.

Climate Change

Mount Barker is already experiencing rising temperatures, bushfires, flood risks and altered rainfall patterns, while the region benefits from solar energy uptake and progress toward 100% renewable energy. The need for climate resilience and adaptation action is growing, with more frequent extreme weather events expected. The shift to renewable energy presents opportunities for Mount Barker to reduce its carbon footprint. Embracing energy-efficient practices, building resilience into food systems, electrifying transport, and integrating low-carbon technologies into new developments will be essential to mitigating climate impacts.

Urban Growth

Rapid urban expansion is reshaping Mount Barker, placing pressure on natural habitats, water quality, and local ecosystems. This growth is increasing energy consumption, waste production, and transport demands, highlighting the need for sustainable urban planning. There are significant opportunities to align development with environmental goals, but council is limited to following the state planning regulations. Smart urban design, incorporating green spaces, energy-efficient buildings, and water-sensitive planning, can help reduce the negative impacts of urbanization.

Water Management

Water quality in the district's creeks and streams is under stress due to agricultural runoff and urban stormwater, though groundwater levels remain stable. The demand for water is growing, making it crucial to improve water management and conservation. Innovative approaches, such as water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) and stormwater harvesting, will be key to improving water quality and enhancing water security. As the district expands, integrating more efficient water reuse and conservation practices are critical for sustainable water management.

Declining Native Vegetation and Habitat Loss

The region is facing significant pressures on native vegetation, wildlife habitats, and biodiversity due to urban expansion, invasive species, and climate change. Efforts to protect and restore native vegetation, such as protecting significant trees, restoring degraded landscapes, and enhancing private land conservation are vital. Urban planning must also prioritise habitat connectivity and integrate nature-based solutions to preserve and extend biodiversity.

Community Engagement and Behaviour Change

Strong community interest in sustainability, coupled with growing public awareness of environmental issues, offers a foundation for positive change. Engaging residents and businesses through education, participatory initiatives, and local partnerships can drive shifts toward sustainable practices.

Emerging Technology and Policy Shifts

Technological innovations, including artificial intelligence, energy optimisation and new low carbon materials present new opportunities to enhance sustainability efforts. Simultaneously, policy shifts at the state and federal levels—such as stricter emissions targets, circular economy and biodiversity conservation requirements—will create both challenges and opportunities.





Shared responsibility

Achieving the vision of connected habitat corridors, thriving biodiversity and beautiful green spaces that are highly valued is a shared responsibility.

Residents, businesses, community groups, and all levels of government have vital roles to play in environmental stewardship of the Mount Barker District. We know that working together, leveraging collective knowledge, resources, and networks can achieve better outcomes for our community and environment.

Council fulfils multiple roles in this collective effort, including:

- Service provider – delivers programs, services, funding and manages assets.
- Regulator– administers and enforces regulations to guide sustainable practices.
- Initiator – tests new ideas and initiatives to drive improvements
- Educator – provides public information to inspire community awareness and actions.
- Collaborator – works with community, businesses, government agencies and other organisations to align efforts with shared goals.

The strategy distinguishes between priorities for Council operations and land—activities directly within Council's control where it can lead by example—and priorities for the broader district—areas where Council's role is to influence, support, regulate, or advocate for change. By investing in internal commitment and capability, Council strengthens its ability to deliver long-term environmental outcomes across all roles. This dual focus ensures that Council both fulfils its own responsibilities and contributes to broader environmental goals. By embedding sustainability in its operations, Council demonstrates leadership and commitment, while fostering community-wide action amplifies impact at a district level.

Partnerships are integral to the success of this strategy. Council actively seeks to maintain and build new relationships with organisations that share our vision, whether through co-funding initiatives, delivering joint programs, or providing in-kind support. Examples of recent partnerships include working with Second Nature Conservancy and Hills Biodiversity on the Community Nursery and Fire Wise programs, collaborating with UniSA on Living Lightly Locally, the Hills and Fleurieu Local Food Future project and accessing state and federal government grants to support environmental and sustainability outcomes.

By strengthening connections between people, organisations, and resources, the strategy aims to empower everyone to contribute to a thriving and sustainable future for the Mount Barker District.

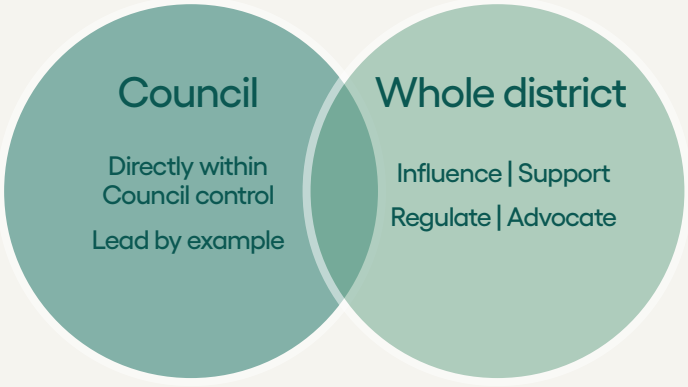


Figure 3 council roles

A well-informed strategy

Development of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy was collaborative, and evidence based. Council used a blend of science, staff and community insights to inform its creation. Key pieces of work are listed below.

- State of the Environment Report 2024

  A detailed evidence base including the strategic and policy context, community values, benefits, emerging trends, current status and review of progress since 2018.

- Community Forum 2024

  Key stakeholders and advisory groups were invited to a workshop in November 2024, to hear guest speaker presentations including from Youth voice and provide early input to inform the Strategy before anything was drafted.

- Staff Workshop 2024

  Broad range staff involved to workshop in December 2024 to ensure internal operational insights to key priorities.

- Community Workshops 2025

  Key stakeholders and advisory groups were invited to workshop sessions in February 2025, to refine a 70% draft strategy.

- Public Consultation 2025

  Public consultation on the draft strategy was held in May/June 2025.

If you would like to read more, reports on the above are available at **www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au**.





Vision for environment and sustainability

Connected habitat corridors, thriving biodiversity and beautiful green spaces that are highly valued - supporting a resilient future and Mount Barker as South Australia's most liveable region.



Principles

Our District's environment supports a liveable, resilient, thriving and creative community. That's why we value it so highly. These principles establish the foundation for Council's approach, actions and decision-making.

A better future together

Council will work proactively with First Nations, community groups, developers, landholders, the Landscape Board and other partners – and embed action across Council – to amplify shared efforts and outcomes.

Celebrate, empower and inspire

We seek to inspire a love of nature and sustainable living by telling stories, celebrating our assets and achievements, connecting people and nature, sharing knowledge, and empowering people to act.

Protect and prioritise nature

We will protect and connect wildlife habitats and grow protected areas, prioritising planting indigenous species where practical, because healthy ecosystems are vital to a thriving community.

Take urgent climate action

Council will take immediate and ambitious action on the climate emergency, working with the community to reduce our impact and adapt to increased storms, heat, bushfires, flood and drought.

Be bold yet practical

Council will take bold action on immediate priorities, learning and improving along the way. Our efforts will be practical, evidence-based and achievable, with clear pathways to success. Council will lead by example, pursue best practice, and advocate for positive change.



Key focus areas

The following chapters outline the five key focus areas that will guide Mount Barker's environment and sustainability efforts, directly aligning with the objectives and priorities of the 2044 Community Plan.

Key focus areas

- Climate Change
- Waste to Resources
- Township Greening
- Nature and Wildlife
- Integrated Water Management

Each focus area has key priorities to work towards the 2044 objective and 10-year measurable targets that will help us achieve long-term sustainability goals. The delivery and implementation of these priorities will be supported through linked four-year action plans, ensuring that progress is continually monitored and refined.

These focus areas provide a comprehensive roadmap for the next decade, helping to build a more sustainable, resilient, and environmentally conscious community. Through coordinated action, we will ensure that Mount Barker remains a thriving place for future generations.

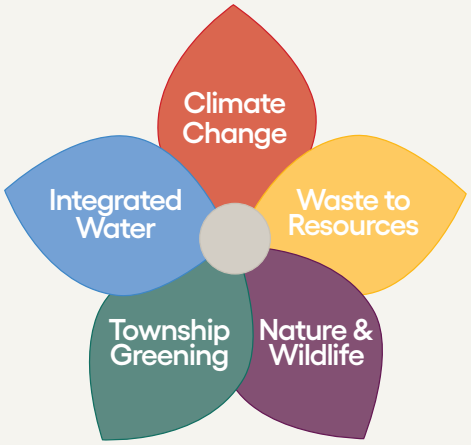
Everything is connected

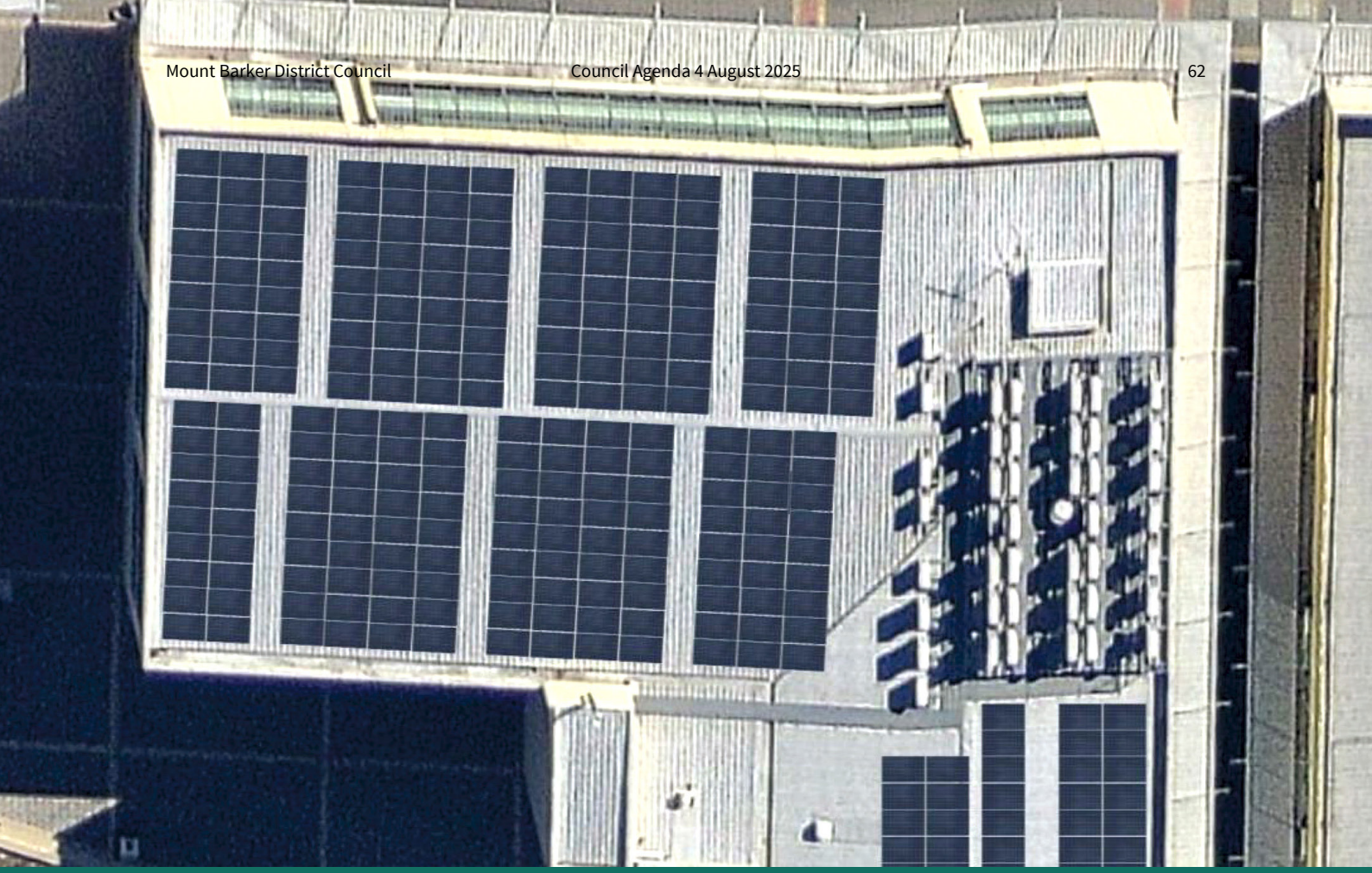
While each focus area has distinct priorities, they are deeply interconnected, working together to achieve a more sustainable and resilient Mount Barker District.

For example, water management is essential for township greening and supporting biodiversity. A circular economy in waste to resources helps reduce emissions, contributing to climate change actions.

Additionally, broader Council strategies, like integrated transport, community health and emergency management, play key roles in achieving aligned objectives.

Key focus areas help break up the tasks into more manageable groups, but we understand that everything is interconnected, and many actions strengthen the whole.





Climate change

Climate change is impacting community resilience, health, the economy and nature. There is an urgent need to adapt to climate risks while reducing emissions to mitigate its impacts. Strengthening climate risk management, sustainable procurement, and community-led initiatives will help safeguard our environment, infrastructure, and liveability. Proactively addressing climate change builds resilience to extreme weather, supports long-term sustainability, and aligns with state and federal targets—unlocking opportunities for innovation and economic growth.

Objective

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

Key priorities

Strengthen climate risk management	Identify and assess climate risks across Council operations and assets.
Demonstrate sustainable purchasing	Embed sustainability considerations and requirements into procurement practices.
Reduce emissions	Measure Council emissions, report progress towards net zero.
Support community climate action	Encourage and support residents and business to take climate action through education, information, promotion and incentives.

Related priorities

Climate change priorities intersect with other sustainability areas, highlighting the interconnected nature of Council's approach. Increase sustainable transport: Addressed through the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy, which promotes electric vehicles, active, and public transport options. Stronger, more resilient food systems: also addressed through the public health plan and water and waste areas of this strategy. Flood hazard management and Circular Economy/Resource Recovery: refer to Water and Waste focus areas of this strategy respectively.

2035 Targets

1. Reduce Council emissions by at least 60% from 2023 levels by 2035 in order to achieve net zero by 2050. [1]
2. Support South Australia's community emissions target by reducing local emissions to under 164,000 tonnes CO2e per year by 2035 on a pathway to net zero by 2050. [2]
3. Treat all priority climate risks to Council operations and services to acceptable levels. [3]

[1] Council emissions in 2023 were 5,643 tonnes CO2e. Organisational emissions inventory to be repeated annually.
[2] Mount Barker District Council community emissions in 2022/23 were 234,000 tonnes CO2e (Source is updated annually at snapshotclimate.com.au)
[3] Conduct first pass climate risk assessment to identify, assess and prioritise risks by 2026, then develop and review action plans to guide risk mitigation actions at least every 2 years. "Acceptable levels" refers to risk levels that align with Council's defined tolerance thresholds, which may differ by risk type or service area.



Waste to Resources

Waste impacts the environment, contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, and places pressure on natural resources. By treating waste as a resource, we can reduce emissions, conserve materials, create economic opportunities and support a circular economy. Council oversees a wide range of services, including kerbside collection for general waste, recycling, and organics. It also manages operational waste, hard waste, and tricky items like e-waste while addressing construction and demolition waste generated by rapid development. As the population grows, efficient waste management is crucial. Council is committed to high-quality services, sustainable resource use, and community awareness about reducing waste and recycling right.

Objective

Use resources carefully & efficiently, minimise waste and support the growth of the circular economy.

Key priorities

Recover more, waste less	Quality service provision that encourages less to landfill and more resource recovery including food organics and garden organics (FOGO) through education and data collection.
Promote waste minimisation	Support waste reduction by encouraging responsible consumption, advocating for extended producer responsibility, and fostering a culture of sustainability through education and engagement.
Reduce contamination	Improve recycling quality through education, feedback programs, increased compliance efforts and regular bin audits to ensure higher quality resource recovery.
Foster the circular economy	Advance local circular economy initiatives and better integrate sustainability into Council purchasing decisions to maximise environmental and economic benefits for the community.
Strengthen development and construction waste management	Encourage better waste management practices within the building industry, increase compliance effort with waste disposal requirements.

2035 Targets

4	A reduction of waste to landfill by 20% per capita by 2035[4]
5	Community satisfaction on waste service is above industry average by 2035 [5]

[4] In 2022/23, 622 kg of waste disposed to landfill per household year (247kg/person). This can be tracked annually by dividing the landfill tonnage with latest population figures.
[5] In 2024, the annual telephone community survey weighted performance for waste management score was 54 and industry average was 60 (Source: Markyt Community Scorecard, Catalyse, 2024)



Township Greening

Greening in townships, including parks, gardens, commercial and residential areas, is essential but complex. Trees and vegetation cool townships, improve air quality, support biodiversity, and enhance community wellbeing. However, managing green spaces requires balancing recreation, infrastructure and biodiversity needs. A well-connected and diverse green network strengthens community identity and provides beauty in private and public spaces that we value. As Mount Barker grows, expanding and maintaining green infrastructure will ensure our townships remain vibrant and sustainable. By integrating greening into our planning and fostering collaboration with residents, businesses, and landowners, we can create a region where people and nature thrive together.

Objective

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

Key priorities

Grow the Mount Barker Parklands together	Work with the community and partnerships to plan and establish an expansive, connected green network that enhances cooling, biodiversity, recreation opportunities, and beauty in our region's natural landscapes.
Protect and connect	Improve preservation of our big trees and other vegetation to keep our townships cool, green and wildlife friendly, particularly at masterplan stage of greenfield developments.
Accelerate council planting and tree management program	Accelerate street tree planting, improve ongoing maintenance and managing trees as assets.
Support private land greening	Support business and residents involvement in greening their own land, including productive trees and gardens.

2035 Targets

6 Increase tree canopy in all townships to support the State Government's target of 30% cover by 2055[6]
A tailored 2035 interim target will be developed once baseline canopy data for the district is captured.

7 Retain 95% mature trees in masterplan developments[7]

[6] Currently there is only canopy data for Mount Barker Townships (16.4%) and a need to collect baseline for all townships. Therefore exact interim target for 2035 to be set once baseline is known and then tracked every 5 years. For example some townships may already be greater than 30% canopy and can strive for more.
[7] New indicator to be measured from 2025 onwards



Nature and Wildlife

Biodiversity is vital for a healthy environment, supporting clean air, water, and resilient plants, animals and ecosystems. Across Mount Barker district's townships and rural areas, nature and wildlife are under pressure from urban growth, climate change, land use changes, and invasive species. This focus area takes an integrated approach to protecting remnant vegetation, restoring habitats, and creating new spaces for native species to thrive. By managing biodiversity assets well, sharing knowledge, and fostering collaboration, we can ensure the district remains a place where nature and people coexist sustainably.

Objective

Protect, restore, connect and extend habitat for native species.

Key priorities

Protect, manage and maintain biodiversity assets	Develop and implement funded, evidence-based management plans to safeguard and maintain Council's biodiversity assets, especially remnant vegetation and habitat areas, while using sound metrics to track outcomes.
Expand and connect existing habitats for native wildlife	Undertake restorative plantings of endemic, indigenous and threatened species to create functional habitats that support local wildlife such as woodland birds. This will also contribute to the Mount Barker Parklands.
Strengthen Council capacity to manage biodiversity assets	Build resourcing and capacity for biodiversity management to enhance in-house expertise and operational effectiveness.
Partnering for biodiversity on private land	Work with the landscape board, NGOs and private landowners to encourage protection and expansion of native vegetation and biodiversity-friendly practices on their properties.
Support volunteering for nature conservation	Encourage, support and connect community volunteers in biodiversity initiatives, including habitat restoration, citizen science programs, and bushcare activities, to foster local stewardship and enhance ecological outcomes.

Related priorities

Protection of big trees, creation of biodiverse and climate resilient corridors and planting predominately native species is addressed through the Township Greening focus area of this strategy.

2035 Targets

8 Increase investment in managing biodiversity areas, measured through staff, contractor and volunteer time, to establish a baseline and track improvement.[8]

9 All remnant vegetation sites over 0.5 ha under Council care have fully resourced management plans in place by 2035, with Category 1 sites completed by 2030.[9]

[8] We can track time/effort managing biodiverse areas as a surrogate for tracking quality improvement until we complete condition audit. There is a need to start comprehensively tracking effort to set a baseline and establish a more defined target, then report annually. Quality and condition monitoring to be explored in Nature and Wildlife action plan.

[9] In 2025 there is 836ha Council land and 150kms unmade road reserves containing biodiversity assets, some being actively managed and others not.



Integrated Water Management

Managing water effectively is essential to address the challenges of population growth, climate change, and increasing demand on finite water supplies. The district relies on the Murray River, where demand is projected to outstrip supply in the future. By adopting integrated water management approaches, we can conserve water, enhance liveability, and support water dependent ecosystems. Council plays a key role in flood mitigation, stormwater management, water-sensitive urban design (WSUD), and the treatment and sustainable use of wastewater. Expanding these efforts will help protect life and property, create greener, more liveable spaces, and support local industries by reusing treated water productively.

Objective

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

Key priorities

Strengthen stormwater and flood management	Protect life, property, infrastructure and ecosystems through effective stormwater and flood mitigation, linked to Council's asset management plans.
Support greater uptake of water-sensitive urban design (WSUD)	Enable, support and implement mature and targeted WSUD in Council and private developments to enhance liveability, biodiversity, and urban greening outcomes.
Maximise water efficiency in public spaces	Improve water use efficiency in Council-managed reserves and open spaces to conserve resources while maintaining amenity, urban cooling and ecological value.
Optimise Council's treated water use	Promote the use of Council recycled water as a valuable resource, supporting local agriculture and food production industries to drive economic growth, create employment opportunities, eliminate environmental disposal of treated water and improve outcomes for nature.

2035 Targets

10	An increase in the use of recycled water to support water dependent ecosystems, irrigation of public open space, street trees and for agricultural activities within the district.[10]
11	Where water is a consideration, integrate water-sensitive urban design principles into at least 95% of Councils new capital and renewal projects by 2035.[11]

[10] In 2023, 10% of Council waste water generation was reused. This can be tracked annually via water meters. Exact target % increase to be established within action plan and once the new Mount Baker Region Wastewater Utility Subsidiary is operational.
[11] Review capital projects, annually. There is a need to start actively tracking this to set baseline and monitor progress.



Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring progress, evaluating implementation and reporting on outcomes are necessary for a strategy to know if it is being effective or if adjustments are required.

Monitoring progress

The Council will regularly track the implementation of actions across the five key focus areas. This includes collecting and reviewing relevant data, keeping accurate records, and observing how well initiatives are progressing. Key indicators will be used to measure the effectiveness of actions, ensuring alignment with the broader measures of success outlined in the 2044 Community Plan.

Reporting

The Council is committed to providing annual progress updates on the implementation of the Environment and Sustainability Strategy and its linked action plans. These reports will be shared with key stakeholders, including staff, elected members, and the community, ensuring transparency and accountability. A comprehensive review of the Strategy will take place at the five-year mark, allowing for a more in-depth evaluation of progress and an opportunity to adjust the Strategy based on emerging trends, new technologies, or community needs. This review will inform the direction of the Strategy for the next five years, ensuring continuous improvement and responsiveness to both local and global environmental changes.

Continuous improvement

The Environment and Sustainability Strategy embraces a philosophy of adaptive management. This means that as new data becomes available or circumstances change, the Council will refine its approach to ensure the most effective solutions are pursued. Targets are set to be ambitious yet achievable, and as actions are carried out, the results will be used to refine and adapt strategies, ensuring that the community's environmental goals are met both now and in the future.

Summary of Targets

Key focus area	Targets
Climate Change	1. Reduce Council emissions by at least 60% from 2023 levels by 2035 in order to achieve net zero by 2050. 2. Support South Australia's community emissions target by reducing local emissions to under 164,000 tonnes CO2e per year by 2035 on a pathway to net zero by 2050. 3. Treat all priority climate risks to Council operations and services to acceptable levels.
Waste to Resources	4. A reduction of waste to landfill by 20% per capita by 2035. 5. Community satisfaction on waste service is above industry average by 2035.
Township Greening	6. Increase tree canopy in all townships to support the State Government's target of 30% cover by 2055. A tailored 2035 interim target will be developed once baseline canopy data for the district is captured. 7. Retain 95% mature trees in masterplan developments.
Wildlife and Nature	8. Increase investment in managing biodiversity areas, measured through staff, contractor and volunteer time, to establish a baseline and track improvement. 9. All remnant vegetation sites over 0.5 ha under Council care have fully resourced management plans in place by 2035, with Category 1 sites completed by 2030.
Water Management	10. An increase in the use of recycled water to support water dependent ecosystems, irrigation of public open space, street trees and for agricultural activities within the district. 11. Where water is a consideration, integrate water-sensitive urban design principles into at least 95% of Councils new capital and renewal projects by 2035.

* For data clarifications under each priority area refer to individual chapters.

Glossary

Biodiversity/biodiverse	The variety of all plants, animals and microorganisms, their genes, and the ecosystems they live in. For plain language purposes, often referred to as "nature and wildlife".
Canopy	The upper level of a tree or trees. In cities this is typically measured for trees tall enough to provide functional shade for people (3m+).
Circular Economy	A closed-loop approach to designing products and systems that minimises waste and makes the most of resources by reusing, recycling, and repurposing materials.
Construction waste	Materials left over from building or demolition projects, such as timber, asphalt, concrete, bricks and tiles.
Ecosystem	A community of living organisms interacting with each other in their habitat.
Emissions	The release of gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere from activities like burning fossil fuels.
FOGO	Food Organics and Garden Organics –food scraps and garden waste which can be collected and composted for reuse.
Habitat	Food, water, shelter and space that supports plant or animal life.
Impervious surface	A hard surface (such as a road or building) that prevents infiltration of water into the ground, causing water to run off the surface.
Integrated water management	Collaborative planning and management of stormwater, wastewater and fresh water to deliver water security, public and environmental health, and urban amenity.
Infrastructure	Human-engineered structures like roads, buildings, footpaths and carparks.
Regenerative	Our current economic system is degenerative and extractive: it steals the future. A regeneratively designed system progressively restores the environment so that people and other species can thrive into the future. Sustainability is no longer enough – we need to repair the damage we have done. Regeneration puts life at the centre of every decision we make.
Remnant Vegetation	Patches of native trees, shrubs and grasses still left which have not been cleared since European settlement.
Resilient	Able to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks are experienced.
Resource recovery	The process of obtaining materials or energy from discarded materials.
Sustainable	Responsibly managing our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This includes social, financial and environmental resources.
Township/Urban greening	All trees and plants on public and private land.
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)	Planning that manages the water cycle sustainably, promoting rainwater reuse, reducing runoff and incorporating green infrastructure.

MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Attachment 2 to Item 12.1

Attachment 2:
Summary of the Community Consultation on the draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy June 2025

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
General		It is good that Mount Barker council have a strategy in this area. Whilst the strategic context confirms the need for a coordinated approach with other council operations (such as economic development) this plan does not stipulate how this will be achieved. The targets in this plan appear to be stove-piped from other plans - additional clarity on how these targets were arrived at and how they will be enacted considering the broader strategic context would be appreciated.	Aligning various lead strategies works in both directions, meaning the ESS is influenced by other lead strategies and in turn should influence those strategies, including the targets contained within. Specific ways to influence the wide range of activity across council strategies will mostly happen through action planning to occur in the second stage of this project and against the higher level strategies and targets in this document.
General		Unfortunately I feel a bit let down but the Mount Barker Districts lack of protecting native vegetation and trees which is leading to such a decline in our districts canopy ratios. As I wildlife carer I am getting to the point of 'whats the point' in me saving all these animals and releasing them for the council to rip the trees down in the release sites within 2 years.	Tree protection is a high and widespread concern across the community. In addition to existing measures to protect trees, and plant new ones, the ESS proposes a 95% tree retention target in new development and a 30% canopy cover target.
General		Other all pretty good, well done. Council just need the resources and will power to commit to these objectives and targets. Why are there so few targets against each theme? There are some great priorities but few targets. Great sentiments, but how does Council intend to future proof all this? What happens if the state government chooses to rezone more land, especially land that has been set aside for protection, has been re-vegetated, etc and all those road corridors that currently have road reserves? How will these be protected from the damages of future development? The Council needs to have a plan to safeguard all areas that it plans to protect, acquire and extend so that it is safe for future generations. Council definitely need to increase resources in the environment/biodiversity team, along with expert knowledge to assist with the complexity of environmental issues (eg. ecologists) Definitely need to increase tree canopy - FAST!	Resourcing is a consistent theme across submissions received and well recognised that resourcing to adequately manage environmental issues is challenging. Future action planning will provide more detail on what better levels of resourcing would look like and feed into financial processes and budgeting. The recently released Greater Adelaide Regional Plan didn't propose any future rezoning however it is accepted that better integration of nature and environmental outcomes is needed in development on existing zoned land.
General		There are some really good intentions in the strategy but I am concerned how they will be implemented. Will Council fully support them and then back that support up by allocating funding and the appropriate skilled staff to implement them?	Implementation of the Strategy will be considered as a part of the action planning process. Specific actions identified as a part of that process will be brought to Council to consider, including resourcing implications.
General		Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy (ESS) 2035. Community Voice for the Environment (CV4E) congratulates the Council on this initiative and thanks them for the chance to provide feedback at each step of the ESS development process. The ESS presents an opportunity for better outcomes for the environment. However, it needs to be bold, innovative and above all have the capacity to deliver action on the ground through a clear mandate. We note that the ESS includes the need for more resources and expertise in Council's environment team and across Council, and we applaud this intent. Increased internal engagement in the development and implementation of the Action Plans that will underpin the ESS will improve the likelihood of achieving its goals. In particular, we believe that Council's environment team should be consulted in all areas of Council operations that impact the environment, especially new housing developments from Day 1. A workflow chart showing how the ESS and/or Action Plans interface with planning and development would clarify these processes. A target or KPI to reflect this would support its implementation.	Internal expertise and systems are important to achieving environmental outcomes in development and council projects. A target to help achieve this will be considered as well as project management systems such as project sustainability assessment checklists and nature positive assessments The intent of the ESS is that it is ambitious and achievable. Language within the document has been reviewed and strengthened where appropriate. It is agreed that the environment needs much stronger focus in development and that this should be able to be done whilst at the same time enabling housing that is well built, livable, sustainable and affordable. That said, the planning system

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		There are areas of the ESS that we believe need more positive and ambitious goals, targets and statements. Our feedback includes responses to high level targets. Although some of our feedback may be better included in subsequent Action Plans, we suggest that overarching statements are added to the ESS to ensure inclusion in those Action Plans. If there has been case study analysis on previous high value sites where biodiversity/environmental outcomes have not been met, a few examples could be included in the ESS to illustrate how changes could ensure better policy and environmental outcomes in the future. The ESS should contain a clear and constructive statement about intent to address barriers and obstacles in protecting the environment, particularly those created by state legislation. The goal of the ESS is to be bold and ambitious whereas the language of the plan is cautious and qualified and creates ways to avoid action eg the phrase "where practical" is used several times in different contexts and appears to be an excuse for not taking action. The ESS is supposed to extend to 2035 but the action plans which drive the strategy won't be completed until mid 2026 so perhaps the ESS timescale should be to 2036. Page 9 of the ESS states that *Environmental challenges intersect with nearly every area of council operations and community life.* The ESS also acknowledges the urgency of the climate and biodiversity crisis. Yet in practice the environment still seems to sit at the bottom of Council priorities, rather than coming first. Instead of starting with the environment and ensuring that ALL native vegetation is protected and expanded, we usually fold it into the mix as a 'negotiable' item that can be destroyed, offset, and replanted. Therefore, a principle of the ESS could be that the environment becomes the primary concern in masterplan developments with development accommodating the environment, rather than the other way around. We need a stronger statement, possibly another principle, about Council's internal engagement with the ESS. Without a commitment to internal engagement, achievement of the ESS objectives is moot. The ESS should reference the new State Biodiversity Act when that is finalized. We are keen to understand how this strategy compares to other Councils who are leading in this space and what we may be able to learn and incorporate to strengthen the ESS.	tends to favor housing development that doesn't always achieve all of those objectives and sometimes none of them are achieved. Council's challenge is to find ways where nature positive development can be achieved whilst providing good housing that supports a strong and healthy community. Noted. "where practical" is used only once on page 23, in this instance so that occasional considerations where using indigenous native species is not appropriate (eg replanting symbolic rosemary at memorial gardens, or trialing natives from more arid habitats for suitability in more hostile urban planting places like roundabouts). **Agree that any strategy of council needs internal commitment and resourcing to implement. This is already mentioned briefly on page 10. However we have strengthened this by adding to page 19 "By investing in internal commitment and capability, Council strengthens its ability to deliver long-term environmental outcomes across all roles."** **Biodiversity Act referenced in Background report, now also added to strategy page 12 "The Biodiversity Act SA 2025 sets the framework for conserving and restoring nature across the state.**
General		Conservation Council SA welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Mount Barker District Council on its draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy. Conservation Council SA is an independent, non-profit, and strictly non-party political organisation representing approximately 40+ of South Australia's environment and conservation organisations and their 90,000 members. Australian and South Australian nature is in accelerating decline, with natural assets being overdrawn and with insufficient reinvestment into the protection and restoration of nature by private and government sectors to halt and reverse that decline1 . And yet, approximately 49% of Australian GDP is moderately to highly dependent upon nature2 – so we are robbing future generations of South Australians from both their prosperity and their opportunity to enjoy nature. However, despite the scale of problem being so immense, local governments have an important role to play – they are the coalface at which government can partner its resources with community resources to mobilise action for people and nature. Certain local government policies can also have critical outcomes for the protection and restoration of our community's unique biodiversity. The Conservation Council SA's submission focuses upon the priorities and targets under the five pillars of the Strategy.	Noted

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
General		I like the engagement with First Nations people. This is important.	Noted
		Urban Growth The document states: There are significant opportunities to align development with environmental goals, but council is limited to following the state planning regulations. Local Council knows community best. Council has a responsibility to prioritise and develop strategy to advocate on behalf of community especially if it recognises significant and serious issues such as climate change, bushfire risk and ecosystem collapse which are not being addressed through lack of political will to change policy. Agricultural land has become greenfield sites for developers and if Council truly values the pillars of this draft strategy, they will act decisively, and with more leadership, rather than with a sweeping claim that they can do nothing against urbanisation. The Grattan Institute has refuted claims of a housing crisis and instead blames lack of political will to prevent the disappearance of biodiversity and food security through urbanisation when other alternatives are available. An enlightened Council would see both staff and Elected Members fight harder for the community assets which benefit the health and wellbeing of the community, contribute nationally and globally and not just for the profit of a few. **Support private land greening** Private land greening could potentially bring real change if the Council stepped up and led with economic and more educational incentives for people to do this in a way that connected corridors rather than relying on ad hoc management and overworked volunteers. Creating a proper strategy would help mitigate climate change. Agricultural clearing has had two main effects. • The removal of endemic native flora and replacing with annual grasses has contributed greatly to the drying out of Adelaide Hills soils. Annual grasses with shallow root systems die over summer. The soil dries out and becomes hotter. Endemic grasses have deep root systems, can live for hundreds of years, store water in the soil and act as seed capture plants for other flora. • Reduced biodiversity to roadside vegetation and small, disconnected remnant patches on private land. Remnant vegetation is generally on poorer soil and impacted by stock and ferals. Flora and fauna struggle to survive on linear remnant roadside areas. Narrow verges often battle introduced weeds. • Species, like reptiles and small birds, that have been surviving here, have almost disappeared in the last 20 years. Traffic speeds of 80kmh wipeout most small animals that crawl or fly at far less speed, and fledglings have less chance. Firewood removal is common, reducing habitat protection. Flora is struggling to maintain diversity from roadside spraying, pest species, (rabbits), reduce vegetation quality, and as narrow strips, traffic on one side and drying paddocks combined with compaction from animals, (horses, cows, sheep) on the other has exacerbated their decline. An overview of where the most important corridors need to be, to support fauna and flora is of high importance. This needs to be acknowledged, understood and acted upon with urgency. Residents caring for land should have compensation and support in some form to encourage more of the right plantings and education around protecting and restoring large paddock trees from stock ringbarking, soil compaction and returning health to land.	Noted A detailed plan and spatial map for nature for the greater Mount Barker urban area is one action that can be considered in the Nature and Wildlife plan. Outside of urban areas, apart from managing its own land well, Council will work with partners such as the Hills and Fleurieu landscape Board and its ReBird the Ranges project which will be identifying key areas for attention. This may or may not include eland that council has care and control over.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		Conclusion Taking a human view of 'a parkland pleasing to the eye' is why this age is now referred to by experts as "the Anthropocene" due to the significant relentless pervasive impact of human activity on the Earth's systems, including climate, ecosystems and biodiversity. Humans (and their consumptive lifestyle) are negatively altering the planet's landscapes, atmosphere and all living organisms. In Australia, including South Australia (the driest State in the driest inhabited continent on Earth) these impacts have been greatly increased by a Government initiated population growth plan and policy which far exceeds our food production and water resources, and is placing at risk the living standards of all Australians and accelerating the loss of our native flora and fauna. It is now time to take account of our losses, correct policies that bring only short-term economic gain while impacting our vanishing flora and fauna and impoverishing us all. The results of the current system are clearly visible, and comparisons easily made with the biodiversity which existed 50 years, or even 20 years ago. The MBDRA is grateful for this initial work and will seek ways to continue to support Council in its endeavours. Our recent Environment Muster is one of our main activities to support all of the excellent volunteer work that groups and citizens are undertaking to preserve, restore and grow our environment so that we have a sustainable future for generations to come.	
		Monitoring progress and Reporting *"The Council will regularly track the implementation of actions across the five key focus areas."* We would like this to be more specific with annual milestones set against actions in order to track progress at each review. **Conclusion** On its YourSay Consultation page the Council indicates: "*The Mount Barker District Environment and Sustainability Strategy aims to set the direction for environmental action over the next decade to 2035. The draft Strategy reflects the evolving needs of our community, the urgency of local and global environmental issues, and our shared local commitment to becoming the most liveable region in South Australia*." To have a vision to be the most liveable region in South Australia is admirable. However all too often most of the focus, energy and money is put on infrastructure works as these are often more visible to the community on a day to day basis. Meanwhile the natural environment (our reserves, parks, waterways, wildlife etc) are taken for granted and sometimes exploited and disrespected to the point of being under threat or destroyed. However we sense there is finally a growing awareness and concern in the community of the negative impact that development is having on our natural assets and the need to protect them. We therefore agree wholeheartedly with Council's sentiments that there is an urgency around local environmental issues, however this statement needs to be backed up with the appropriate level of resourcing and expertise in order to address these issues.	More specific KPIs and milestones will be set in the 5 action plans proposed as part of stage 2 Noted
		Are you going to cover environmental engagement and education with the community? Some of your targets require lifting the communities understanding of issues such as waste to landfill. I'm curious to see if you will have a plan or funding allocated to community education and awareness.	Engagement and education will be addressed separately in each of the 5 action plans

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		Overall, this is a great Strategy, I'm glad Mount Barker has a strategy for environmental sustainability and will create action plans for implementation. I hope council approves this plan or maybe an even more ambitious and forward-thinking strategy with adequate funding to support this strategy's implementation.	
		Community member 2 – ([redacted]) - Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to take part in the first two community workshops that led to the development of this draft Environment and Sustainability Strategy. We really appreciated the opportunity to provide input to the design and we can see many of the issues that we raised on the 2 days have been incorporated into the strategy, particularly the priorities. Thank you, this shows that we were listened to. There are two things we particularly wish for: that the **Council demonstrates the will and commitment to fully support this strategy** and **for the allocation of sufficient resourcing (money & staff) to enable action** on all the things we need done in the environmental space. By demonstrating 'will', we mean recognising and agreeing to the financial and ongoing support of protecting and enhancing our natural assets to the same extent that other areas within the community are. One such area that springs to mind is the amount of money and time that is spent on sporting infrastructure and sporting events. We acknowledge that sport plays a role in supporting people's mental and physical health and that it brings community together. But so does the environment! And without a healthy environment we won't be able to enjoy sport!! <u>Re. the Strategy itself</u>: Our initial concern is around the **small number of targets** and what the rationale was for picking these particular targets rather than other targets that also relate to the remaining priorities. We volunteer for a number of environmental and community groups in Mt Barker and are deeply concerned about the **ongoing loss of trees, native vegetation and wildlife habitat and corridors**. We appreciate that often Council is limited by what it can do/control due to state government legislation. What we would like to see is Council more openly and transparently **advocating to the State Government for better environmental outcomes** related to developments. Council openly takes an advocacy stand with issues such as transport, transport infrastructure, health services, etc, therefore why not environmental issues? We understand that the Council's arborist is often involved in discussions with developers early on in development plans. Why can't that **discussion also include Council staff from the Environment/Biodiversity team**? We don't understand the point of Council identifying areas for wildlife habitat and corridors within its Biodiversity Strategy if nothing can be done to protect those areas. The most recent case is Council agreeing to remove at least 10 trees in Fidler Lane, which Council had previously identified as worthy of protecting as a wildlife corridor. Yet in this case they were deemed 'low value'. We understand that Council will occasionally save large old trees in developments by buying the land around them and making them into pocket parks. Why couldn't Fidler Lane have received such similar protection against the impact of development?	Noted. Resourcing implementation of the strategy is a key issue that will need to be considered by council and included in long term financial planning and annual budgets. Noted. Targets were based as much as possible on addressing key priorities set in Community Plan, whilst keeping the high level nature of the strategy in mind and ensuring an even spread across the key themes. There will be far more Key Performance Indicators in the corresponding action plans. In combination this will create larger set of targets. Noted. Priority 6 of the current Advocacy Plan includes advocating for key policy changes that promote sustainable urban planning, prioritise green infrastructure and ensure conservation of our natural landscapes. It's acknowledged however that this could be stronger and this will be considered as part of future updates to Council's advocacy plan Noted. The internal processes and capacity to review development proposals will be considered and reviewed as a part of this process. The option to set aside areas for conservation is possible but subject to properly identifying which areas are priority, available budget if land acquisition is needed and governance and procedural matters such as road closures. A flagged action in the Wildlife and Nature action plan is to develop a detailed masterplan for the greater Mount Barker area that

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		The case of Fidler Lane also highlighted the lack of awareness within Council of the value of dead trees. Council agreed to remove 5 dead trees indicating they have no hollows when they do have hollows and wildlife living in them. How can our remnant vegetation and biodiversity be protected in the long term against development? **What can Council be doing now to fully preserve what we have left from future destruction?** This development has also highlighted **the need for specialised environmental staff on Council** (eg. ecologists) who would have highlighted the importance of all the hollows and canopy to wildlife. Also, input from the environmental team may have improved the planting scheme across the proposed development and informed the developer that planting deciduous trees provides no offset for the removal of native trees. We are also concerned that Council **continue to plant exotic and deciduous trees that do not support wildlife and adversely impact our waterways**. It is ironic that Council partners with and supports groups like Second Nature Conservancy and Hills Biodiversity who ONLY plant local indigenous species. It seems odd that Council support the planting of deciduous species in housing developments that are not suitable for the changing climate and that which ultimately Council will have the responsibility to maintain.	clearly identifies areas that should be protected or enhanced and where suitable corridors should be established and ways that could be achieved, for example through land purchase or road closure Agreed, this issue will be explored more in the greening action plan.
		Climate change	
Climate change		The measurables are exclusively reduction in carbon emissions - are there no other initiatives / measurables to be pursued? An increase in planting (a linked goal with township greening) mitigates existing carbon emission for example.	Reducing emissions is an all-encompassing target that needs to be addressed across all areas of council business and community; emission reduction could include many different actions. The specifics on how this will occur are already considered as a part of the Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan adopted by Council in 2024 but will be further explored as a part of the Climate Action Plan to be developed in stage 2 Tree planting is a large part of Council's environment program but quantifying the impact this has on mitigating emissions is very challenging and not within Council's capacity to tackle at this stage. This may change as methods improve and council engages with others in the sector on this issue.
Climate change		Mount Barker District council needs to work on the preservation of the trees that are currently in the district and increase the canopy ratios. It needs to encourage developers to stop planting deciduous trees and focus on native plants. I collected a micro bat from the new development near the oval a month ago "I'll return it to the trees within 50m in a few days" I said to the residents of the house who said "there's no trees here". Sure enough I walk outside and there's these scrawny 1m sticks of deciduous trees and absolutely no natives. I had a look on google maps and the closest tree line was 200m which wasn't enough trees to sustain native wildlife long term. Planting deciduous trees means animals are left without shelter during the colder months when the trees lose their leaves and that the district loses its insulation to keep the cold out. This also goes for summer time, the township is going to increase in the hot summer with the lack of canopy ratio, correct me if I am wrong but ain't the ideal rate 30% for districts canopy but ours is around 16-17% how's this going to increase when you're removing 50+ trees in current development plans... How's this going to reduce the effects of weather-related climate change on the district. The council needs to plant more gum trees to provide adequate shelter from the elements from what's been lost already due to their housing upgrades.	Council staff work hard to try and protect trees and increase tree canopy cover but it's acknowledged that this isn't always successful and there are considerable limitations on what council can ask of developers (for example) and budget constraints on tree planting programs. Also, opinions vary widely as to what constitutes a 'good' tree. Often what a developer is trying to achieve for matters such as aesthetics, colour palette or practical matters such as street/footpath design and stormwater are contrary to the needs of native wildlife and habitat. The ESS can't resolve these complex issues directly but should rather set the intent and ambition of

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
			Council to then be pursued by council staff through action planning, budgets, role-specific functions and work programs. Canopy cover is currently 16% on average in Mount Barker but hasn't been mapped in other townships. If council adopts a target of 30% canopy cover in all townships, mapping will need to occur and a program implemented/strengthened to work towards the 30% target. The notion that trees planted should better provide for native wildlife and habitat is supported and will be further progressed in the Greening and Nature and Wildlife plans.
Climate change		Would be great to try and encourage the reduction of emissions by residents. Encourage more active transport options in and around Mt Barker. Make it so that it is more attractive for people to walk, ride their bike, take public transport than to hop in their car and travel a few kilometres locally. This would also help reduce the horrendous traffic congestion around Mt Barker, which will only get worse with more development.	A key priority of the Climate Change theme is to 'Support community climate action'. There is a wide variety of ways in which council currently does this and could do more of in the future, including encouraging active transport options, some of which are identified in the Transport lead strategy. This can be explored more in the Climate Action plan and no changes are proposed to the ESS.
Climate change		Your idea of climate change is completely incorrect. Speak with any environmental scientist who hasn't been paid off and they will tell you the same thing. 100% renewable energy coming from solar is garbage. We sell our natural resources to India and China while we buy solar from them made by the hands of modern day slaves. Meanwhile South Australia's have the highest electricity bills in the country. Your math isn't adding up. Use the natural resources we have on our home ground	This statement lacks context and coherence but is noted. No change
Climate change		Response to Draft Environment and Sustainability I believe the guiding principal for Council regarding environment and sustainability is the federal government target of net zero by 2050. Any Council policy in this area should be aimed at ensuring that what is under their control is aimed at achieving net zero and not at continuing a path that doesn’t have that destination. As that’s only 25 years away all policies currently being implemented need to reflect that destination and not continue practices that increase carbon emissions. Active transport needs to be encouraged, given a priority and designed in. While cars and trucks are an important part of how people move around they shouldn't be treated as the main priority and active transport an afterthought Mount Barker should be designed to be safe enough for a ten year old child to move around on a bicycle As an aside, a missed opportunity is the planning for the new roundabout at Adelaide/Flaxley/Wellington road. An underpass suitable for active transport would open up that triangle of the Mount Barker and make active transport a priority rather than an inconvenience that has to be designed in with traffic lights Wherever possible underpasses should be part of road building solutions, particularly for 60kph and above roads. This would allow the connecting of the many parts of mount barker and encourage people to use active transport I am particularly interested and keen to see Mount Barker Council play its part in the shift to net zero. Allowing gas as a method for domestic energy on new and renovation builds is not a solution for shifting to net zero There are many ways it can do this Using its power of approving buildings and renovations it could Require all windows to be at least Double Glazed. Council I believe abandoned this requirement for 2025. This has now condemned buildings built with single glazing to be inefficient for, on average, twenty years or until the houses are renovated. Enquiries have costed the price difference between single and double glazing at $2-3 k per house, or 1% of build cost. Require new and renovated houses to be all electric. I notice that new developments are being built with large central gas tanks. Why? Why lock in a solution that should be abandoned if you are going to take climate change seriously. Far smarter would be to encourage the building of modular big batteries decentralising the storage and delivery of power for new	The proposed target aligns with the Federal Government target of Net Zero by 2050, noting that an interim target for 2035 will be set this year as part of the government's Net Zero Plan. Underpasses are implemented when practical and feasible but generally active transport solutions are progressed through the Transport Lead Strategy and project plans. Many of the suggestions relating to energy efficiency are valid but mostly out of Council's direct control, including as dictated by the planning and building code and Mount Barker's exemption from changes to the energy efficiency increase to 7 stars. For example, Council has no control on what sources of energy are used in new developments but is actively discouraging the use of gas through the Homes for Tomorrow campaign which includes information and resources such as fact sheets, an update to the house design booklet and case studies to help people move towards all electric houses. Where possible, suggestions will be picked up through the climate action plan.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		developments. Accepting that not every residence can have solar with the desired size or orientation, modular local big batteries could allow residences to have greater power resilience Require new and renovated houses to install solar and as a minimum, a 5kw battery. I'm aware that for some houses the roof orientation doesnt work, or that vegetation renders it pointless. However the starting point should be that it happens unless special exemptions are given Require new and renovated houses to make provision for EV charging by, as a bare minimum, running the appropriate cable from the Fuse box to a location in the parking area Require new houses to have a required level of insulation in the external walls and ceilings and renovated houses to have that level in the ceilings appropriate for the Mount Barker area Require Shopping centres to have EV charging available in proportion to the amount of car parks they are required to have under council regulations. Require an increasing proportion of the electricity requirements of shopping centres to come from renewable energy Council to lead by example in its own buildings by not using gas and converting to electricity I read that Community Education was seen as a integral part of implementing the plan I would like to see Council doing more to encourage residents to go fully electric in their houses New land and house sales centres should have comprehensive booklets available to explain why Mt. barker is a fully electric build Information on Heat Pumps for Hot Water, Cooking on Induction cooktops, How home batteries lower power bills As part of the public education Council run information and demonstration nights, at least initially for several years, on cooking with Induction cooktops to dispel fear, ignorance and confusion and assist people to have confidence to shift from gas Council subdivision approvals need to ensure that heat islands are avoided. As blocks are becoming smaller council needs to ensure that green spaces exist in amongst blocks of houses and not just make green spaces in the most difficult to build areas. Green spaces need to be big enough to allow large trees to grow unimpeded by house boundaries, and be planted up accordingly. Verges should be designed to be big enough to have medium height street trees and have open ground to allow natural rainfall to support them. Obviously they then need to be planted appropriately. I see this as an important step to stop residential heat islands This is probably not the type of response that is suitable, but I'm inherently a practical person, advancing practical solution	
Climate change		Residents need to be educated, encouraged and incentivised to move away from gas and other fossil fuels. Our traffic issues in Mt Barker are horrendous. How can Council influence the reduction of cars on the road that would not only reduce congestion and make the roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists BUT also help reduce emissions? Plant local indigenous trees, bushes and grasses which are more able to adapt to the climate that European deciduous ones.	Current and potential actions addressing these suggestions will be picked up in the Climate Action Plan.
Climate change		The ESS could include a more proactive strategy for taking advantage of the opportunities for energy resilience and independence, both for residents and for Council. There is no mention of a goal/priority to derive 100% of Council energy from its own PV generation and storage. There is the possibility of a stretch target of >100% to allow for an additional income stream to supplement rate income (and ultimately reduce costs for Council and rates for residents). This requires a shift in paradigm from energy deficit to energy abundance. Other Councils are doing this now - let's not get left behind. Targets 1 and 2 Why is it 60% for Council, but only 30% for residents? How does this compare to other council strategies? The meaning of Target 3 is not entirely clear and would benefit from further clarification of treat…. to acceptable levels .	The Corporate Energy and Emissions Reduction Plan set a reduction target and it's not proposed to change this at this stage. As technology improves and costs reduce this can be reviewed. The community target was based on the State Governments 60% reduction target from on 2005 baseline, on path to next zero by 2050. We strongly recommend Council aligns its community emissions reductions to the States. There is no discrete baseline from 2005 for the MBDC area, but we do have this information for 22/23. We therefore adjusted the target to 30% from MBDC specific baseline data, still aligned to the State Government target but it was not clear in the draft strategy.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
			We've revised the target to clearly express MBDC contribution to the South Australian goal of net zero emissions by 2050 and converted it to tonnes. This figure reflects the best available data for the district and aligns with the state's broader climate ambition. **Replace target 2 with "Support South Australia's community emissions target by reducing local emissions to under 164,000 tonnes CO2e per year by 2035 on a pathway to net zero by 2050.** **Add to footnote 2 "Mount Barker District Council" to start of footnote** We've clarified the meaning of "acceptable levels" in the climate risk target. This term refers to levels of risk that Council considers tolerable, based on the type of risk and its potential impact on services or operations. For example, some risks may be considered acceptable at high, medium or only at low depending on their context. Council will define and regularly review these thresholds as part of its risk assessment and planning process. **A definition of 'acceptable levels' included in the strategy pg 27**
Climate change		The action under the key priority to "Demonstrate sustainable purchasing" should be strengthened to (edits in bold) "Embed sustainability considerations and requirements into procurement". Merely being required to give sustainability some thought in procurement is not enough – there should be minimum requirements for key sustainability challenges affecting the community. This would also align with the principles on page 6 to "protect and prioritise nature"; "take urgent climate action" (and not merely 'consider' it); and to "be bold yet practical"	Suggestion adopted **Added this suggested wording page 27**
Climate change		Targets for climate change should adopt the Australian and South Australian standard of a 2005 baseline rather than a 2023 baseline, so as to make them meaningful comparable. A 2023 baseline obfuscates the current ambition of the council. However, Conservation Council SA recognises that the Council may have data challenges in ascertaining their 2005 baseline	Agree, however there is no baseline in 2005 specific to Council area. The 2023 baseline is adjusted as best fit to match South Australian standard. We acknowledge this isn't clear so have changed it to be a tonnes target and show clearer alignment to State target **Amended wording page 27**
Climate change		Conducting a first pass climate risk assessment by 2027 is too late – and indeed, about 20 years too late. This should be undertaken by next year – 2026 – at the latest. There is no good reason why this should be delayed.	Agreed that climate risk assessment is urgent and overdue. Council has budgeted for a climate risk assessment in 2025/26 to build on previous climate governance assessment. Wording has been changed to reflect this **Amended wording page 27**

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
Climate change		If the council's key objective is to 'adapt and build resilience to the impacts of climate change and work towards reducing emissions in line with state and federal targets', then it should recognise that the Adelaide Hills, particularly the southern Mt. Lofty Ranges which incorporates the MBDC is effectively the lungs of the city. The endemic species which are in rapid decline, (acknowledged in MBDC SoER) should be given high priority protection along with increasing the footprint of biodiversity (not linear trails) to achieve this goal.	Noted. No change
Climate change		We agree with the Objective Re. Target 2, *Support the district to reduce emissions by at least 30% from 2023 levels by 2035 in order to achieve net zero by 2050.* We acknowledge that Council may be limited in its influence, but it would be great to see a higher reduction of emissions set for the community (perhaps similar to the one set for Council, ie 60%) – and perhaps Council can achieve this by focussing on incentives for residents and businesses	Council has some limited influence on community emissions. The 30% target was derived from aligning the State Government community target to the best available baseline discrete to MBDC. We note this could be clearer and have made changes. **Amended wording page 27**
Climate change		Since I work in the space of design and documentation of buildings, specialising in ESD, both residential and commercial, I'd like to suggest that your strategy includes definitions of net zero in relation to the new housing developments, with an understanding that there is significant wastage and embodied with the construction sector and that the only way to achieve true net zero is to calculate the footprint of each forth coming development in order to offset those developments. Hence the strategy should put the following specific actionable items into the proposal. • Carbon calculations (of the construction of new buildings and infrastructure). ○ Triple Bottom Line 'accounting' type calculations that is. • Methane calculations from local agriculture • Offsets for the above. I think that you ought to look for grass roots actions also such as encouraging community members to car-pool and share equipment using software to aggregate users and facilitate user interaction. This could be done by using existing software and apps without re-creating things and with minimal expenditure. Lastly, there should be programmatic review of all retailers and hospitality venues to ensure adherence with the single use plastic rules which are law but are broadly being ignored by almost every take away outlet in the district/ state.	Noted. Some of these suggestions can be picked up in the stage 2 action plan.
		Climate risk is a big one for mount barker and needs to be considered in this strategy. Climate risks need to be determined and incorporated in future plans for the region. Flooding and the urban heat impacts may be big risks in mount barker due to the urbanisation of the area.	Agree. A climate risk assessment is budgeted for and will be undertaken in parallel with the stage 2 action planning.
		Would love to see a display home which has been built using Environmentally sustainable design principals so people can then visualise and better understand how they could build a more sustainable home.	Council has partnered with Sustainable House Day and local builders to showcase sustainable homes. Other opportunities to do this will be explored during the stage 2 action planning.
		Vehicle emissions are high in mount barker due to an increase in cars on the roads. Supporting sustainable transport is important. Mount Barker needs systemic change to reduce our reliance on cars.	Noted. This issue is addressed largely through the Transport Strategy and includes advocating for better public transport options.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		Waste to resources	
Waste to resources		**-** Would love Council to sponsor a Repair Cafe and an Environmental Resources Centre, both of which are already established in other council areas. This would encourage people to repair instead of discard and to find out all the resources available to be more environmentally sustainable.	A repair café will be included as a possible action to consider as a part of stage 2 action planning. Informal discussions have been held about the possibility of establishing an environmental resources centre in Mount Barker. This will be further considered as part of stage 2 action planning.
Waste to resources		Ban plastic. All plastic. From kitchen to clothing, ban the lot. It's bad for the environment and it's bad for human health. It's ending up in our waters and being eaten by the animals. Ban all plastic effectively immediately. Go back to natural materials.	Banning plastic is not within the remit or authority of a local council. The sentiment about the negative impacts of plastic on the environment and human health is supported however and council can have a role in helping to reduce its impact on receiving environments through effective waste management programs and recycling. More specific programs around plastic will be considered as a part of stage 2 action planning.
Waste to resources		Please can we have a Council sponsored repair cafe in Mt Barker? How can Council work with local businesses more to encourage them to reduce waste - just look at the waste in the bins behind the Homemaker Centre. Also, can Council enforce tradespeople and builders to NOT let the waste from building sites end up in waterways and adjacent land.	A repair café will be included as a possible action to consider in the action planning as a part of stage 2. One of the key priorities in the strategy is to strengthen development and construction waste management
Waste to resources		Waste resource management, inexplicably, is given a higher priority than biodiversity. We advise this be changed in the strategy.	The order in which themes are listed is not an indicator of priority. It matches the order of objectives in Community Plan 2044 for synergy of strategic documents.
Waste to resources		We agree with the Objective Re. Target 4, *A reduction of waste to landfill by 20% per capita by 2035.* It would be good to have a higher percentage to aim for, eg a reduction of waste to landfill by 40% per capita by 2035 as there is too much waste especially on building sites. As we are only 30% into the development at Mt Barker we think a concerted effort needs to be taken to reduce the waste coming from such sites, even if this means enlisting the help of the state government and other bodies or groups to call the building industry and private contractors out on their current poor practice of dealing with building waste.	Noted. Currently approximately 50% of waste is diverted from landfill and the 20% is on top of what is already happening. This target is already very ambitious as previous 10 years the per capita waste volume has remained the same or increased.
		Township greening	
Township Greening		Target #6 currently requires an unknown amount of effort (based on the footnote in the plan) and as such has been worded as "work towards". This is too vague a target. Are townships already at 30% going to strive for more or not?	As there is currently only tree canopy cover data for Mount Barker it's hard to determine what might be required in other towns. Once mapping is complete for all townships it will be easier to determine specific work programs that might be required to achieve 30%. If a township is already at 30% that would warrant a review and revision to determine a suitable town specific target.
Township Greening		The greening of the district is not progressing at all rather decreasing rapidly. I am so disgusting in the lack of canopy ratio in the district and the council just pulls down established trees with hollows and animals living in them but then doesn't proceed to plant anything new. The new housing developments that are going to take around 50+ trees shouldn't need to	There are significant greening efforts underway in many parts of the district on public and private land but there are certainly localised incidents where trees are removed that would ideally

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		wait until AFTER development the council should be acting now to replace the percentage of trees lost. You need to encourage people to plant natives and stop developers from placing in horrible deciduous trees that serve absolutely no purpose to our native wildlife. - The council needs to push the agenda for people to have nature blocks, could there be an incentive where people register a nature block and if their property has a certain percentage or higher of natives they get something in return. - Have free seedling give aways with this incentiv	not be, for example as a part of new development. Greening efforts on public land where council has care and control continue, including planting approximately 600 street and reserve trees each year and approximately 10,000 native trees, shrubs and ground flora species. Council also runs a plant pack subsidy program where people can purchase subsidised local species grown at the Mount Barker community nursery. How these programs could be improved or expanded will form part of the ESS action planning.
Township Greening		Planting trees is fantastic BUT we must STOP cutting down existing trees as they currently provide the much needed canopy. What incentives can Council provide to encourage individual land owners to retain trees on their properties. Other Councils offer rebates and other financial incentives for residents to keep their large old trees on their properties. Council also needs to adopt a stance that NO MORE Council owned trees will be cut down unless they are structurally unsafe (as judged by a professional arborist).	Incentives can be explored as part of the second stage action planning. Mostly, trees on council land won't be removed unless they are unsafe, are an invasive weed species causing environmental harm or as part of a council project where there are no viable options. Each council project, including whether the project is necessary or not, should be based on merit and against criteria that includes environmental impact. The processes in place and need for new processes will be reviewed as part of stage 2 action planning
Township Greening		Plant trees but native trees, homes for the animals. You are correct everything is interconnected. Your killing the nature and taking our land for more houses. This has a negative impact on not just humans but the wildlife.	The number of native trees planted by council far outweighs the number of non-native trees. Species selection for council projects will continue to evolve subject to climatic changes and trials occurring elsewhere. Species selection will be considered through the Urban Greening action plan.
Township Greening		By stopping any further trees from being cut down across all townships! Plant more local indigenous trees. Encourage planting on verges Many of our parks have wide open spaces of nothing but grass - plant more trees!!!	There are many examples where grassed areas have been turned into local native revegetation sites, for example the Glebe, Springs wetland and pocket parks around the district. The potential for more verge plantings is something that can be explored as part of stage 2 action planning as will species selection.
Township Greening		Given the climate and biodiversity crisis, 30% canopy cover by 2051 (25 years!) seems too long a timeframe. This is also at odds with the strategy which is only for 10 years. Surely we, as a community, can achieve this target within 10 years, especially if Council develops effective partnerships with all stakeholders. Given the science around the environmental impact of deciduous trees and the objectives within the Nature and Wildlife theme, we believe that Council should set an additional target for planting more local indigenous trees that are wildlife friendly and better suited for a warming climate. Retaining 95% of mature trees is admirable but trees on their own are not habitat and biodiversity. In addition, dead trees play a significant role in the landscape of urban environments especially where they provide hollows. Transparency of the	**Agree, this is a limited target as our current evidence base doesn't yet support a meaningful, measurable 2035 goal across all townships.** **We have updated wording to be more active of our intent and made footnote clearer.** **Increase tree canopy in all townships to support the State Government's target of 30% cover by 2055.** 30% by 2055 is considered realistic given the time it takes for trees to grow. This target is consistent with that included as part of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the recent

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		95% target and how that will be assessed will be crucial. We suggest an additional target that recognizes the value of retaining all native trees, shrubs and grasses in the urban landscape. This is true biodiversity. In addition, use of a biodiversity score would reflect the value of each tree or plant community and enable a consistent baseline in comparisons and decision making. Mount Barker Parklands The plan/proposal to develop a trail network from Totness Recreation Park to Mt Barker Summit has an inherent conflict with the priority of establishing 'an expansive, connected green network that enhances cooling, biodiversity, recreation opportunities, and beauty in our region's natural landscapes.' The plan needs to clearly outline how existing biodiversity assets (Totness and the Summit) will be protected. Any plan should also outline how biodiversity connectivity will be provided and supported at the new Summit Sport and Recreation Park as it is a key location for connectivity between Laratinga Wetlands and the Summit. At present there is little to no provision to support biodiversity connectivity. We seek transparency on Council plans to develop shared use trail networks through areas such as Totness, Laratinga, and the Summit. We suggest an additional target that reflects the urgency of establishing a management plan to protect Mt Barker's most important biodiversity assets	Urban Greening Strategy. An interim target might be appropriate and will be further considered in the Urban greening action plan Noted. No additional target as suggested here is proposed but the intent is supported and will be further explored in the stage 2 action plans. It's not clear where the suggested conflict exists but actions to protect specific biodiversity assets will be considered in the stage 2 action planning including connectivity. There are no plans for shared use trails at key biodiversity sites.
Township Greening		The current wording for the Target of 30% canopy in townships by 2051 is meaningless in practice because it merely seeks to "work towards" a target beyond 2035 without setting a clear goal by 2035. The target needs to be rewritten as an actual target by 2035, i.e. (edits in bold): "Work towards Achieve a 21% canopy cover in all townships by 2035 to be on track to match the State Government target of 30% by 2055." 3 5.	Agree, this is a limited target as our current evidence base doesn't yet support a meaningful, measurable 2035 goal across all townships. We have updated wording to be more active of our intent and made footnote clearer. **Increase tree canopy in all townships to support the State Government's target of 30% cover by 2055.** ***A tailored 2035 interim target will be developed once baseline canopy data for the district is captured.***
Township Greening		Mount Barker District Council should adopt an access to green space 2035 Target. As of 2022, green spaces of the Council of Mount Barker only cover 2.37% of its area for 400-metre accessibility, and 5.65% of its area for 800-metre accessibility – the lowest in the Adelaide Metropolitan area4 . Conservation Council SA would argue for a target of at least 50% of township areas to have access to green space within 800 metres – and ideally more.	Noted. Unsure of these stated numbers, but priority "grow the Mount Barker Parklands together" will work well towards this sentiments.
Township Greening		Conservation Council SA strongly supports and encourages the retention of the 2035 Target to "Retain 95% mature trees in masterplan developments."	Noted
Township Greening		The strategy includes: Township greening – retain 95% mature trees in masterplan developments. Establish high levels of canopy cover and biodiverse areas as part of our open space network and road reserves.	The point the author seems to be trying to make here is based on a narrow definition of parklands as mown grassed areas that are not substitutes for more intact native vegetation

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		Grow the Mount Barker Parklands together. With community and partnerships. Partnerships with whom? This is not clear in the draft. Parklands do not support biodiversity. Parklands support a small, narrow selection of biodiversity, often after more complex biodiversity systems have been extinguished, and consist of mostly higher order predators like magpies and possums. Other essential flora and fauna are not sustainable in this environment. Why are they essential? Because small birds, like sittellas, wrens and pardalotes eat insects. They clean the trees of insects like lerps; they maintain tree health. Why can they not survive? Because there is no ability for them to survive attack by larger predators. Magpies eat them. Possums eat the eggs and the food sources are virtually non-existent because there are few endemic native grasses/ plants for the insects to thrive in, and what does exist is frequently mown in parklands.	areas. This is certainly true however we don't need to accept that definition and can develop and improve parklands to better support biodiversity through well designed revegetation and habitat creation programs as has been happening in many parts of the district for decades, for example wetlands and linear trails .
Township Greening		Biodiversity recovery should be separate to, and not included in, Township Greening, as it is stated in this draft. By supporting a policy which supports master plan urban development removing 5% native vegetation from each development and increasing the footprint of parklands and linear trails, Council is effectively increasing the habitat of select biodiversity while actively pushing to extinction the remaining biodiversity under its care. The unique Southern Mt. Lofty Ranges biodiversity is on the verge of collapse. Mount Barker Council will be overseeing this collapse by not implementing stronger strategies. Council, if they are really to work for the community, the people they represent, they should be promoting stronger ties with the State Planning Commission and the State Government to prevent extinction. Community can only do so much in the face of uncontrolled urban development which allows developers to remove natural habitat for houses and car parks. We should acknowledge that each one of these master plan designs involves an extinction event. The creatures that live there are territorial, which means they cannot be relocated. If they are they will need to fight for a place, (probably injured or killed), be pushed out or attempt to return. With limited native 'housing' this is more stress and numbers are continually reduced overall. Failure to act to redress this issue is a failure in Council's duty of care to the community, to the assets of the community and to future generations within this community.	The Township Greening and Nature and Wildlife themes are separate in the strategy. They can never to be treated completely separately however as urban greening should provide biodiversity outcomes and vice versa with biodiversity providing urban greening outcomes.
Township Greening		Objective: *Establish high levels of canopy cover and biodiverse areas as part of our open space network and road reserves*. We agree with this Re. the Targets 6, *Work towards 30% canopy cover in townships by 2051 to match State Government target* Please don't use 'Work towards' and instead use 'Achieve' We need this to occur. Also, why 2051? We appreciate canopy can take a while to develop **but if we stop cutting trees down now** that will help contribute to the canopy cover target sooner. We should not be relying on planting trees but **actively saving our remaining ones from being cut down – on Council land and private property.** More action is needed to halt the clear felling of trees on private property. Residents need to be educated and incentivised to keep their trees. Council should also be proactively discouraging landowners from removing trees when land is subdivided in the townships with the obvious intention of developing it.	Agree, this is a limited target as our current evidence base doesn't yet support a meaningful, measurable 2035 goal across all townships. We have updated wording to be more active of our intent and made footnote clearer. **Increase tree canopy in all townships to support the State Government's target of 30% cover by 2055.** ***A tailored 2035 interim target will be developed once baseline canopy data for the district is captured.*** Trees are and should be assessed on merit not always size or age, for example existing or future habitat or wildlife food source potential. Assessing quality can be subjective however and the wording has been changed to better capture the intent of the target.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		7, *Retain 95% mature trees in masterplan developments* How many are being retained now? Who will decide what is a 'mature tree'? Some trees like sheoaks, though not as majestic as large gum trees, are still worthy of being retained, especially if they occur in mass plantings. We would like an additional target added that reflects the other part of the Objective which is to '*establish high levels of biodiverse areas'* We suggest something like: '*Retain 95% of existing biodiversity in masterplan developments*' This shouldn't be hard as in reality most of the masterplan developments are on former farming land which has already been cleared.	The proposal to include an additional target as suggested is not supported as it is virtually impossible to measure. It is accepted that we need to do better at understanding the biodiversity value of individual development sites and manage impacts accordingly.
Township Greening		Love that you will support people to care for trees on private land! I think this is fantastic "Retain 95% mature trees in masterplan developments". I know there isn't a lot that council can do when it comes to state government developments but for council developments it's important that you protect trees on your own land	Noted
		Nature and wildlife	
Nature and Wildlife		Target #8 - it's very easy to increase FTE but this may have little to no impact on the intent and priorities, nor is the amount of increase stated. The footnote speaks to the need for a better defined target. How do we measure biodiversity health? This would provide a better metric as a target. Target #9 - there is no defined amount of increase. How much specifically are we seeking to gain? Target is again too vague.	The intent of target 7 'Increase total FTE investment (staff, contractors and volunteers) in managing biodiverse areas each year to 2035' was that there needed to be commitment to increasing resourcing but without a full condition audit of natural areas it is difficult to track quality improvement. The biodiversity action plan will further develop the detail required to have a more well developed approach to managing nature and biodiversity assets including the people with the rights knowledge and skills to do that.
Nature and Wildlife		It is so upsetting to see the effects of fiddler lane where the council has branded that as a wildlife corridor and promoted it as such to then pass developers to remove the trees. How can we trust that the greening projects of the council are in fact legitimate and that this won't happen again? It has really left me untrusting that the mount Barker council even cared about the greening in the area. Surveys were done by wildlife carers who reported the animals sighted in that area and listed the vegetation as important for the ecosystem and no one cares or listened. You wanted to preserve a tree for a peregrine falcon but when he comes back to that tree what's he going to eat? I tell you now he would be feasting on the possums that live in the avenue of trees but you've just taken away his food source. Now what? One choice has a Domino effect on the ecosystem and so simply removing "some trees" can even lead to the collapse of the green lane. I want to see a change otherwise what's the point in me continuing to save animals in this district to send them to a temporary home that you'll pull down for a road. Realistically the council's just sent at least a dozen animals to their death due to displacement just on fiddler lane whether the impact is a direct cause or the possums then suffer displacement, stress and get dermi and pass away as a result of habitat destruction. I have spoken to others about potentially moving the tree that someone's so very kindly highlighted as ringtail home and plant it Futher down the lane for the animals to use. Have a discussion amongst yourselves to whether you can donate the tree leaves to wildlife sanctuaries or if the wood that you are chopping down from the trees can be recycled into possum boxes that can be GIVEN out to the district. The nails already in the coffin for these animals but the question is how will you support them with your decision now. Plant gum trees for them to move into BEFORE development starts so the trees can somewhat establish and provide a food source. The main issue wildlife is facing is habitat destruction, I want to see a 5% increase in canopy ratios or native plants within the district within the next year. Landcare groups can restore and plant as much as they want but at the rate or removal they can't keep up.	Council is challenged to achieve good outcomes for trees and nature due to the way 'block by block' development occurs in Mount Barker as a result of the decision to rezone 1300 ha in 2010. The blunt nature of the Planning and Design code means that once a piece of land is rezoned the system is biased towards development at all cost outcomes and not towards nature positive development. Staff can negotiate with developers but are limited in what they can enforce via the code. This is a problem that isn't unique to Mount Barker but could be helped by a more detailed plan for nature in the greater Mount Barker area where most of the development is occurring. This is something that will be explored in the stage 2 action planning.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
Nature and Wildlife		Love all the priorities listed here BUT how can we ensure nature and wildlife is protected into the future? We are seeing too much of our native veg disappearing for development and the impact on wildlife is horrendous (loss of habitat and corridors). Surely we need to keep what little we have left and work around it. Can Council please advocate/lobby the state government for better environmental protections within the state planning code to force developers to retain native vegetation on their land.	There are multiple impacts caused by development and human activity in general and many challenges to achieve effective nature conservation outcomes. A major cultural shift is required if society is to reverse biodiversity decline but there is an opportunity in Mount Barker to show how it might be achieved at a scale that can be defined, explained and implemented with higher levels of community acceptance.
		Following on from the workshop of 13 February, it seems to me that more clarity is needed around how much original remnant bushland remains and how much is native revegetation; how much remnant bushland is on highly protected sites or is very vulnerable to clearance. Also, more clarity is needed regarding the future priority the Council intends to give to the maintenance of its scarce and declining remnant bushland, and its protection from ongoing degradation from pest fauna, weeds, increasing human recreational use and development encroachment. The touchstones that underlie this contribution is that while revegetation is good, maintaining and protecting our relict bushland is most important because once it is lost, it is gone forever. Our remnant bushlands are functioning bio-communities unlike any other in the Mount Lofty Ranges, being on the edge of the higher rainfall Manna Gum distribution and the drier Mallee plains. Our remnant bushlands are home to a large variety of indigenous and endemic plant species from which we collect the seeds and the cuttings of high local provenance for propagation at Laratinga Nursery.	Noted and agreed. Protection, management and maintenance of biodiversity assets is a key priority in the strategy. More specific ways in which this is best achieved will be set out in the nature and wildlife action plan. Better understanding existing assets will form part of this
Nature and Wildlife		Stop stripping away the natural habitat for our wildlife. Plant more gums and eucalyptus. Provide homes again for the possums, the koalas and birds. Give the kangaroos the fields to roam again. Stop over development of the district. You can't pretend to care about the nature and wildlife while simultaneously destroying it.	Much of the destruction of habitat occurs on private land where Council's control is limited. Council has significant programs in place to protect and restore nature but it's agreed that the challenges are vast and more needs to be done.
Nature and Wildlife		Under the section 'Nature and Wildlife' the draft strategy states it's objective as to 'Protect, restore, connect and extend remnant vegetation and newly established native vegetation areas.' The loss of habitat for wildlife occurs almost entirely due to the loss of established native trees in new developments. Its important to realize that the habitat loss due to the loss of established trees cannot be mitigated simply by planting new trees. As the new trees take decades to establish and provide habitat, the local wildlife will face extinction due to habitat loss or will encroach into developed areas creating conflicts with humans. Considering the habitat for native wildlife in the area is already considerably destroyed, it should be a key priority to prevent any further the loss of established native trees and wildlife corridors when the Council approves new developments. However the draft strategy fails address this important issue in the key priorities. Therefore, I suggest to include preventing the loss of established native trees and wildlife corridors as a key priority under the 'Nature and Wildlife' section of the draft strategy	We agree with importance of reducing the loss of mature native trees and wildlife corridors during development, and the importance of these elements in supporting biodiversity. The 'Nature and Wildlife' section has two priorities already – “protect, manage and maintain biodiversity assets” and “partner for biodiversity on private land” that both work to this goal. However the main points of this comment are actually covered by the ‘Township Greening’ chapter, which outlines Council’s approach to preserving vegetation and enhancing ecological outcomes in urban areas through master planning, tree protection, and open space design. Coupled with strong target to retain 95% mature trees in masterplan developments. Together, these sections reflect a coordinated and long-term approach to conserving both natural and urban biodiversity in a growing district. **Added “Protection of big trees” to “related priorities sentence on page 33 so it now reads:**

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
			Protection of big trees, creation of biodiverse and climate resilient corridors and planting predominately native species is addressed through the Township Greening focus area of this strategy.
Nature and Wildlife		Council must work out a way to properly protect our nature and wildlife from the continual destruction caused by development. Otherwise there will be nothing for future generations. Employ lots more environmental staff who could work with planners to help incorporate native vegetation into developments. Find examples of where other developments (in other states or countries) have managed to incorporate native veg and protect it. Use as an exemplar. Do not allow new housing developments to plant non-native species. Work with nurseries and large companies like Bunnings to preference native plants and to stop selling poisons that kill our wildlife.	Noted. It's considered that the strategy as drafted and updated through the strong submissions on this topic adequately sets the intent to achieve this. These suggestions will be picked up as a part of stage 2 action planning.
Nature and Wildlife		**Mt Barker & District Residents' Association** The Mt Barker & District Residents' Association appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to this important document. Many of our members attended the initial strategy workshops to provide input to this draft document. We are pleased to see that it is now open to public consultation. Introduction The Mount Barker District Council (MBDC) draft documents begins with these opening statements: *Vision – Connected habitat corridors, thriving biodiversity and beautiful green spaces that are highly valued – supporting a resilient future and Mount Barker as South Australia's most liveable region.* *Executive Summary The Mount Barker District Environment and Sustainability Strategy sets the direction for environmental action over the next decade to 2035. Building on the achievements of the past, this strategy reflects the evolving needs of our community, the urgency of global environmental issues, and our shared local commitment to becoming the most liveable region in South Australia. This strategy is structured around five interlinked themes—climate change, nature and wildlife, township greening, integrated water management, and waste to resources— each supported by its own four-year action plan. These nested plans provide a coordinated approach to achieving long-term sustainability goals, ensuring actions are focused,* measurable, *and adaptable to emerging challenges and opportunities.* Strong words are used to indicate a desire to achieve valuable and urgent goals, but the use of the word biodiversity (Vision) becomes nature and wildlife (Strategy). This indicates clearly an inadequate understanding of: • what biodiversity is, • why nature and wildlife are not mutually exclusive and therefore, • why it matters, and • how to protect and enlarge it to prevent the remaining, unique, biodiverse ecosystems from collapsing. Biodiversity is more than large street trees, paddock trees, beautiful green spaces, or parklands joined by linear trails. The strategy to protect and restore biodiversity then becomes 'nature and wildlife' and 'corridors for biodiversity' incorporated into Township Greening. Biodiversity is 'the variety of life on Earth, including plant, animal and marine species, microorganisms, their genes and the ecosystems they inhabit and on which they rely. Any definition of biodiversity must encompass diversity at different levels – for example species diversity, genetic diversity within a species and ecosystem diversity' (Bailey, 2025). A strong environmental strategy would prioritise the protection and restoration because it is essential to mitigating the effects of climate change, which affects us all. Proper understanding of 'wildlife' would acknowledge that species require	Nature and wildlife and biodiversity are used interchangeably throughout the ESS but 'nature and wildlife' is used to describe 1 of the 5 themes primarily to match the objective set in the MBDC Community Plan 2044. Having our most strategic documents link through the ESS really helps align reporting, budgeting and strategic planning. We have also found that for broad appeal and greater understanding by many, that Nature and wildlife is more easily understood and accessible language than biodiversity. **An explanation of this has been added for clarity to the glossary on page 39 for biodiversity to includes "for plain language purposes, often referred to as "nature and wildlife".**

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		varying land masses to survive. For example, are you aware that an echidna needs the equivalent of 50 football ovals, rich in the biodiversity it eats, (ants and termites), not a linear trail or a parkland to survive. Council strategy requirement Council needs to have a strategy that clearly outlines how it intends to: • lead programs to increase the 5% remaining, fragmented ecosystem to 30%, • advocate for the environment within the community, • demonstrate leadership in how it will advocate to involved bodies like the State Planning Commission and the State Government to make a difference, and • work with other local councils to advocate on behalf of the environment and climate change mitigation. The MBDC draft State of the Environment Report, (SoER), March 2025 (page 23), mentions large areas of native vegetation, acknowledges the poor state of no understorey and notes there is great potential for improvement. The SA Government 2023 Report (Department of Environment and Water, DEW) indicates that both flora and fauna in the Adelaide hills region are declining. The TERN (Australian Government ecosystem monitoring network) has identified the Southern Mt. Lofty Ranges as a biodiversity hotspot. (Hotspot is recognised as an ecosystem on the verge of collapse/extinction). The Council only recognises the importance of this with the word 'urgent' in reference to 'global environmental issues' and makes no acknowledgement of: • the endangered endemic biodiversity at our backdoor, • that 95% has disappeared, and • that over 75% of the species that have disappeared exist nowhere else on the planet.	Noted. A reference to the biodiversity significance of the region has been strengthened
		An Environment and Sustainability strategy that prioritises crucial species decline continuing to occur and incorporates immediate plans of action to halt further biodiversity loss is needed. This would require leadership, taking action to work with scientists and professionals, raising standards and making strong decisions. Defining a measurable action plan and developing initiatives will show their commitment.	
		Page 1 penultimate line unclear to me The Council State of Environment Report says ."……..overall pool quality/condition of the native vegetation, i.e. muc of that area will be weed infested, include trees but no native understory and be a mix of local and out of region natives and exotic trees."	Noted. This is the intention of the Nature and Wildlife Action Plan.
		So there appears to be no real, expert or even educated understanding of what "biodiversity" means and this is a huge failing on the part of this council and a great chasm in any attempt by State Government to pretend that biodiversity is valued, let alone protected and enhanced. This fact is so clearly apparent that it needs to be raised at the highest level of government with support requested by Conservation SA and other agencies to ensure appropriate policies and ACTIONS are implemented without delay. S.A. is already the "desert State" - yet current government policy is ensuring the desert (and heating) increases.	Unclear what the submission refers to here or would like to see change.
		Include that biodiversity/wildlife corridors need to be implemented as a matter of environmental urgency with acknowledgement that any corridor is better than none, but the view of the majority of ecologists is that a minimum width of 400m will result in higher species diversity, with areas up to 2km desirable in order to support breeding populations and food sources of biodiverse species	Noted the strategy refers to corridors throughout.
		Would love to see some more BSUD projects too	Noted. This will be considered in the stage 2 action planning

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		CV4E – The target of acquiring more land, while worthwhile, is not sufficient on its own. There should be an additional target that addresses the objective to protect, restore and extend native vegetation and habitat. The ESS is attempting to address how much we value existing native vegetation rather than compensating for its loss. This could be made more explicit in objectives and targets. The role of decision-making structures and processes is not sufficiently addressed in the ESS. Again it may be a question of internal engagement which could be specifically mentioned and include its own target. To avoid community cynicism about a plan that looks good on paper but fails to deliver, a statement about how Council will advocate for the protection of the environment in its dealings with developers and the State Government is needed, instead of merely citing them as obstacles and challenges in the process. Similarly, one of the priorities is to safeguard and protect Council's biodiversity assets. These assets, though few, are under constant threat from incursion by development and do not have significant protections in place to safeguard them. An additional target to fully protect its biodiversity assets would indicate Council's seriousness in this area. We strongly support the ongoing partnerships with innovative, progressive organisations like Hills Biodiversity and Second Nature Conservancy who are delivering outstanding outcomes and creating a much-needed community conservation buzz. Partnerships are integral but it would be helpful to see more effective partnerships with developers to achieve environmental outcomes. Far too often the environment loses out to development. Supporting and championing property owners who live along RMS sites through workshops and other information in partnership with the Landscape Board is essential for effective environmental outcomes. Strengthening Council capacity to manage biodiversity assets includes enhancing inhouse expertise through transferring of existing community knowledge and empowering Council staff to understand and take responsibility for their own sites, reserves and road reserves. An additional target to mentor current environment staff into more on ground leadership roles would allow staff to make direct and consistent connection with the community and develop a better understanding of volunteers and environmental needs. Included in the priority for volunteering should be respecting and valuing the contribution of current environmental volunteers while building towards greater numbers. The establishment of Friends groups has been an outstanding success, creating two strong, passionate, productive and growing groups. We would like to see this successful concept expand into other reserves and townships, reinvigorating stagnant projects and partnerships under the management and supervision of Council environmental staff. Taking ownership of sites would allow groups to fully understand and monitor progress. In addition, Council could establish an environmental volunteer group that works across a variety of sites across the district. We suggest an additional target to grow the number of groups across townships.	**The intention of target 9 referred to here is not to acquire more land (although that may be a future option) but rather to manage existing biodiversity assets better to maintain remnant vegetation that is in good condition and to improve or expand where it isn't. The target has been changed to better reflect its intent.** **Replaced "Net gain of council management biodiversity areas (hectares) by 2035" with "All remnant vegetation sites over 0.5 ha under Council care have fully resourced management plans in place by 2035, with Category 1 sites completed by 2030."** Partnerships with the organisations mentioned (and others) as well as with volunteers add great value to conservation efforts and have been built up over many years, with an increase in activity and support in recent years. There is almost unlimited additional capacity that could be unlocked with greater investment, be that from council, other levels of government or the private sector. With over 800 parcels of community land with varying levels of biodiversity value to manage, the task is vast and its acknowledged that greater coordination, data, effort and resourcing is needed to do this. The Nature and Wildlife plan to be undertaken as a part of stage 2 will be focused on achieving this. Every path or trail, in and of itself, is not a nature corridor but nature corridors do and can exist in conjunction with paths and trails.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		Planting trees, while worthwhile, is not the total solution because loss of mature habitat is not compensated for by new plantings. Similarly, a net gain in hectares managed by Council does not specify quality or connectedness of habitat. Remnant vegetation clearance should be quantified so that the loss can be truly measured. Paths and trails are not nature corridors and therefore should not be counted as such	
		Mount Barker District Council should adopt a biodiversity protection 2035 Target to: "Audit council land to ascertain which lands would be appropriate for formal conservation protection under a Heritage Agreement." This target would help make good on the protection component of its key priority to "Protect, manage and maintain biodiversity assets", and would complement its target for a "Net gain of council managed biodiversity areas (hectares) by 2035". The Adelaide Hills Council has adopted a similar approach and is in the process of progressing a tranche of 25 Heritage Agreements on council land. It is also worth noting that the Native Vegetation Branch of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) offers Heritage Agreement Incentive Grants which could be utilised to assist in managing such areas5	This suggestion has merit but more as an action in the Nature and Wildlife action plan.
		The 2035 Target for "Net gain of council managed biodiversity areas (hectares) by 2035" should be much more specific, as net gain could mean 0.01 additional hectare (or even less!) – instead, this Target should either be amended to: "Net gain of council managed biodiversity protected areas (hectares) by 2035." [Note: protected areas on council land are ordinarily undertaken via Heritage Agreements] Or: "Net gain of at least 20% in council managed biodiversity areas (hectares) by 2035."	Noted, refer to point # above
		Mount Barker District Residents Association The strategy states*: Protect, manage and maintain biodiversity assets. Expand and connect existing habitats for native wildlife. Creation of biodiverse and climate resilient corridors and planting predominately native species is addressed through the Township Greening focus area of this strategy.* The Adelaide Hills – millions of years in evolution, is lost in 200 years. The Council needs to acknowledge that climate change and the drying out of the Hills is exacerbated by loss of biodiversity. It really is that simple and yet complex at the same time. Australia signed the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in 2022. The Federal government Dept. of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has this statement, *"This strategy. All governments across Australia – Australian, state, territory and local – play a leadership role in regulating, funding, undertaking and facilitating nature conservation."* *The GBF aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and to live in harmony with nature by 2050. The GBF has 23 targets to achieve by 2030 and 4 goals to achieve by 2050. It aims to:* *• conserve and restore biodiversity* *• enhance First Nations stewardship* *• strengthen benefit sharing* *• encourage private investment in nature* *• mainstream biodiversity considerations into decision-making.* This MBDC draft Environmental and Sustainability strategy allows the continuation of extinction and does not properly address the real issues. An urgent need exists for the Council to act to 'regulate, fund, undertake and facilitate nature conservation.' The Council needs to include the urgency to be more than climate change, acknowledge that in the next ten years will see the collapse of the Southern Mt Lofty ecosystem and remove broad, open statements the do not address the actual, practical work that needs to be done. Council must report to State and Federal levels of government that current planning systems are destroying native biodiversity and greatly contributing to extinction of all native flora and fauna species in this State, and	Noted. Advocacy has been addressed previously. Some of the thrust of this submission will be addressed in the Nature and Wildlife and Urban Greening action plans and in a proposed biodiversity master plan for Mount Barker.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		especially within the Mount Lofty Ranges an area already federally identified as "a hotspot for biodiversity LOSS". True and significant biodiversity corridors are needed as a matter of urgency to support vanishing local biodiversity wildlife, including plant life. 95% retention of mature trees in masterplan developments contributes to overall loss and is not a connected corridor management plan. As developments go ahead, biodiversity will be reduced to clinging, unsustainably, to roadside verges and remnant vegetation on private land. This is unsustainable and unacceptable. There should be clear advice to developers of the Council strategy of restoring biodiversity and how they are expected to work within it. Council needs to drive this change of thinking so that developers understand, development in this Council means taking active measures to save and restore our biodiversity. The travesty of the loss of the Fidler Lane biodiversity at the first 200 metres is an example where Council could have shown leadership, with a developer that was listening, yet chose to let engineering laws drive the decision to develop this section of historic biodiverse environment. There is no point having an Environmental and Sustainability Strategy if, at each Development Application, engineering standards take precedence over the environment.	
		Adelaide Hills Kangaroo rescue Subject: Protecting Kangaroos and Native Wildlife Through Wildlife-Sensive Planning and Exemption from Commercial Harvesting. This submission is provided to Mount Barker District Council by Adelaide Hills Kangaroo who have direct experience in responding to increasing threats faced by native wildlife— particularly kangaroos—in the region. The submission urges Council to strengthen protections for local wildlife by adopting wildlife-sensitive planning practices and by seeking exemption of the Mount Barker District Council area from South Australia's commercial kangaroo harvesting zone. 1. The Impact of Land Development on Wildlife Ongoing residential and infrastructure development within the Mount Barker region is one of the most significant drivers of wildlife displacement and road trauma. As development expands across greenfield sites, native animals are frequently pushed out of established habitat and into fragmented, unfamiliar environments. In search of food, water, shelter, or safe passage, many animals are forced to cross roads or enter developed areas, increasing their risk of being injured or killed in vehicle collisions. This displacement is exacerbated by the routine clearing of mature vegetation, which is often replaced with saplings or decorative landscaping that offers no immediate ecological function. The loss of mature trees and natural corridors severely limits the availability of shelter, food, and safe movement paths for wildlife. 2. Inadequate Wildlife Considera8on in Development Many developments in the region continue to exclude meaningful consideration of wildlife needs in their planning and design stages. Environmental assessments are often reduced to procedural obligations that lack independent oversight or binding influence on project outcomes. Wildlife-friendly design features—such as underpasses, safe fencing, or green corridors—are frequently dismissed as impractical or cost-prohibitive, despite their proven benefits in reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions and preserving biodiversity. 3. Recommendations for Wildlife-Sensi8ve Planning To address these shortcomings, the following actions are recommended for Council consideration: • Ensure all new developments undergo independent, ecology-led environmental assessments focused on existing species and viable habitat.	The points about wildlife impacts and sensitive development are noted. There are very few examples of this being done well in Mount Barker or anywhere else. Many submissions to the ESS consultation, including this one refer to the impacts of biodiversity from development and while solutions to the many issues that exist are not straightforward it's very clear that many in the community would like to see more done. It is considered that the high level strategy as drafted is sufficient direction to provide council staff and its partners with a platform to work proactively to this problem. Kangaroos are known to be in large numbers in the region, beyond what would occur naturally. Council doesn't have a position on commercial kangaroo control with this being dealt with mainly via the State Government and Landscapes SA. It is not considered appropriate for council to form a position for an issue that mainly affects private rural properties.

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		• Require the retention of mature native vegetation wherever possible, and mandate the creation of continuous, functional wildlife corridors within all planning frameworks. • Incorporate wildlife crossings, underpasses, and safe fencing into road and subdivision designs near identified habitat areas. • Introduce lower speed limits in wildlife-prone areas and utilise dynamic signage to alert motorists to animal movement. • Avoid development in areas identified as key kangaroo habitat or natural corridors used for seasonal movement and feeding. 4. Request for Exemption from Commercial Kangaroo Harvesting Kangaroos are an iconic species with ecological, cultural, and economic significance. They contribute to healthy grassland ecosystems, seed dispersal, and are a drawcard for nature-based tourism. However, in the Mount Barker region, kangaroo populations are increasingly vulnerable due to development pressures, road mortality, and environmental stressors such as prolonged drought. In this context, the inclusion of the Mount Barker District Council area in South Australia's commercial kangaroo harvesting zone is of serious concern. Commercial shooting introduces an additional layer of pressure to already strained populations and is incompatible with the region's environmental values, community expectations, and growing interest in ethical wildlife tourism. We therefore respectfully call on Mount Barker District Council to: • Formally oppose the commercial killing of kangaroos within the district; • Request the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to remove the Mount Barker region from the commercial harvest zone; • Recognise the ecological and community importance of preserving local kangaroo populations; • Promote coexistence strategies and education over lethal control. 5. Conclusion Mount Barker District Council has a unique opportunity to lead in protecting wildlife through responsible planning and policy reform. By adopting wildlife-sensitive development standards and seeking exemption from commercial kangaroo harvesting, the Council can demonstrate its commitment to long-term environmental stewardship and community values	
		Community member 2 – ([redacted]) Objective: *Protect, restore, connect and extend remnant vegetation and newly established native vegetation areas.* ***Project****, restore and extend habitat for native species*. Note the word "Project" needs to be "Protect" We agree with this objective and refer you to our above comments about the need to fully protect and future proof areas of remnant vegetation from any future developments. What is the point of doing restorative work and connecting remnant vegetation if in 10+ years time it can be removed or partially removed to cater for development ? Development should be working around (and enhancing) remnant vegetation, not bulldozing through it. Target 8 *Increase total FTE investment (staff, contractors and volunteers) in managing biodiverse areas each year to 2035* - We agree with this, but perhaps it needs to be more explicit in that it articulates increasing the expertise of existing staff or employing staff with relevant ecological / environmental qualifications? Target 9 *Net gain of council managed biodiversity areas (hectares) by 2035* – We agree with this but again the increase in biodiverse areas needs to be fully protected from future developments. As volunteers for Mt Barker Summit Conservation Reserve we would like to see the Summit, along with all other precious remnant biodiversity assets across the district, given top priority when it comes to funding, managing and protecting.	**Typo corrected.**

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		Community Member 1 ([redacted]) – **More clarity needed regarding the quantity and quality of the District's native vegetation** At both the November Forum and the recent Workshops of 13th and 14th February 2025, the figure of 27% of the Mt Barker District native vegetation cover is emphasised. In isolation, this leads us to be unduly proud and perhaps complacent about the district as a nature or biodiversity hotspot. It needs to be delineated into the quality and level of protection of the various native vegetation areas so that the less optimistic reality is conveyed about how small a component of this 27% is remnant bushland. It is within these remnant bushlands that the rich biodiversity of the District's various native vegetation associations and their flora can be found. Pages 25-27 of the Mt Barker Council's Biodiversity Strategy Final 2020* (Biodiversity-Plan_Final-2020.pdf) outlines the unique mix of flora on the ten pre-European vegetation associations persist as remnants within the District (Crompton and Williams 1998), along with a before and after map depicting the huge loss of native vegetation associations that has occurred across the District. For example, the Mount Barker Summit Conservation Reserve is a Drooping Sheoak woodland with a unique mix of over 150 indigenous and endemic (so far identified) flora species. Varying levels of degradation and decline are affecting all remnant vegetation associations. Some of these are threatened or worse, with the Scented Mat-Rush Open Tussock Grasslands listed as critically endangered. *Henceforth called Plan 2020 What is needed now is a clear and consistently accurate depiction of how much of the District's original local vegetation associations are undergoing degradation and species loss, and that their maintenance and protection needs to be greatly and urgently increased. This is even more critical given the scant protection that SA Draft Biodiversity Bill offers to native vegetation and bushland in the face of new development, roadworks, and other major projects. Here are some figures in need of such clarification and explanation in the next Biodiversity Plan. Also, many questions in these sections below require an answer. This is especially regarding future Council funding plans and strategies to secure the future long-term survival of our unique remnant native bushlands. Land use Reserve- 2535.07 ha (4.26% of 59,466 ha, Mt Barker District area) [Biodiversity Plan- Final-2020, p.23] This includes: a. 600 ha Community land (Urban Greening - Community Development Plan 2044) This includes 'natural and remnant vegetation'. What does 'natural' mean here? How much of this is remnant local indigenous flora? What protection does it have from human damage, weeds, clearance, etc? What is Council intending to do to provide adequate maintenance and protection to remnant local indigenous flora and remnant bushland sites captured within this 600 ha? What does 'integration…with urban development' mean, when hillsides are legally cut away with the topsoil and all its remnant vegetation skimmed off to die, and bogs drained so that rare water plants die, as with the Newenham Development? And when the houses are built and occupied and parks established, how much protection will Council provide to any remaining remnant bushland, whether within the new urban areas or nearby, from increased human impact and weed invasion? If not enough, more loss of original remnant bushland habitat will certainly occur. b. As stated in Plan 2020, 100s of kms of roadside reserves need urgent protection including for the crucial conservation roles of remnant bushland. I am unable to calculate the ha this amounts to. Already by 1998, only 31 (11.8%) of 263 roads examined by Crompton and Willams were in the most intact Category 1 (Plan 2020 p.39). In light of this recognition, 'Council endorsed a Road(side) Reserve Vegetation Management Plan' (Plan 2020, pp.39-41). Despite this, degradation continues including from poorly undertaken weed spraying, road- other works-associated clearance, vandalism, weed invasion and not enough trained bushcarers whether paid or volunteer. c. As the '27%' figure for the District's natural vegetation cover was used again in presentations during the recent Workshop of 14 February 2025, I reiterate the following. Of the District's total 59,466 hectares, only 101.5*ha or 0.17% remnant bushland, including roadside bushland, is under an official, higher level of protection and maintenance. Much less than the confusing 27% emphasised to us. *Not the listed 61.5ha as Mt Barker Summit Conservation Reserve is approximately 47 ha, not 6.2 ha as listed in Plan 2020, p.38. If the 41 ha SA Totness Recreation Park is included, the total is 142.5 ha or 0.24%	Noted

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		Furthermore, these supposedly maintained and protected remnants are often far from adequately cared for and maintained regarding weed control and under-controlled, increasing, often endorsed and encouraged, human recreational use. This exert is highlighted in the 2020 Plan: *"All Australians depend on our biodiversity and the many ecological services provided by our natural environment. Some of us depend directly or indirectly on healthy environments for our livelihoods and culture, some enjoy them for sport and recreation, and some find artistic and spiritual inspiration from nature."* Australian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (2010-2020)" q. in Plan 2020, p.16) Our unique and scarce remnant bushlands are all we have left of the vast woodlands and forests once sustained by the Permangk people for many 1000s of years. They are too vulnerable to render any more services like sport and recreation to humans, except for passive activities such as walking, birdwatching, and photography. For the sake of their long-term sustainability and of their flora, fauna and fungi, humans must now not use but maintain and protect these tiny bushland remnants. **2- Dogs and their impact on native flora and fauna** Dogs even on leads have a deleterious impact on local native flora. As these researchers describe: Pet poo acts as a fertiliser, similar to manure. However, Australian soils are naturally nutrient-poor, and native plants and fungi are adapted to these conditions. While wildlife also defecate in nature, they contribute to the ecosystem by consuming resources in it. **('LEAVING DOG AND CAT POO LYING AROUND ISN'T JUST GROSS. IT'S A PROBLEM FOR NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS, TOO'** In *The Conversation*, 2 August 2023 https://theconversation.com/leaving-dog-and-cat-poo-lying-around-isnt-just-gross-its-a-problem-for-native-plants-and-animals-too-208288) On the Summit, uncollected dog droppings are regularly left in bushland within 1-2 metres from trail edges. From observation and weeding over the years, these cause the invasive, persistent weed Cape Daisy to become very big and lush along the Rotary and Upper tracks, smothering native flora and creating a visibly unpleasant sight for visitors. Dogs are harmful to bushland fauna as well. The seemingly harmless pastime of walking dogs on leads along designated remnant bushland paths is detrimental to bushland fauna, given the documented fear response that dogs, their droppings and urine induce in bushland fauna, including a heavy decline in bird species and numbers, and native mammals leaving the area in fear. Even the smell of droppings and urine have this impact, as it indicates the presence of a predator animal viz. dogs, close by. UNSW biologist Dr Peter Banks reports on the findings he conducted across a number bushland remnants where dog-walking occurred, north of Sydney. (It is worth noting here that Mount Barker Summit has at least three species of ground dwelling or nesting birds, including the Common Bronzewing, the Quail Thrush, and the Spotted Pardalote which nests in ground burrows or other ground level crevices. On the Summit I've seen a pair Striated Pardalotes fly into and emerge from their nest deep in a crevice between the roots of a fallen Sheoak tree and the ground.) **'"WE FOUND IN FIELD STUDIES THAT DOG-WALKING IN BUSHLAND CAUSES A 35 PERCENT REDUCTION IN BIRD DIVERSITY -- THE NUMBER OF SPECIES -- AND A 41 PERCENT REDUCTION IN ABUNDANCE -- THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL BIRDS IN AN AREA," SAYS DR BANKS....GROUND-DWELLINGS BIRDS APPEARED MOST AFFECTED: 50 PERCENT OF BIRD (GROUND DWELLING) SPECIES OBSERVED IN CONTROL SITES WERE ABSENT IN DOG-WALKED SITES..."THIS EVIDENCE CLEARLY SUPPORTS THE LONG TERM PROHIBITION OF DOG-WALKING FROM SENSITIVE CONSERVATION AREAS," BANKS SAYS.' (*SCIENCE NEWS*, 'A DOG IN THE HAND SCARES BIRDS IN THE BUSH',**	

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007. *SOURCE:* UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.
HTTPS://WWW.SCIENCEDAILY.COM/RELEASES/2007/09/070905095349.HTM)

The physical presence of a dog alone can impact native fauna through inducing stress. Stress influences fauna in many different ways. For example, when under stress, birds corticosterone levels dramatically increase leading to excessive weight loss (Angelier et. al. 2016).(Michael Grant, Co-ordinator Heritage & Conservation Services, Monash City Council, 'Assessment of Ecological Impacts from Domestic Animals and Invasive Pests within Damper Creek Conservation Reserve, Mount Waverley' , in *Practical Biology*, Ecological Restoration and Consulting, 10th October, 2022 https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?hl=en-GB - inbox/KtbxLzGHhxpsMtdQxlbCLgvKBKqNQxBvSq?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1)

What is hard to fathom is why in recent years, Council dog restrictions on the Summit have slackened. The Rotary and upper tracks have always allowed dogs on leads. The SE track through dense scrub from the Police tower to the fire-track was until recently denied to dogs with a clear 'No dogs allowed' sign. Now the 'No Dogs allowed' sign is gone, replaced with a 'Dogs must be on lead' sign, making this SE track allowed to walkers with dogs. Despite numerous requests to restore this 'No Dogs Allowed' sign, no action has yet taken place. I am not sure why. I have regularly witnessed even large dogs off leads on this SE path, even in sunny weather when snakes are about particularly in this section of the Summit, and the rare Rock skinks are sunning themselves on the warm slabs of rock forming part of the track. No place for dogs.

I am sure that Council wants to provide the necessary measures to protect the Summit's vulnerable fauna, which as the quoted research above has shown, requires that all dogs be excluded. Moreover, there are now several well-located dog paths in the District thanks to the Council. People can also take their dogs on lead almost everywhere else in the District. So what is causing the delay in banning dogs from the Summit? Whatever barriers might still be in place, please overcome them quickly so that all dogs can be banished from Mount Barker Summit Conservation Reserve, indeed from all the District's remnant bushland reserves. Only then will these special places be safe for native birds and mammals to breed and dwell free from the fearful presence of dogs.

3- The District's remnant pre-settlement bushlands need to be the Council's future biodiversity priority, as these bushlands' survival depends on it.
The reality of where we have arrived, and where we have been heading since the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy Plan leaves me pessimistic about the future of our remnant indigenous bushland, including both officially managed such as Mount Barker Summit, and remnant bushland with no management strategies. Perhaps great news of a boost to remnant bushland weed eradication and maintenance and protection levels is being planned for soon, and my pessimism is unfounded. But until I hear otherwise, my pessimism remains.
It is clear from the 2020 Biodiversity Strategy that Council has a thorough understanding of the threats to Biodiversity in the District, both to the various remnant native vegetation associations and to local native flora in general. Regarding native vegetation priority actions, Council lists the following:

Prioritise weed management and integrate with existing programs and projects.
Dedicated specialist onground team that are trained and have experience in land conservation and management.
Provide an area for rescuing and relocating species (council nursery).
Develop a policy to protect vegetation on council land, including creeklines.
Develop(ment) of a hollow protection and protection (sic) policy.
Develop conceptual linkages for fauna habitat (& potential habitat). (Plan 2020, p.11)

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		So it is puzzling that in quality and in area, downward trends continue for remnant bushlands of all vegetation associations across the District. Certainly the above listed actions are happening, including for Laratinga Wetlands, once heavily cleared grazing land. However 'Prioritise weed management' and 'Dedicated specialist onground team…' is far from being adequately applied at the level necessary to sustain our precious remnant bushland reserves. Rather, they are undergoing decline through neglect on our watch. In this 2044 Community Plan, it would be valuable to us who work on the District's remnant bushlands such as Mt Barker Summit Conservation Reserve and Piney Ridge Road BFL verge site as I do, to detail why this continuing neglect of our remnant bushland is happening.  **Some of the beautiful Orchids of the District's remnant bushlands** Remnant bushlands depend for their sustainability on protection from invasive flora, fauna including dogs and rabbits, and human damage. They cannot be replaced by native revegetation schemes, even when only seeds of highest local provenance are used. Remnants of pre-settlement vegetation include local species that are extremely difficult to grow from seeds, roots, corms or cuttings. Terrestrial Orchids and Lepidosperma are local bushland examples here. These flora are unlikely candidates for propagation and planting schemes, and their survival depends on the maintenance of remnant bushland with its ancient, intact Australian soil and its fragile microbiome layer of myriads of tiny flora, fungi and invertebrates, which in turn are also dependant on remnant bushland for survival. Have you seen the 1000s of tiny flowers (examples right) of varying colours covering the Summit's ground, some only a few mms in height? So beautiful and easily smothered by weeds. These tiny flowering plants form a mass ground cover during Spring, unlikely reproducible in a revegetation scheme. Weeding occurs on the Summit during about six 2 hour weeding sessions each year by Friends of the Mt Barker Summit, Paul and Angie Cullen's brush cutting work especially along tracks and entrance roads, and one or sometimes two volunteer weeders who are hand weeding up there twice most weeks all year, including on the cooler days across summer. For 47 hectares of over 150 identified local and flora endemic species being threatened by highly prolific, invasive weeds, such a small number of environmental staff and trained volunteers can only remove weeds across a small percentage of this site. Most of the remaining so-called 'maintained' remnant bushland sites have none or one trained volunteer weeder, mostly elderly who volunteer as much as their time and energy allows.	

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		If we are to secure the future of our remnant bushland with its unmatchable biodiversity including beautiful, rare and endangered flora from the remnant grasslands and woodlands of our District, it is imperative that there are more biodiversity officers and trained volunteer bushcarers regularly weeding and protecting these unique bushlands all months of the year. Council may already be planning to increase funding, staffing and volunteer time on weeding and protecting for our remnant bushland. If so, I welcome this change. If not, the following important questions need to be answered by Council. **Detail for us in the Towards 2044 Community Plan why the first two listed actions 'Prioritise weed management…' and 'Dedicated specialist onground team…' have hardly been implemented towards maintaining and protecting our precious, biodiverse, irreplaceable remnant bushlands. Will this change, so that more specialist staff and their time is devoted to critical fieldwork on Mount Barker Summit Conservation Reserve and Yantaringa Reserve? Also, why do we lack enough volunteer weeders who can spend at least a couple of hours most weeks, so that we can secure a significant reduction in weed load in remnant bushland reserves?** Most of the District's environmental staff hours and volunteer groups are focussed on native revegetation and weed removal on degraded urban and peri-urban lands of the District, where there are few original native plants left. I understand the benefits of these projects' work including native planting and maintenance on once heavily grazed crown land including Laratinga, tree planting days on private properties, and on urban parks and degraded creek lines. Native planting days secure pretty much all the promotional media and opportunity shots for Councillors, rarely with bushland weeders on weeding days. I know Councillors appreciate us remnant bushland weeders' hard work, so why this difference? I am concerned that these activities are being promoted and financed at the cost of maintaining and protecting remnant bushland, and at the cost of providing enough biodiversity staff and volunteer time on bushland maintenance and protection. At the same time, Council is undertaking an expansion of restoration and revegetation work on degraded sites, further thinning out Council Biodiversity workers and volunteers across ever more locations. Meanwhile, heavy weed infestation is steadily eroding the biodiversity of our remnant bushlands. Our present neglect is resulting in their degradation too. It is our choice: maintain their beauty and high diversity through weeding and protection; or allow the *status quo* to continue so that eventually all we can do is launch regular revegetation days on our once beautiful and diverse, now degraded remnant bushland reserves. I reiterate, there are far too few volunteer weeders working on the more at risk and important remnant bushlands of the District, albeit with excellent help from Council staff and contractors in the few hours they are allocated to help us volunteers in the field. Promotion and publicity more than ever are needed to attract more volunteers to train and work on our remnant bushland which are in critical need of more Council staff and volunteers to reduce weed suffocation, invasive fauna and increasing human impact from the growing population. We need more than ever to overcome barriers to providing adequate help if our remnant bushlands and the rich diversity of their indigenous flora and fauna are to be saved. Once gone, always gone, and no amount of native planting can replace them. Is it harder to attract people to weeding than tree planting? If so, why is this? Compared to tree planting, more training is required for bush weeding, including how to identify invasive grasses from local indigenous grasses. Is the time needed for this training a barrier? Perhaps it is presumed that planting native vegetation corridors and for increasing tree cover has more community, Council and media appeal. Also the addition of new degraded sites for native planting seems inevitably to create an exciting surge in promotional and volunteer activity too which may help attract more funding than the less visible background activities of weeding and protecting our remnant bushland. I suggest that this appeal imbalance could be readily overcome. The multiple fodder bags full of Watsonia grubbed out of Yantaringa on Friends' weeding days is impressive, no doubt a great promotional photograph of smiling staff and volunteers and Councillors with accompanying article, plus a photo of the beautiful Lepidosperma, a favourite home for the Bandicoot, grown back where the Watsonia once was. Do you have similar or other strategies and plans to overcome this preference? If so that's great. Are these measures likely to take place soon? If not, we need to know this and not read in another Plan 'prioritise weed management' unless you are going to	

Theme	#	General feedback	Council response
		implement this for remnant bushland. If you do not have strategies and plans to increase staff and volunteer numbers for reduction of invasive weeds from remnant bushland, tell us why not? If despite your efforts, too few extra volunteer weeders are forthcoming, will you ensure that more existing staff or trained contract workers are deployed onto weed eradication and protection of remnant bushland? If not, could you let us know why not? If yes, can you let us know when this is to happen? **Conclusion** Revegetation of degraded sites and urban greening have some goals in common with maintaining and protecting our remnant bushland. However, they are also different on fundamental levels, and native revegetation cannot substitute the unique, ancient and biodiverse flora and bio-communities of our remnant bushlands. Indeed, remnant bushlands are the source of local provenance seeds propagated for the Council's revegetation projects. Because these bushlands have high Indigenous, historic and biodiversity status, and that they are unique, threatened and irreplaceable, they warrant receiving priority with adequate, ongoing levels of funding, professional field biodiversity staff and trained volunteers. They also need and warrant a sensitive kind of publicity that engenders community respect and understanding of the imperative to tread lightly on these precious, ancient indeed sacred places of our District, too precious and delicate to be places for unfettered human recreation.	
		Can council ban cats from going outdoors? Not sure if this is something council can enforce. Can council do anything about rabbits? Can we get any grant funding to support invasive species eradication?	Noted
		Integrated water management	**Council response**
Integrated water management		**Respondent # 1([redacted]) -** Target #10 - The footnote states that the exact % increase is to be established and therefore it would appear this target has been established without a clear indication as to why. Is there a state government target? Target is again too vague	Noted. It's considered the target referred to 'integrate water-sensitive urban design principles into at least 95% of Council's new capital and renewal projects by 2035' is clear. The footnote simply refers to the need to collect better data.
Integrated water management		**Respondent # 4 ([redacted]) -**Simple. Supply and demand. Stop the demand. Stop the over development. Give us our land back. Give the wildlife their land back. We never had the infrastructure for mass development. While on the topic of water. Remove the chemicals and fluoride. Go back to copper pipes not plastic	Given council has little control over which land can be developed and other suggestions such as fluoride in water, this contribution is considered out of scope of the ESS.
		I would love to see WSUD incorporated into all new council infrastructure and developments. I saw this was an action not completed in the previous plan.	Noted
		Community member 2 - [redacted] We agree with the Objective Re. Target 11, *Where water is a consideration, integrate water-sensitive urban design principles into at least 95% of Councils new capital and renewal projects by 203*5 If Council has any control over this, we suggest 'water-sensitive urban design principles' be included in all housing developments (unless this is already occurring). If not, it would be good to see Council advocate to the state government on these issues.	Noted

12.2 REPORT TITLE: EVENT SUPPORT PROGRAM 2025-2026 ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/99267

ATTACHMENTS: 1. DOC/2025/100821 SPREADSHEET SUMMARY ALLOCATIONS

2. DOC/2025/100839 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Key Contact Chloe Head, Events Officer

Manager/Sponsor Luke Gray, Manager Strategic Projects & Economic Development

Executive Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Community Plan 2044:

People Objectives

People Objective 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.

Place Objectives

Place Objective 14

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

Economy Objectives

Economy Objective 21

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

Economy Objective 22

Tourism: enhance the local economy and community vibrancy by activating tourism through strategic investments in infrastructure, events, and partnerships that showcase the regions unique attractions and cultural experiences.

Leadership Objectives

Leadership Objective 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.

Annual Business Plan:
A key performance measure of the Annual Business Plan (ABP) 25/26 is to deliver the events support program.

Purpose:
To seek Council Member endorsement for the allocation of funds to community and regional events through Council's Event Support Program (ESP) for the 25/26 financial year (FY).

Summary – Key Issues:
1. Council provides financial support to community and regional events across the District through the ESP. The 25/26 ESP nominations were open from 9 May – 15 June 2025, providing event organisers six weeks to lodge their funding submission.

2. Council received 49 applications from event organisers over a six week submission period for the 2025-26 ESP. The total funding amount sought by applicants for this year's program was $195,807, which exceeds the total funding amount available for this year's program.

3. Four Council staff (across Events, Economic Development, Tourism and Grants) have independently reviewed and evaluated all applications against the ESP assessment criteria and have prepared a recommendation for the distribution of the 25/26 FY funding. Notably, the recommendation from staff seeks to apply some level of funding to all applications received, however not all applications have been allocated the full amount of funding requested to align with Council's budget.

Recommendation:
That Council:

1. **Endorse the allocation of $117,875 of the 25/26FY Event Support Program budget to support the running of community and regional events, with these funds to be allocated as detailed in Attachment 1 – 'ESP Assessment Summary.'**

Background:
1. Vibrant community events play an important role in supporting social inclusion, local economic development and increased visitation to the District.

2. Council provides funding support and/or in-kind support to approximately 100 community events (both cash & in-kind) each year across a number of event support programs, which return an estimated $6M of net economic value to the District.

3. Council's event budget providing funding support to major event delivery, major event partnerships, civic/Christmas community events and the event support program.

4. Council has for many years supported a variety of community and regional events across the District, acknowledging the important economic and social benefits they bring to many townships and local communities. The diverse range of community events supported each year include community and sporting events, arts and cultural performances, and social and educational forums.

5. The ESP provides a merit based, transparent process for Council to consider and allocate funding and in-kind support for the running of community and regional events across the District each year.

5. Whilst the ESP has evolved over a number of years to respond to the changing needs of both Council and the community, the program has retained the following primary objectives:
   - support events that actively collaborate with other community groups to deliver outcomes;
   - support events that would not, or would find it difficult to, secure other funding sources;
   - transparently allocate funds resulting in a wide distribution of Council's support while making an impact to event organiser's budget pressures;
   - offer relief to event organiser's budgets with access to borrow required infrastructure from Council's resource; and
   - provide mentoring to event organisers to improve prudent management of funds and event outcomes for community.

6. Since inception, the ESP has been administered by Council's Event staff who each year call for and assess applications for funding from event organisers and who make recommendations to Council on the allocation of the available funding.

7. During the 24/25 FY Council allocated $95k through the ESP for the running of 45 community and regional events. An increased budget of $117,275 for the 25/26 FY and supporting 49 events illustrates Council's commitment to growing community events across the region.

8. It is estimated that these events collectively generated around $3.3M of economic value to the District.

9. These events also recorded a total volunteer investment of 45,404 hours to assist in organising and delivering the events. This volunteer support was estimated to be around $2M.

10. Council also provided in-kind event support and infrastructure to many events, saving event organisers over $100k.

Discussion

11. Council has allocated a total of $117,875 to support the running of community and regional events during the 25/26 financial year. Staff recommend that this funding be allocated as follows:
    - community and regional events supported through competitive merit based evaluations $96,000
    - Hahndorf Christmas village events (up-to) $10,000
    - Contingency $11,875

    Other Event support budgets:
    - Christmas in the District event being the Mount Barker Pageant ($30,750);
    - Community-run Civic Events ($12,300); and
    - Citizenship Ceremony Events ($14,350).

Event Support Program (ESP)

12. The 2025/26 ESP nominations were open from 9 May – 15 June 2025, providing event organisers six weeks to lodge their funding submission. Applicants were provided with updated assessment criteria as per Attachment 2 – 'ESP Assessment Criteria' an online application form and a Frequently Asked Questions information sheet.

13. Four Council staff (across Events, Economic Development, Tourism and Grants) have independently evaluated all of the submissions received, making recommendations on the most appropriate allocation of funding for 45 out of 49 applications that fit the criteria. The criteria to assess and allocate funding to each event submission, includes:
    - Scale of event
    - Level of tourism attraction
    - Align with Council's strategic plans
    - Marketing and promotion, stakeholder engagement
    - Ability to grow and employ sustainable practices
    - Experience in operating an event

14. Following this, the panel met to review all applications received and to reach a consensus on the evaluation and apportioning of funding to each of these 45 applications. The final evaluation and recommended allocation of funding is contained within Attachment 1 – 'Assessment Summary'.

15. The evaluation and recommendation from staff is to allocate a level of funding support to 45 of the 49 applicants. The total amount of funding sought by applicants for this year's program was $195,807, which exceeds the total amount of funding available for this year's program. For context, it is common that this grant program, like many others, is oversubscribed.

16. As such staff have recommended that only applications which scored exceptionally high against the assessment criteria be awarded the full allocation of funding requested, with a recommendation that other applicants be offered a contribution towards the funding of their events which in some cases is less than the full amount of funding requested.

17. The evaluation and recommendation from staff provides a total of $117,875 to support 45 community and regional events over the 25/26 FY, allowing for a contingency in budget to cover unexpected event management issues & logistical costs.

18. Hahndorf Christmas village submitted funding applications for three separate events, totalling $25,000. The panel recommend the events team engage further with these organisers to develop a coordinated approach to deliver the event. A contribution up to $10,000 is proposed in support of this effort across the events.

19. Previously, Council have provided the Hahndorf Chriskindlemarkt $6,000 to run the Hahndorf Christmas event.

Christmas In The District

20. The 2025/26 Christmas in the District budget (separate to the ESP budget) will support the Mount Barker Christmas Pageant event. This funding allocation is separate to the ESP funding allocation.

Community-Run Civic Events

21. At its May 2023 meeting, Council endorsed a civic event exemption whereby Civic events (such as Anzac Day, Australia Day & Remembrance Day events) would receive an exemption from applying for that activity until June 2026.

22. The 2025/26 Civic Events Budget will make $12,300 available to support 12 community-run civic events across the District. This funding allocation is separate to the ESP funding allocation.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Outcomes of the 2025/26 ESP will be made in writing to applicants by Council Staff from 8 August 2025.

Policy:
The Event Support Program (ESP) forms part of the Events Framework. Community events contribute economic and social outcomes as identified in Council's Community Plan 2044 and its associated strategic plans such as the Community Development Lead Strategy and Disability Action and Inclusion Plan.

Long Term Financial Plan:
N/A

Budget:
A key performance measure of the Annual Business Plan (ABP) 25/26 is to deliver the events support program. A total of $117,875 is available to be allocated in advance to local/regional events held during the financial year. A contingency is held in reserve to meet unexpected costs.

Statutory/Legal:
Successful applications will be required to sign the Conditions of Funding to receive ESP funds from Council. These conditions outline standard clauses to protect the intent of the funding and indemnify Council from the management and execution on the activity.

Staff Resource Requirements:
The annual administration of the ESP is tasked to Council's Strategic Projects and Economic Development team (Events). The forecast work associated with the 25/26 ESP is within the resourcing allocation.

Environmental:
The ESP application and acquittal process encourages event organisers to adopt sustainable practices into their event design. Year on year, event organisers are demonstrating a growing awareness and maturity in managing their environmental impact through strategies to reduce, replace, recycle or remove waste.

Social:
The ESP enables MBDC to create inclusive, active, diverse and vibrant destinations through increasing the number of people and activity in our public spaces, centres and townships. Local events provide benefits to the wider community by encouraging opportunities for community participation and development.

Risk Assessment:
Council is exposed, to some extent, to the reputational risk by not meeting in full the request made by applicants. Although applications may not receive what is requested, the ESP aims to disperse financial support to as many groups as possible, while still making a beneficial contribution.

The proposed total to be allocated to community ($117,275k) is supported by a retained contingency. This is held in reserve to buffer unexpected, but necessary, costs for logistics and traffic management services to ensure community safety.

Asset Management:
Impact on infrastructure is considered within the event discussion and design. Community events are useful in identifying potential improvements and modifications to increase accessibility and effectiveness of community assets.

Conclusion:
Council's Event Support Program (ESP) is achieved in partnership with others to deliver local community, regional and civic events that are efficient with limited resources and provide positive community outcomes.

By providing event organisers security of funding and support, a level of commitment and confidence between council and its partners is achieved, ensuring the community is provided with a diverse calendar of locally-delivered events.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	5 August 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/097306
Title	Community Event Support Program 2024/25 Assessment of Applications		
Purpose	To provide a recommendation to Council to enable the approval of applications for funding through Council's Community Events Support Program 2024/25		

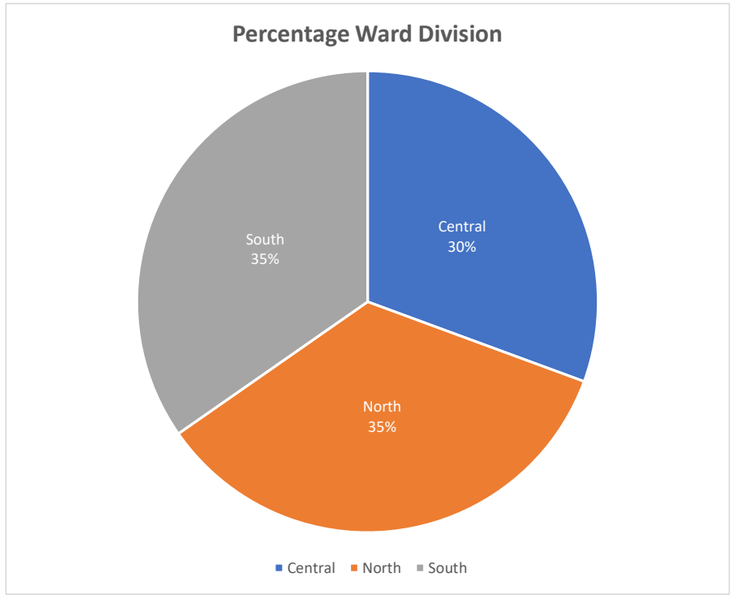
Meeting Date	7 August 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/84678
Title	Community Event Grant Program 2022/23		
Purpose	To provide a recommendation to Council to enable the approval of applications for funding through Council's Community Events Support Program 2023/24		

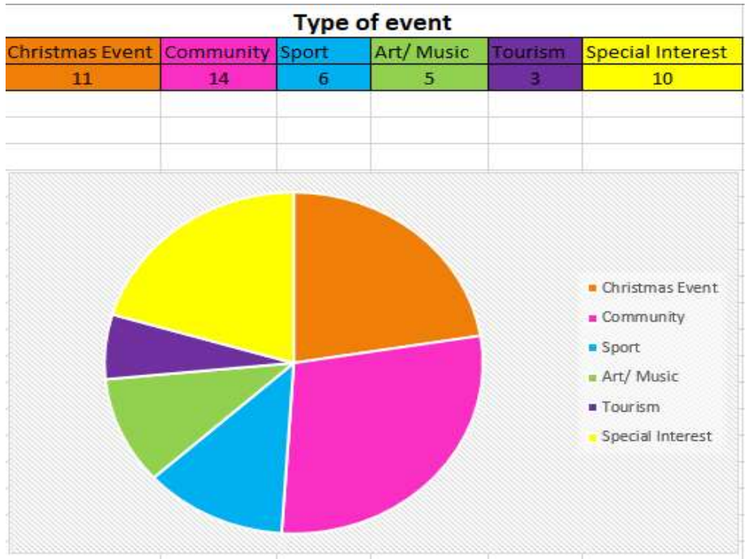
Meeting Date	1 May 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/40010
Title	Community Event Support Program 2023/24 Civic Events Exemption.		
Purpose	Seeking Council endorsement for community-run Civic Events to be exempt from annual application to the Community Event Support Program until June 2026.		

Meeting Date	16 January 2023	CM Reference	DOC/22/156502
Title	Community Event Grant Program, Minor Round 2022/23		
Purpose	To seek Council's endorsement to allocate the remaining funds within the community Event Grant Program budget line for 2022/23 financial year via a Minor Round Expression of Interest process.		

Event Title	Value Request	Value Proposed	Unmet Value
Meadows Hall Movie Nights 2025/26	600	$ 600	$ -
Hahndorf Immersed Festival	2000	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Mavericks Madness 3 x 3	2500	$ 500	$ 2,000
Mount Barker-R U Ok?	1000	$ 1,000	$ -
Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Lofty 88.9	6000	$ 750	$ 5,250
Lions Assistance Dogs Graduation Day	6000	$ -	$ 6,000
2025 Adelaide Hills Rally	10000	$ 6,000	$ 4,000
TR Register Annual Concours	2000	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Meadows Country Fair - 41st Event	10000	$ 5,000	$ 5,000
Thrive: Perimenopause & Beyond - A Women's Wellness Retreat in the Adelaide Hills	2100	$ 500	$ 1,600
Black'n'Gold Cabaret	1000	$ 600	$ 400
Hahndorf Band Festival	2500	$ 2,000	$ 500
Spring Fair 2025	3000	$ 1,500	$ 1,500
2025 Callington Show	5000	$ 5,000	$ -
The Lions Bike Show	2500	$ 1,500	$ 1,000
Mount Barker Gift		$ -	$ -
Hahndorf Remembrance Day	*100*		
Macclesfield Strawberry Fete	6000	$ 4,000	$ 2,000
Hahndorf Christmas Village	10000		$ 10,000
Gathered Christmas Design Market	10000		$ 10,000
Hahndorf Academy Christmas Event	5045		$ 5,045
St Nicholas Comes to Hahndorf 2025	1500	$ 1,000	$ 500
Mt Barker Christmas Pageant	*25662.64*		
Mount Barker Carols and Fireworks 2025	6000	$ 6,000	$ -
Nairne Christmas Twilight Market	3500	$ 3,500	$ -
Nairne Community Carols	6000	$ 5,000	$ 1,000
Cultured. 2025	2000	$ 1,500	$ 500
Meadows Carols in the Park	1500	$ 1,500	$ -
Carols on the Square (Macclesfield)	1500	$ 1,500	$ -
Prospect Hill Community Christmas BBQ	750	$ 750	$ -
Macclesfield Horse Show	1200	$ 500	$ 700
Hahndorf & Districts Lions Club Swapmeet 2026	2400	$ 1,800	$ 600
Family Fun Day 2026	6000	$ 5,000	$ 1,000
Nairne CFS Touch-a-Truck	2400	$ 1,000	$ 1,400
All British Day	6000	$ 5,000	$ 1,000
All British Day	2000	$ -	$ 2,000
The Dog Exhibition and Dog Fashion Parade		$ 500	-$ 500
Conquer the Summit	2500	$ 2,000	$ 500
Mount Barker District Show, Horses in Action Section	500	$ 500	$ -
Mount Barker District Show	5000	$ 5,000	$ -
Meadows Easter Fair 2026	5000	$ 5,000	$ -
A Little Bit Spicy Market	2000	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Mount Barker Science Fair	5000	$ 3,000	$ 2,000
Macclesfield Arts and Music Festival (working title)	3250	$ 2,500	$ 750
Flaxley Community Day 2026	1200	$ 1,000	$ 200
Battunga Weekend 2026 - Discover the secrets of Battunga Country	6000	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
Travel to the past - Echunga a historical journey	2500	$ 1,500	$ 1,000
Pioneer Womens Trail Walk	1500	$ 1,000	$ 500
Hills Winter Lantern Festival	6000	$ 5,000	$ 1,000
SUBTOTAL	**$ 196,207.64**	**$ 96,000**	**$ 74,445**

Event Title	Value Request	Value Proposed	Unmet Value
Hahndorf Remembrance Day	$100	$100	
Mt Barker Christmas Pageant, Mount Barker Christmas Festival Committee	$ 25,663	$ 25,663	





Event Support Program
Criteria 2025/26

MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Purpose

The purpose of the Event Support Program is to provide funding and assistance to community groups and event management/tourism organisations to deliver Regional and Community Events within the Mount Barker District Council (MBDC). Events contribute economic and social outcomes as identified in Council's Community Plan 2044 and its associated strategic plans such as the Community Development Lead Strategy and Disability Action and Inclusion Plan.

The Event Support Program seeks to assist a range of new and current events that:

- Create inclusive, active, diverse and vibrant destinations through increasing the number of people and activity in our public spaces, centres and townships.
- Build the capacity and capability of our communities.
- Provide benefits to the wider community by encouraging opportunities for community participation and development.
- Facilitate event designs to focus on economic and environmental sustainability.
- Target priority populations in our community.
- Attract visitors to our region from interstate & international markets and add value to local industries & townships.

How to apply

In the first week of May, community groups and organisations are invited to apply for the Event Support Program. Funding and support is offered for events scheduled in the following financial year.

To be successful, applications need to meet the requirements in these guidelines.

To apply visit www.mountbarker.smartygrants.com.au

More information:
Website: www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au/grants
Event Team: 8391 7238 or email events@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Types of events

The Event Support Program provides cash and/or in-kind support for a diverse range of events under the following categories:

- **Community Event**

- An event of local significance for the community being held within the MBDC attracting people from the Council region or nearby. These events will have strong outcomes of community celebration, cohesion and connections.
- These events may vary in size and complexity from simple inputs/expenses to more complex management plans requiring traffic management, waste management and other sustainable practices.
- Applicants can request up to $6,000 in funding – in your application you need to provide a detailed proposal for funds in excess of $2,500. These events will generally attract more than 3000 people & have more complex management plans requiring traffic management, waste management and other sustainable practices.

Who can apply:

- Not for profit organisations with a minimum Public Liability Insurance policy of $20 million.
- Unincorporated groups through an appropriate not for profit incorporated body that is willing to accept responsibility for the funding (auspicing).
- Businesses or organisations with a minimum Public Liability Insurance policy of $20 million demonstrating strong partnerships with community and/or providing a unique community event to the district.
- Groups or organisations that are currently in receipt of other council funding may apply providing they can demonstrate that the application is for a new program/activity or a different stage of an existing program/activity.

- **Regional Event**

- Events that attract visitors from outer regions that encourage community members to increase their participation in the community & include supporting local businesses.
- Have the capacity to attract visitors & media interest from outside regions.
- Regional events that strongly represent the history, industry or other aspects of the host region and may become Tourism events overtime.
- Focus on increased visitor spending and overnight stays.

Who can apply:

- Not for profit organisations with a minimum Public Liability Insurance policy of $20 million.
- Businesses or organisations with a minimum Public Liability Insurance policy of $20 million demonstrating strong partnerships with community and/or providing a unique community event to the district.
- Groups or organisations that are currently in receipt of other council funding may apply providing they can demonstrate that the application is for a new program/activity or a different stage of an existing program/activity.

Who is not eligible

- Organisers that have already received funding from MBDC in the same financial year for the same event.
- Organisations, groups or businesses that have an overdue grant acquittal with MBDC through the community grant, environmental grant or event support program rounds.
- Businesses that hold an event in direct competition with not-for-profit organisation or group.
- Individuals, Council Members or staff.

What we won't fund

- Events which are located outside the MBDC boundary.
- Events that are exclusive to members of an organisation and not open to the general public.
- Payment of ongoing salaries or recurrent operational costs e.g. telephone, electricity, cleaning, maintenance. However, one-off performer's fee or initial insurance specifically for the event are acceptable.
- Equipment purchase.
- Council must not be the only funding source for regional category events.
- Retrospective event requests.
- Late or incomplete applications.

Obligations of successful applicants

If successful, applicants must meet the obligations of the support:

- Accept the grant conditions in the financial year that it is allocated.
- Before the event, provide an Event Management Plan (template available for use) that includes a risk assessment and emergency response plan; evidence of insurance currency (Public Liability as a minimum) and; invoice for grant money.

- Complete the requirements of running events to the satisfaction of Council, including recognition of Council support.
- At the completion of the event, provide an event evaluation report including an income/expenditure statement in line with the agreed funding conditions and images approved for use by MBDC.

ASSESSMENT

How are applications assessed?

Applications are assessed against the criteria and recommendations are made to Council. The final outcome of the Event Support Program is a decision of Council.

Prioritisation

During the assessment, priority will be given to events that:

- Address an identified gap and do not replicate existing services, events or programs;
- Promote and/or facilitate inclusivity and accessibility;
- Achieve the greatest benefit for our district and broader communities;
- Targets priority populations within our communities (e**.**g**.** socially disadvantaged, culturally and linguistically diverse, Indigenous Australians, people with a disability, youth/children, mature aged);
- Encourage community participation and inclusivity to reduce social isolation;
- Are family friendly;
- Attendance for participants are free or low cost;
- Will increase the geographic distribution of funding in our community;
- Applicants that are able to demonstrate funding from other sources (e**.**g**.** stall holders, seed funding, sponsors) and;
- Assessors will consider many factors, including an application's risks and opportunities and an organisation's previous dealings with Council.

Assessment criteria for all events

Criteria	
Regional Event • Strong business case for financial assistance • Evidence of regional significance • Income from other sources • Extent to which the event aligns with prioritisation Local Community Event	50%

• Address an identified community need • Extent to which the event aligns with prioritisation Tourism Attraction • Strong business case for financial assistance • Attracts visitors to our region • Evidence of regional significance • Income from other sources • Extent to which the event aligns with prioritisation The event is congruent with Council's strategic plans	
Event design will: build partnerships/relationships; implement sustainable practices; promote adequately to target audience.	30%
Demonstrate experience and understanding in operating an event including mitigation of risks, financial management.	15%
Acknowledgement of Council as an event supporter is congruent to the support requested.	5%

12.3 REPORT TITLE: ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISION

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/100368

ATTACHMENTS:
1: DOC/25/100670 – MBDC SUBMISSION ENGINEERING STANDARDS JULY 2025
2: DOC/25/100674 - DRAFT DESIGN STANDARD 1 - ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISIONS
DRAFT DESIGN STANDARD 1 - ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISIONS
3: DOC/25/100677 - SOUTH AUSTRALIA GROWTH AREA ENGINEERING STANDARDS TECHNICAL MANUAL
DRAFT TECHNICAL MANUAL
4: DOC/25/82893 - SOUTH AUSTRALIA GROWTH AREA STANDARD DRAWINGS
DRAFT STANDARD DRAWINGS
5: DOC/25/100682 – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - DESIGN STANDARD 1 – ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISION

Key Contact Andrew Houlihan - Manager City Development

Executive Jamie Tann - Acting General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services

Community Plan 2044:
The following objectives from the Community Plan 2044 are relevant to this report:

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

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

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

Objective 13. Housing: Ensure housing policies are current and provide diverse and affordable options that cater to the needs of all residents.

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

Objective 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.

Objective 17. Growth and Development: ensure sustainable and balanced growth while preserving the unique character and natural assets of the District.

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

Objective 26. Transparent and Inclusive Decision Making: transparent and inclusive decision-making, ensuring active engagement of diverse stakeholders and fostering trust and confidence in governance outcomes.

Annual Business Plan:
Nil

Purpose:
To seek endorsement of Council's submission on Design Standard 1 - Engineering Requirements for Land Division.

Summary – Key Issues:
1. The State Planning Commission (the Commission) prepared Draft Design Standard 1 – Engineering requirements for Land Division and associated Technical Manual and Standard Drawings (Engineering Standards).

2. The Engineering Standards have been consulted on from the 20 May to 15 July 2025.

3. Staff have prepared and provided a draft submission to the State Planning Commission on the Engineering Standards.

Recommendation:
That Council:

1. **Endorse Council's submission to the State Planning Commission on the Engineering Standards (attachment 1); and**

2. **Authorise the General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services to make any required further edits arising from the discussion at the Council meeting and to finalise the submission.**

Background:

1. Design standards are a new planning instrument that support the Planning and Design Code by promoting good design in our streets, parks and other public places, help manage the interface between public and private realms and contribute to delivering high-quality infrastructure as part of new developments.

2. This engineering design standard is set to be the first Design Standard adopted under the new South Australian planning system, which was adopted in March 2021.

3. The State Planning Commission has worked closely with South Australian government agencies, councils and industry to prepare the draft Engineering Standards.

4. Standard engineering requirements provide developers, councils and community with greater certainty, clarity and consistency for civil infrastructure design, assessment and construction across the state's growth areas.

5. Introducing consistent engineering standards for infrastructure not only aims to streamline assessment processes and reduce approval times but also reduce costs for new residential developments.

6. This is part of the South Australian Government's Housing Roadmap to deliver more homes for South Australians.

7. The draft Design Standard 1 – Engineering Requirements for Land Division provides technical guidance, building on existing planning rules to deliver more transparent and consistent design standards, construction specifications and infrastructure costs for land divisions **(Attachment 2)**.

8. The draft engineering design standard specifies:
    - pavement design

- stormwater design
- road design
- road corridor design
- service infrastructure
- water sensitive urban design
- street landscaping including trees.

9. A draft technical manual has also been prepared, underpinning the design standard and providing detailed, best-practice engineering specifications for these types of infrastructure **(Attachment 3)**.

10. The draft Engineering Standards also provides pathways for considering climate resilient design and a suite of standard drawings for use in design and construction to significantly reduce assessment timeframes **(Attachment 4)**.

11. The Commission has prepared frequently asked questions – engineering requirements for land division **(Attachment 5).**

Discussion:

1. The draft engineering design standard applies to land division for large residential developments in Master Planned Zones that includes constructing a public road or infrastructure that will become council property.

2. Council was in the process of undertaking a review of Councils current Engineering Standards, however this was placed on hold on the announcement of the South Australian Government's Housing roadmap which identified the creation of Engineering Standards.

3. The Engineering Standards became available for viewing through YourSAy by all members of the public and commenced consultation on 20 May and closed on the 15 July 2025.

4. The Engineering Standards will apply to the Master Planned Neighbourhood Zone within Mount Barker (the growth area). The growth area is approximately 25% developed and therefore will be applicable to the balance of future land division assessments.

5. Council staff have been actively engaged in early review of the Engineering Standards and online information sessions held by the Department Housing and Urban Development (DHUD) via the State Planning Commission and the Growth and Infrastructure Coordination Unit (GICU).

6. Departments of Council, including City Development and Infrastructure Planning departments have collaborated on a draft submission.

7. Council's Assessment Manager has been actively engaged with other Assessment Managers across growth area Councils to review the Engineering Standards.

8. Council staff note concerns with the interaction with the State Government draft Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Miscellaneous) (No 2) Amendment Regulations 2025 (Amended Regulations) and the Engineering Standards regarding the vesting of open space and assessment by relevant authorities.

9. Council has provided a draft submission to the Commission on the 15 July 2025. Council received an extension of time until the 5 August 2025 to provide a Council endorsed submission **(Attachment 1)**.

10. In summary, the submission:
    a. Recognises the standardising of engineering requirements across the state in the Master Planned Zones supports a consistent approach to engineering assessment.
    b. Raises concern with the impact on the standards on the current land division assessment process.
    c. Make recommendations to the Engineering Standards in line with Councils current engineering practices.
    d. Make recommendations for testing of the Engineering Standards.
    e. Recommend clarity and consistency is provided on the Engineering Standards.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Consultation undertaken by State Planning Commission via YourSAy

Policy:
N/A

Long Term Financial Plan:
Infrastructure built in accordance with design standards will have longer / higher performance life over use.

Budget:
There are no current or future financial impacts associated with this recommendation.

Statutory/Legal:
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Staff Resource Requirements:
Manager City Development to assist in obtaining a response.

Environmental:
Engineering Standards provide a greater focus on Waste Sensitive Urban Design.

Social:
The Engineering Standards will lead the more equitable assessment practices across land division development within the Master Planned Zones.

Risk Assessment:
There is risk to the Development Application and approval process to support development.

Asset Management:
Impact on the type and form of assets delivered to Council.

Conclusion:
Council staff seek endorsement of the Mount Barker District Council submission on the Engineering Standards provided to the State Planning Commission in July 2025.

Attachment 1 to Item 12.3

MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Reference: DOC/25/93311

15 July 2025

State Planning Commission
GPO Box 1815,
Adelaide SA 5001
PlanSASubmissions@sa.gov.au

Dear State Planning Commission

RE: Mount Barker District Council Submission - Design Standard 1 - Engineering Requirements for Land Division

Thank you for the opportunity to make submission on the Design Standard 1 - Engineering Requirements for Land Division and the associated South Australian Growth Areas Technical Manual and Standard Drawings.

This submission is made on the Engineering Standards. It is appreciated that Council has been provided an extension of time until the 5 August 2025, following the next available meeting of Council, to endorse this embargoed submission due 15 July 2025.

Council supports the South Australian Government's Housing Roadmap (the Roadmap) that seeks to address land supply, housing diversity and housing affordability across the State to help tackle the current housing supply crisis and recognises the benefits that have the potential to be realised in standardising engineering requirements.

The Engineering Standards will be applicable to 1300 ha of land within the Master Planned Neighbourhood Zone within the Mount Barker Growth Area, of which only 25% is developed. The new Engineering Standards will have profound impacts on the way Mount Barker District Council currently assesses and approves land divisions, including the delivery and acceptance of new assets within the growth area.

Council staff have been actively engaged in the early formation of the Technical Manual including attending workshops, providing pre consultation reviews and submissions, and actively engaging with Assessment Managers across respective growth Councils.

The review by Council staff has determined that the proposed introduction of the engineering standards will have overreaching implications on the current land division assessment and asset delivery process in South Australia.

Council makes submission in response within this letter detailing critical implications of the Engineering Standards and attached comments register template for the Design Standard, Technical Manual and Standard Drawings.

The matters of more significance are discussed below. The Department for Housing and Urban Development is requested to carefully consider the implications of departures from currently accepted engineering practices. Moreover, the Department is requested to consider the important role of Councils in this process, as they hold the local knowledge required for the practical application of engineering requirements. Councils are also the custodians of infrastructure for their communities in the future and ultimately bear the responsibility and cost, acceptance and maintenance.

Assessment Process

The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (**Act**) does not specify a land division consent is required, but rather requires that a proposed land division meets requirements set out in 102(1)(c) of the Act. It is not identified as a consent like a planning or a building rules consent. It would be appropriate to review the Act to provide clarity on a land division consent process with associated verification process, information requests, stop clocks and appeal processes.

The Design Standard details it must be relevant to matters identified as (a) – (d) and then later advises it is only in reference to matters under 102(1)(c). Clarity is sought it is the design standard will be applicable to a planning consent.

Currently, a separate engineering approval is issued post development approval that contains a range of engineering related requirements. This approval would specify additional requirements, inspection and quality assurance regimes. It is unclear if this process should continue with the introduction of the Design Guidelines as it requires a more rigorous engineering assessment at the planning and land division consent stages. As such, there may be a clash between an approval, particularly by a relevant authority that is not Council and an engineering assessment post approval.

The typical assessment process for land divisions is to issue a planning and land division consent concurrently. The design standard requires a comprehensive assessment of the Engineering Design Standards at the planning and land division assessment stage to assist in informing if a planning consent or if a land division consent should be granted. Whilst there is an opportunity to condition requirements, the design standards are likely to be applied inconsistently at relevant stages by relevant authorities. The Design Standard seeks to front load a much greater amount

of detailed design in order to secure a land division consent in complying with the Design Standard that what presently occurs in practice. If detailed design is to be undertaken prior to a grant of land division or planning consent, this will increase the cost to developers and provide no guarantees of development approvals, and could cause further delays in unlocking additional housing supply. Further if the information is not provided relevant authorities may be forced into a position is issuing a refusal.

Council is concerned if the process is frustrated and delays the issuing of a Development approval applicants may agitate with the Minister for land division application to be "called in" to the Land Division Assessment Panel (LDAP) for determination.

The Technical Manual offers a number of options, discretion and subjective opportunities. There is concern who determines the matters and how these may lead to inconsistencies and/or potential disputes/appeals.

Recommend the Department review the end-to-end approval process of land divisions and when the Design Standard is applied.

Information Standards

One of the greatest impediments to the speed of land division assessments is inconsistent provision of information throughout the assessment process. Minimum information requirements for land division are imposed by the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017. Land division applications have limited mandatory information requirements to seek information to enable satisfaction of the Engineering Standards. The Engineering Standard refers to information requirements, however, they are applied inconsistently throughout the standard and it is not understood for which consent they should be provided.

Recommend a consistent approach to information requirements for land divisions be investigated.

Land Division Conditions

The Design Standard anticipates assessment against the Design Standard for planning and land division consent and the ability to condition requirements. This can result in an inconsistent approach in how conditions are applied. Recommend the Practice Direction 12 - Conditions is reviewed to assist in a consistent approach to land division conditions, this may seek to reference compliance with the Technical Manual.

Recommend a suite of standard land division consent conditions is investigated.

Construction and Vesting

Construction, handover and quality assurance process and documentation should be considered within the Engineering Standards or Practice Direction 12.

Recommend the construction and vesting process is investigated for clarity within the land division process.

Bonding Agreements and Securities

There has been a number of contentions as to when bonding should occur and the level of securities to be provided. Recommend the Department review Council practices and agreements to ensure consistent application.

Recommend Bonding and Securities processes are reviewed.

Traffic Impact Assessment and Traffic Impact Statement

The Technical Manual refers to Traffic Impact Study. Recommended terminology is addressed to include Traffic Impact Assessment and Traffic Impact Statement.

A Traffic Impact Statement (TIS) is a report indicating the traffic management and road safety effects for all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians, expected by the installation, operation, alteration or removal of traffic control devices. This report typically forms part of the engineering assessment post development approval. A TIS is a requirement that should be investigated for placement within the Technical Manual and/or Practice Direction 12.

There are a number of references to “Design Engineer” and “Local Authority” that require defining. The Technical Manual interchanges Relevant Authority, careful attention is required to establish the meaning of relevant authority vs Council as a consenting authority.

The Technical Manual makes references to must requirements provided during the planning and design stage of the development. It is unclear if this is referring to the planning or land division consent.

The Technical Manual, within Chapter 4.3 makes reference to Planning and Design Code consent. It is unclear what consent this is referring to.

Recommend ensuring clear and concise terminology within the Engineering Standards.

Proposed Amendments Regulation

The recent proposed Regulation Amendments seek to limit the discretion of a consenting authority in circumstances where a design standard applies. Council is concerned the Amendments Regulation provide support for relevant authorities via

accredited professional (surveyors) to issue a land division consent and consent to the vesting of open space in lieu of Council.

The Design Standard should include within the interpretation, the clear meaning of open space. The Engineering Standards do not provide sufficient assessment as to the amount, type and function of open space. Open space requires careful consideration and determination against relevant strategic planning documents and application of Open space contribution scheme pursuant to Section 198 of the Act. It is important that open space is reviewed by the vested authority to ensure community outcomes in terms of appropriate open space and cost to Council associated with this.

The Design Standard seeks to paraphrase the requirements of the Technical Manual and inconsistencies are noted i.e footpaths must be 1.8m in the Design Standard, however, must be 1.5m in the Technical Manual. Councils sees no need for paraphrasing requirements of the Technical Manual within the Design Standard as this leads to confusion and the potential for a weighting exercise to be placed on the Principles and Design Requirements of the design Standard.

Recommend a review of the role of open space in the Engineering Standards.

Recycled Water

Recycled water should be a greater consideration within the Engineering Standards. Greater Mount Barker Water (GMB Water) provides the opportunity for connection and implementation of a recycled water scheme providing for greater environmental benefits.

Recommend a review to include recycled water initiatives within Master Planned Zones.

Service Infrastructure

The Technical Manual provides that all street lights and poles shall be approved to SA Power Networks standard and be AS1158 compliant. The Technical Manual should support alternative lighting (such as smart solar street lighting).

Lighting is also an important feature of reserves to illuminate shared path or lighting of reserves and their features and should be reflected in the Technical Manual.

The Technical Manual is unclear with regards to calculation of open space when including transformers and switching and electrical cabinets in reserves. It is unclear if the relevant authority as the assessor or vested authority will be responsible for approving such locations within reserves.

Recommend investigating alternative street lighting and lighting with open space areas.

Environmental Management Plans

Environmental Management Plans - Item 12 of the Technical Manual provides considerable detail. The current Design Standard does not reference any assessment provisions for this part of the Technical Manual.

Environmental Management Plans are challenging for a relevant authority to assess as they often don't have the relevant expertise and qualifications to undertake such assessments.

Environmental factors on site such as erosion control and sediment discharge require constant monitoring with maintenance upkeep by site supervisors and contractors and therefore cannot form as part of a singular approval process.

Environmental management is best dealt with via the Environment Protection Act and Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act.

Recommend a review of where environmental considerations would be best managed and what enforcement frameworks should apply.

Statewide Adoption

The current Engineering Standards are proposed to be rolled out to Master Planned Zones within the Code. The adoption for Master Planned zones creates an inconsistency in approach for other land divisions outside of such zones.

Recommend the Design Guideline is applicable for all land division applications.

Testing

Recommend the opportunities for testing prior to implementation when the design guidelines and assessment process is determined.

Recommend practical testing of the Engineering Standards.

Open Space

The Design Standard seeks to guide the construction of a public road or infrastructure which is to be vested in a council. It is unclear if infrastructure also refers to the provision of open space. This is an important consideration given the proposed Amendments Regulation allow vesting of land from relevant authorities other than a Council.

Recommend clarity on the scope of the Design Standard with regards to Open Space.

Watercourses

Watercourses are common within the Master Planned Neighbourhood Zone in the Mount Barker growth area; and interact with a number of first and second order watercourses. This often triggers a statutory referral to the Minister administering the River Murray Act and Landscapes SA. Both referral agencies have their own requirements in regards to managing interaction and construction around watercourses. This includes online vs offline detention and quantity and flow regimes.

Recommend ensuring relevant principles of referral agencies are considered within the stormwater and water sensitive urban design are includes within the Engineering Standards.

Measurable and References to Standards

The Engineering Standards make many references to a range of other manuals and documents standards, guides etc. that are specifically referred and generally referred. This requires a much greater assessment that goes well beyond the requirements of the Technical Manual and is likely to resolve in competing and conflicting requirements and version/currency issues with documents.

Obtaining information demonstrating runoff quality and pollutant load reductions is challenging to obtain and review. It would be beneficial if modelling could be in a consistent format and facilities / programs provided to relevant authorities to support review i.e. DRAINS and MUSIC Modelling.

Recommend reducing the number of referrals to other manuals and standards.

Recommend setting a minimum demonstration requirements and providing review support.

Summary

Mount Barker District Council acknowledges the intent of the Engineering Standards to promote greater consistency of planning decisions. This, in turn, offers improved certainty for developers and the community, and may unlock greater economies of scale in the development of growth areas.

However, Mount Barker District Council works extremely well under the existing guidelines and periodically consults with the community in updating the guidelines. Council's guidelines are incorporated into our long-term financial planning and strategic asset planning.

Whilst supporting the standards there is no evidence to suggest that a suite of engineering standards is a major contributor to delays in the processing of development applications within the state. We recommend a full review into the Land Division Assessment Process to identify opportunities for more efficient assessment and delivery.

As a Council and our developer cohort are greatly impacted by the Engineering Standards I request careful consideration of our response, and an opportunity to test prior to any implementation.

I welcome further discussion on the matters outlined above and as contained in our submission. Should you have any questions, please contact Andrew Houlihan, Manager City Development on 8391 7277 or ahoulihan@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

Yours Sincerely

Andrew Stuart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Comments Register - Draft Design Standard 1 – Engineering Requirements for Land Division

Reviewer: Mount Barker District Council

No.	Document name	Page	Section	Comment	Author
1	Design Standard	4	DR 1.1 - Design of Stormwater	Noting "Design of roads" to be updated to "Design of stormwater".	Umesh Badu (UB), Matt Graham (MG), Martin Waddington (MW)
2	Design Standard	5	DR 1.6 - Stormwater drainage easements	The easement width for a single drainage pipe shall be minimum 3m to facilitate sufficient maintenance access, consistent with the technical manual.	UB, MG, MW
3	Design Standard	6	DR 1.7 - Retention & Detention Basins	"All weather maintenance access track" in lieu of maintenance track access recommended.	UB, MG, MW
4	Design Standard	8	DR 2.6 - Footpaths	Minimum footpath width when proposed one side of the road in technical manual needs to be updated to 1.8m in lieu of 1.5m, consistent with Design Standard.	UB, MG, MW
5	Design Standard	9	DR 2.11 - Intersection Design	The first point shall be updated to "Vehicle design speed of less than or equal to 50 km/hr" and requirement of 3m*3m truncation shall be subject to sightline assessment.	UB, MG, MW
6	Design Standard	10	DR 3.2 - Road Classification	Road classification based on "Movements & Place" framework planned to be adopted by DIT is recommended.	UB, MG, MW
7	Design Standard	15	DR 7.5 - Vegetation	DRT 11-1 does not reflect plant species used in SA, so the discussion needs to include prioritization of plant species native to SA.	Simon Fensom (SF)

Comments Register- Draft South Australian Growth Areas - Technical Manual

Reviewer: Mount Barker District Council					
No.	**Document Name**	**Page**	**Section**	**Comment**	**Author**
1	Technical Manual	17, 18	4.4 - Major and Minor Stormwater Drainage Systems	Incorrect reference to Section 2.6 for 'Minor' system (amend to Section 4.7) Recommend amending or adding two dot points to the final paragrath of Section 4.4 for "designated overland flow paths" to capture 1) maximum flow depth and velocity depth product requirements and 2) overland flows must be contained within road reserves / carriageways with no inundation to private property.	Umesh Badu (UB), Matt Graham (MG), Martin Waddington (MW)
2	Technical Manual	18	4.4.1 - Finished Floor Levels	Second dot point of the section can add advice on the FFL of the properties that grade away from the road, to be minimum 300mm above the top of kerb or crown of the road, where 1% AEP flood level information is not available.	UB, MG, MW
3	Technical Manual	18	4.5 - Hydrology	Addition of a discussion section on following items would be beneficial for consistency across design submissions: i) Guidance on adopting appropriate hydrological model (e.g. Rational Method, ILSAX, IL-CL) based on catchment characteristics. ii) Recommendations on adopting impervious site coverage for residential areas (based on low, medium, high density allotment sizes) and commercial areas.	UB, MG, MW
4	Technical Manual	19	4.5 - Hydrology	A dedicated chapter needs to be added to address the impacts of climate change on stormwater runoff quantity and quality, as there is rising confidence in increase of rainfall (intensity or depth) with increase in daily maximum temperature. . The document should incorporate an appropriate Shared Socioeconomic Pathway (SSP) relevant to SA.	UB, MG, MW
5	Technical Manual	20	4.7 - Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)	10% AEP terminology is preferred over 0.11 EY. For consistency within the table and ARR's new probability terminology usage preference.	UB, MG, MW
6	Technical Manual	23	4.9.2 - Minimum Pipe Grades	MBDC requires a minimum 1% longitudinal grade for stormwater road crossings, which is achievable given the steep topography typical of the region. This requirement supports free-draining conditions, reduces the risk of blockages within stormwater pipes or culverts beneath road pavements, and provides a margin for minor construction tolerances. A minimum 1% longitudinal grade at road crossings in topographically steeper sites should be included in this section.	UB, MG, MW
7	Technical Manual	23	4.9.4 - Pipe Class	MBDC requires a minimum of Class 4 pipes for stormwater road crossings, while Class 3 pipes are acceptable elsewhere.	UB, MG, MW
8	Technical Manual	24	4.9.5 - Splays	The term “substantial change” in horizontal and vertical alignment requires clearer definition. Guidance should be provided on the maximum allowable pipe deflection angle or change in grade along with tolerance limits to determine when a stormwater pit or access structure is required.	UB, MG, MW

9	Technical Manual	25	4.9.8 - Pit Locations	All SEPs shall be double SEPs unless the design can demonstrate that a single SEP provides sufficient capacity. Additional discussion on WHS requirements for deeper pits needs to be included.	UB, MG, MW
10	Technical Manual	27	4.11.2 - Side Entry and Grated Pits	"Prefabricated pits (Steel or FRP)" requires re-wording as "Prefabricated concrete pits (Steel or Fibre reinforced)" to avoid confusion.	UB, MG, MW
11	Technical Manual	29	4.15 - Property Drains	Rear of lot drainage needs to accomodate the minor storm, i.e. 10% AEP not 1EY. Minimum diameter of pipe is 225 mm in easement (not 90 mm).	UB, MG, MW
12	Technical Manual	30	4.16 - Major Storm Drainage Requirements	0.5% AEP terminology is preferred over 0.005 EY, in line with ARR. Clarity needed for what is meant by "some consideration to rarer storm event".	UB, MG, MW
13	Technical Manual	30	4.17 - Floodway Design and Flow Paths	Major floodways through easements on private land should not be considered. This should be through reserves. Where the land divisions are proposed to be carried out adjacent to active natural floodways or watercourse, a pre-and post-development flood modelling shall be carried out and submitted as a part of Stormwater Management Report during DA stage. The post-development flood modelling shall demonstrate that any proposed earthworks associated with the land development shall not impact flood levels upstream and downstream, as well as the proposed allotment levels are equal to or greater than 1% AEP maximum flood levels. This section document does not provide any reference to design of culvert crossings on watercourses, required for access to the developments. A discussion section needs to be included on specifying the hydrology and hydraulic design requirements for culvert crossings, including geo-technical and structural requirements for construction/installation. Reference to Landscape SA or relevant authority approval requirements needs to be added for any watercourse alteration works. Fourth bullet point on page 31 - "minimum permissible velocities" to be amended to "maximum permissible velocities".	UB, MG, MW
14	Technical Manual	32	4.19 - Stormwater Drainage Easements	There is a typo in the easement width for single drain. This needs to be three (3) not "three (2)".	UB, MG, MW

15	Technical Manual	34	4.21.1 - Location and Siting	The section states "Detention/Retention basins should not be sited in areas identified as affected by 1% AEP overland flooding. Discussion on avoiding use of online detention basins (basins within the watercourse alignment) needs to be added, . Often where the land development is proposed adjacent to a watercourse, the critical peak storm duration for regional flood associated with the watercourse are greater than critical peak storm duration from the development. So, there is negation of the stormwater detention requirements from the designers and developers to maximise the allotment spaces and stormwater runoff are discharged undetained in to the watercourse (with the exception of frequent flows detained as a part of water quality treatment). So, further discussion on the stormwater detention requirements for land developments discharging stormwater runoff directly to the watercourses/major floodways needs to be included.	UB, MG, MW
16	Technical Manual	36	4.21.2 - Design Criteria	0.5% AEP terminology is preferred over 0.005 EY, in line with ARR.	UB, MG, MW
17	Technical Manual	45	5.5.1 - Longitudional Grades	An additional table alongside Table DRT 5-3 needs to be included that applies to topographically steep areas in line with council's current practice, specifying: Desirable Minimum grade: 1% Absolute Minimum grade: 0.5% Desirable Maximum grade: 12% Absolute Maximum grade: 15% Absolute maximum grade for Collector and Commercial Roads: 10%, suitable for heavy vehicles.	UB, MG, MW
18	Technical Manual	47	5.7.2 - Kerb and Channel Types	Similar to section 5.5.1; Desirable minimum grade: 1% for steep terrain Absolute minimum grade: 0.5% for steep terrain	UB, MG, MW
19	Technical Manual	48	5.7.3 - Kerb Radii	Minimum kerb return radius for local street (Residential - Outer Metro): 9m to be added, which is consistent with turning radius for 8.8m design vehicle as per Austroads Guide and in line with council's current practice.	UB, MG, MW
20	Technical Manual	48	5.8.1 - Cross Section	This section would benefit if reference to "South Australia's Active Travel Design Guide" prepared by DIT, is made in determining footpath and shared path design requirements. The guide is based on "Movements and Place" principle providing a balance between car users and place related movements. Second bullet point specifying 1.5m wide footpath is inconsistent with Design Standard (DR 2.6 - Footpaths) which specifies 1.8m wide footpath, when proposed on one side of the road.	UB, MG, MW, SD
21	Technical Manual	48	5.8.2 - Crossfall	The "flat crossfall" referred for pedestrian footpath needs to be specified as a minimum of 1% to achieve adequate drainage.	UB, MG, MW

22	Technical Manual	49	5.8.2 - Crossfall	Discussion on batter slope and requirement of investigation for guard rails seems irrelevant in this section, would most likely be relevant under roadside risk assessment section. This section can make reference to Austroads Guide Part 6A for clearance and fence requirements adjacent a pedestrian or shared path.	UB, MG, MW
23	Technical Manual	49	5.8.3 - Provision of Tactile Ground Surface Indicators	This doesn't look right. Maximum kerb ramp grade is 1 in 8 (12.5%). Noting the second dot point requires review to correct the gradient specifications, 1 in 8 (1 in12.5) and 1 in 8.5 (1 in 12) is possibly meant to be 1 in 8 (12.5%) to 1 in 12 (8.5%).	UB, MG, MW
24	Technical Manual	50	5.9.2 - Vehicle Crossings	The maximum number of vehicle crossings to residential properties shall be limited to one (1) in Master Planned Neighbourhood areas, with exception of larger corner allotments or allotments with frontage of 20m or greater. For these exception cases, the minimum separation distance between these crossings shall be 11m in lieu of 9 m, to allow space for two (2) on-street parking. The maximum width of single crossing shall also be limited to 5m, to maximise space for on-street car parking.	Derek Henderson (DH), Greg Sproule (GS)
25	Technical Manual	51	5.9.2 - Vehicle Crossings	Standard car template for domestic vehicle crossings in last paragraph shall make reference to AS 2890.1:2004	UB, MG, MW
26	Technical Manual	53	5.12 - Intersection Design	Noting first bullet point for corner cutoffs needs to be updated to "vehicle design speeds of <u>less than or equal</u> to 50 km/hr and also 3m x 3m truncation shall be subject to sightline assessment.	DH, GS
27	Technical Manual	54	6.1.1 - Road Classification	The range of trip generation rate needs to be narrowed down to 8-10 vehicle movements per day per lot.	UB, MG, MW
28	Technical Manual	57	6.1.2 - Road/Street Characteristics and Road Reserve Widths	Council understands that DIT is currently developing a Movement and Place framework for Road Classifications, similar to those adopted in NSW and Victoria. From our understanding, this represents a shift away from traditional transport functional classifications focused solely on vehicular traffic, towards a more multi-modal approach that also considers surrounding land use and context. How will this approach be incorporated for road hierarchy proposed in the technical manual or at least provide alignment or reference to it?	UB, Shraddha Dhungel (SD)
29	Technical Manual	59	7.2 - Subgrade Analyses	A discussion section needs to be included for the test requirements where select fill layer has been proposed over in-situ subgrade. The test results for CBR, Grading, %Swell & PI of the proposed select fill material, from NATA accredited laboratory needs to be submitted in detail design documentation.	UB, MG, MW
30	Technical Manual	59	7.3 - Flexible Sealed Road Pavements	The "medium and high-volume Collector Roads" referenced in last paragraph shall be updated to "All Level 2 Collector Roads proposed in DRT 6-1" for clarity, which require deep lift asphalt to resist pre-mature fatigue failure. MBDC current practice has deep lift asphalt pavement requirement for its Collector Roads with AADT greater than 3000 vpd.	UB, MG, MW
31	Technical Manual	61		A separate section needs to be included for use of Tree Sensitive Pavement for roads encroaching into Tree Protection Zones, outlining requirements on tree-sensitive excavation methodology.	UB, MG, MW
32	Technical Manual	61		A discussion section needs to be included for use of Stencilled Asphalt pavement including its requirements.	UB, MG, MW

33	Technical Manual	62	7.10 - Road Material	A discussion section needs to be included for use of recycled PM1 material for basecourse including its requirements referencing DIT's specification.	UB, MG, MW
34	Technical Manual	63	7.12 - Subbase	Current industry requirements for subbase compaction requirement is 96% MMDD.	UB, MG, MW
35	Technical Manual	63	7.14 - Pavement Wearing Course	A discussion section to be included for use of Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) including its requirements referencing DIT's specification.	UB, MG, MW
36	Technical Manual		Road Safety Audits	A separate chapter needs to be added on Road Safety Audits for traffic safety. It shall be carried out by an independent and qualified consultant during detailed design and post-construction phase, for effective safety outcome. Roadside risk assessment shall also be a part of Road Safety Audit during detailed design phase, that identifies the requirements for safety barriers within the road corridor.	UB, MG, MW
37	Technical Manual		Traffic Impact Assessment	A **dedicated section** needs to be added on Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA). TIA report from a qualified traffic consultant is required within the DA application documentation during Planning & Land Division Consent stage, which shall include following key aspects: a) Proposed internal road network, road classification and profiles within the development b) Existing road network impacted by the proposed development. c) Forecasted traffic generation from the development d) Ultimate traffic generation within the internal and external road network. e) On-street and indented car parking provisions and plans f) Intersection treatments (e.g. CHR, roundabouts etc) and associated modelling (e.g SIDRA) determining Level of Service (LoS) g) Sight distances (SISD, ASD, MGSD, SSD, CSD) g) Swept paths at intersections, bends and turning areas (cul-de-sac, hammer head)	UB, MG, MW
38	Technical Manual		Irrigation	A **dedicated section** needs to be included for Irrigation Systems within public open space, outlining a requirement to submit irrigation management plan for assessment and approval by relevant authority.	UB, MG, MW
39	Technical Manual	69	9.2 - Electrical Distribution /Lighting	Additional dot point shall be included, specifying adequate setback for pad mounted transformers to Swale, open channel or inlet pits in accordance with SAPN or relevant authority requirements. A section on lighting assets owned by council (e.g. sharedpath/trail lighting) needs to be included, specifying design os such assets shall be submitted for assessment and approval by relevant authority.	UB, MG, MW
40	Technical Manual	71	10.a - Street Trees	Maximise planting - aim to achieve SA Gov canopy cover targets	Simon Fensom (SF) & Chris Lawry (CL)

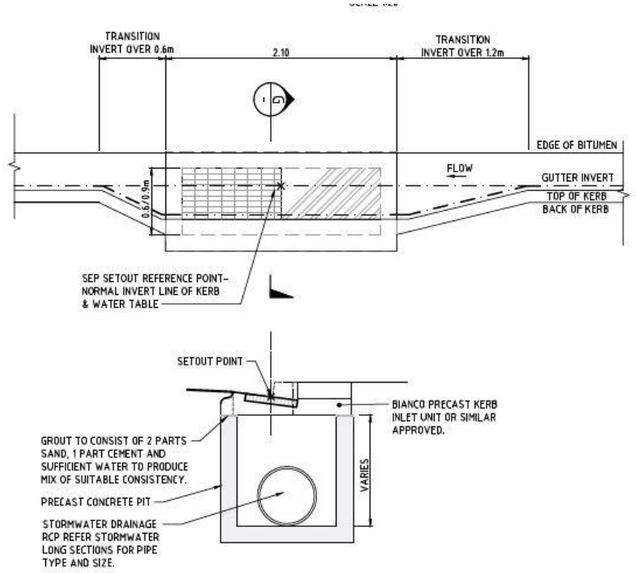
41	Technical Manual	72	10.f - Street Trees	Manage risks of inevitable conflicts with utilities. Tree roots have limited impact to many modern utility installations (eg sealed conduits/pipes). Impacts to stormwater pipes are minimal and large offsets recommended to pipes and structures such as SEPs (2 m) are generally unneccessary and would result in minimal street trees and unshaded streets in many cases.	SF & CL
42	Technical Manual	72	10.g - Street Trees	WSUD methods are generally not being incorporated by developers due to additional cost. Should be mandated.	SF & CL
43	Technical Manual	72	10.1 - Existing Trees	i) Replace 'approximated girth of trunk' with correct terminology - 'measured circumference at 1m above ground and 'DBH' - diameter at 1.4m above ground'. ii) Remove 'estimated remaining lifespan' as estimates often inaccurate leading to poor decisions. Instead refer to species and condition.	SF & CL
44	Technical Manual	73	10.2 - Tree Protection Zones	i) TPZ calculation should read 'diameter at 1.4 metres above ground level and a factor of 12'. ...future retention of a Regulated or Significant tree. ii) A Land Management Agreement (LMA) should be initiated to define the building envelope required to retain the tree.	SF & CL
45	Technical Manual	74	10.3 - New Trees	Sufficent verge space must be allowed in all new roads to allow the planting and growth of suitable street trees with minimal impact to structures and services. Refer generally to standard drawings (1.5 wide back of kerb to footpath general minimum)	SF & CL
46	Technical Manual	75,76	10.3 - New Trees, 10.4 - Design Considerations	Some repetition and contradictions here. (Refer various dot points). Street trees should be provided to the front of all properties where possible, with two trees per frontage where 20 m or more (16m frontage with 3-4m driveway and around 4 m total clearance zones leaves only 8-9m tree planting zone). Medium density frontages with multiple driveways should incorporate smaller upright trees where possible, allowing reduced clearances as long as sightlines can be maintained. Sides of corner lots should have 2 -3 trees but maintain reasonable clearance to fences, housing and structures in the lot and maintaining solar access. The canopy should not unreasonably encroach into the adjoininmg property. No enroachment is not practical. Root barriers required.....Planting zone *minimum* 1.2 x 1.2m....Trees species *in the clearance zones of overhead powerlines* shall be as permitted under the relevant species lists or other regulations applying to SAPN or Electranet power lines or as required by the Office of the Technical Regulator. Other species may be allowable by specific permission of the relevant authority..... Tree species shall be appropriate to the area and specific planting conditions and shall be compatible with adjacent development stages (generally same species in continuation of local streets).... A diversity of suitable and compatible species shall be planted in each development stage.	SF & CL

47	Technical Manual	76	10.4 - Design considerations	Built infrastructure clearances. Driveways 1.5m. Services and service lines vary - generally 1m from common service trench with root barrier installed or water/CST service verge crossovers. Stormwater - depends on depth of stormwater pipes but most trees have very limited root impact on modern stormwater structures. Where stormwater pipes are designed following verges or close to kerblines 2m would mean no street trees. Civil design must accommodate the requirement for street trees. 1 m clearance often adequate or no clearance where stormwater is deep - often beyond the root depth. Street Lights - 4 m generally adequate particularly with cantilevered light poles. Street Signs genrally 2m but line of sight main consideration.	SF & CL
48	Technical Manual	95	11.6.3.1 - General Layout and Function	The second bullet point seems to be vague, it is recommended to provide quantification on catchment size and flows warranting the requirement for constructed wetlands. The developers and designers favour other water quality treatment devices to maximize the land space for allotments, and try to avoid delivering constructed wetlands as their footprint is bigger. The last paragraph of the second bullet point on designing constructed wetlands offline to major flow path, shall include rationale/justification for clarity, as designers do propose constructed wetlands online to major flow path of within 1% AEP flood plain.	UB, MG, MW, SF
49	Technical Manual	96	11.6.3.3 - Reliability	The third bullet point on use of mechanical means for active water circulation, does not seem to be maintenance friendly. The natural wetland design shall be tolerant of wetting and drying cycles.	UB, MG, MW, SF
50	Technical Manual	96	11.6.3.4 - Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs)	Noting section reference 11.6.3.4 for GPT design requirements needs to be updated to 11.6.4	UB, MG, MW, SF
51	Technical Manual	98	11.6.3.8 - Edge treatments	The construction materials for pathways or viewing platforms (such as boardwalks, decking) must comply with Relevant Authority requirements for durability and low maintenance.	UB, MG, MW, SF
52	Technical Manual	111	11.7.1 - Access	Maximum longitudional grade of 1 in 10 (10%) suitable for heavy maintenance vehicles, is recommended in lieu of 1 in 6 (16.6%).	UB, MG, MW, SF
53	Technical Manual	113	12.2 - Erosion Control and Sediment Discharge	This chapter shall make reference to Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control (BPESC) document by International Erosion Control Association (IECA).	UB, MG, MW
54	Technical Manual	115	12.4 - Environmental Control	The fourth paragraph specifying SEDMP approval required by Relevant Authority's Development Engineering Team - remove Development Engineering Team and keep it as Relevant Authority (e.g. EPA)	UB, MG, MW
55	Technical Manual	116	12.4 - Environmental Control	Bullet point 5 & 7 of page 116 - All disturbed areas as a part of the earthworks including private allotments are required to be hydroseeded at the completion of works or sooner if practical, to protect silt runoff to the drainage systems.	UB, MG, MW
56	Technical Manual		General	Additional chapter on Gifted Assets Handover procedure (e.g. digital as-constructed data, asset registers) needs to be included.	UB, MG, MW
57	Technical Manual		General	Recommend developing dcoumentation for Civil Works Technical Specification, Inspection and Test Plans and Quality Assurance (QA) Checklist for consistency across council areas.	UB, MG, MW

Comments Register - Draft South Australian Growth Areas - Standard Drawings

Reviewer: Mount Barker District Council					
No.	**Document Name**	**Drawing Number**	**Rev**	**Comment**	**Author**
ROADWORKS					
1	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-1000	C	i) Details for Mountable Kerb & Gutter to be included. ii) Industrial kerb profiles needs to be included.	Umesh Badu (UB)
2	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-1020	B	The kerb adaptor for "Semi-Mountable Kerb" needs to be updated to "Mountable Kerb (MK)", as MK is adopted for residential settings.	UB
3	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-1030	B	i) The location of hand rail shown on "Kerb Ramp Hand Rail Detail" seems to be incorrect. The hand rail is located on RHS as we are travelling from roadway towards the footpath. ii) The concrete footing depth is generally 250mm in line with DIT standard drawing, in lieu of 200mm shown.	UB
4	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-2000	B	The offset (50mm) of footpath to property boundary shown is not consistent with offset (500mm) shown on drawing sheet 3000 & 3005. The offset of 500mm is to be shown for "New Areas" consistent with drawing sheet 3000 & 3005.	UB
5	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-2005	B	The offset (50mm) of footpath to property boundary shown in "PLAN" view is not consistent with offset (500mm) shown on drawing sheet 3000 & 3005. The offset of 500mm is to be shown for "New Areas" consistent with drawing sheet 3000 & 3005. The "Typical 125mm & 150mm Footpath Section" noted on the drawing does not specify on the thickness (D) to be adopted for residential or commerical settings. The drawing shall clearly specify thickness of 125mm to be adopted for residential areas and 150mm for commercial areas.	UB
6	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-2015	B	The depth of asphalt 'D' = 130mm shown on "NOTES" is to be amended to 135mm to be consistent with the "Typical Asphalt Footpath Section" shown. The offset (50mm) of footpath to property boundary shown in "PLAN" view is not consistent with offset (500mm) shown on drawing sheet 3000 & 3005. The offset of 500mm is to be shown for "New Areas" consistent with drawing sheet 3000 & 3005.	UB

7	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-2025	B	The maximum width of single driveway is recommended to be limited to 5m, to maximise space for on-street parking. Further, the separation distance bewteen adjacent crossings shall be minimum 11m in lieu of 9m to allow on-street aprking for two vehicles. The driveway plan and note 6 shall be amended, if the recommendation is accepted.	UB
8	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-2030	B	Same as comment for DH-RD-2025.	UB
9	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-2035	B	Same as comment for DH-RD-2025.	UB
10	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-2045	B	The maximum grade of 1:10 across verge on "Longitudional Driveway Section - Higher Side of Street" shall be amended to 1 in 20 max, to be consistent with section 5.8.2 of the technical manual.	UB
11	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-2055	C	The width and height of"Keyed-in-kerb" noted needs to be specified on the plan.	UB
12	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-3000	C	The 1.5m footpath width proposed when one side of the road is inconsistent with Design Standard's 1.8m wide footpath requirements. Tree shown in centre of verge footpath side of plan detail (no dimensions) but close to path in cross section - stake and tree too close to path and is pedestrian hazard.	UB, SF, CL
13	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-3001	A	Tree shown in centre of verge both sides of plan detail (no dimensions) but close to paths in cross section - stake and tree too close to path and is pedestrian hazard	SF, CL
14	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-3002	A	Indented parking bays would generally have tapered ends, trees best centred in verge	SF, CL
15	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-3004	C	Tree shown in centre of verge both sides of plan detail (no dimensions) but close to paths in cross section - stake and tree too close to path and is pedestrian hazard	SF, CL
16	Standard Drawings	DH-RD-3005	D	Tree shown in centre of verge both sides of plan detail (no dimensions) but close to paths in cross section - stake and tree too close to path and is pedestrian/cyclist hazard. Cycleways/shared paths must have a *minimum* 0.5m wide clear zone no tree, low branches or stakes (1m desirable)	SF, CL
STORMWATER					

17	Standard Drawings	DH-SW-5030	B	Following Double SEP detail needs to be included. 	
18	Standard Drawings	DH-SW-5225	B	River gravel' not defined - 'river stones 80mm - 200mm diameter' more suitable material description	SF
19	Standard Drawings	DH-SW-5300	C	100 mm topsoil with hydroseed/hydromulch'. All soil surfaced catch drains should show hydroseed/hydromulch surface or erosion matting and riparian planting if 1 in 4 or steeper	SF
LANDSCAPE					
20	Standard Drawings	DH-LS-7000	C	Section: Soil berm required around watering bowl, cover with mulch, granultic fines not suitable, use mulch, use synthetic (PE/nylon/etc) ties as hessian rots in 1st winter, planting hole depth of rootball and 3x width. AS 2303 rootball adjustments to be done prior to setting planting height. Plan; as above. Notes: Terracottem not required, use mulch bowl not Terrawell or similar, use site soil as backfill (nearby site soil if verge is contaminated.) Remove all rubble, road base, concrete spoil from verge to natural ground.	SF, CL
21	Standard Drawings	DH-LS-7001	C	Specify as per un-irrigated above. Irrigation type not shown so detail may vary.	SF, CL
22	Standard Drawings	DH-LS-7002	C	Soil berm required around watering bowl, cover with mulch	SF, CL
23	Standard Drawings	DH-LS-7003	C	As per 7000 above	SF, CL
24	Standard Drawings	DH-LS-7004	C	As per 7000 above	SF, CL
25	Standard Drawings	DH-LS-7005	C	2 metre offset to side entry pit not necessary (negligble tree root impact and significant constraint to achieving treescape), 1.5 metre offset to driveway. Kerb to footpath tree bay edges encouraged as shown.	SF, CL
26	Standard Drawings	DH-LS-7006	C	2 metre offset to side entry pit not necessary (negligble tree root impact and significant constraint to achieving treescape), 1.5 metre offset to driveway.	SF, CL
27	Standard Drawings	DH-LS-7007	C	Drawing mis-named - shows kerbside footpath. Detail OK.	SF, CL

ITEM 12.3 **ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISION**

ATTACHMENTS:

2: DOC/25/100674 - DRAFT DESIGN STANDARD 1 - ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISIONS
DRAFT DESIGN STANDARD 1 - ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISIONS

3: DOC/25/100677 - SOUTH AUSTRALIA GROWTH AREA ENGINEERING STANDARDS TECHNICAL MANUAL
DRAFT TECHNICAL MANUAL

4: DOC/25/82893 - SOUTH AUSTRALIA GROWTH AREA STANDARD DRAWINGS
DRAFT STANDARD DRAWINGS

5: DOC/25/100682 – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - DESIGN STANDARD 1 – ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISION

12.4 REPORT TITLE: GMB WATER MOUNT BARKER REGION WASTEWATER UTILITY BOARD AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/103717

Key Contact	Sue Miller, Team Leader Risk and Governance
Manager	Alison Hancock, Executive Manager
Sponsor	Andrew Stuart, Chief Executive Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

This item will be issued as a separate addendum to the Council Meeting agenda due to the timing of the GMB Water Board meeting scheduled for 30 July 2025 at which the board will consider their Audit and Risk Management Committee Terms of Reference for recommendation to Council.

It is anticipated the addendum will be issued no later than 5pm Thursday 31 July 2025.

12.5 REPORT TITLE: WARD DONATIONS

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/81753

ATTACHMENTS: NIL

Key Contact Maree Barns, Governance Officer

Manager/Sponsor Sue Miller, Team Leader Risk and Governance

Executive Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Community Plan 2020-2035:
Leadership and Good Governance
LGG Strategy 1.4 - Enable community leadership.

Annual Business Plan:
Nil

Purpose
To allocate ward donation funds to individuals or organisations.

Summary – Key Issues

- Council has budgeted an amount for 2025/26 of $19,006 which equates to $1,720 for each Council Member to allocate to individuals and/or groups at the Council Members' discretion. This is known as a Ward Allowance.
- Council Members may nominate groups or individuals to receive a Ward donation from their allowance at each Council meeting.
- Ward donations are a contribution from the Council (as a whole) to a particular individual or group.

Recommendation

That Council approve the following donations outlined in the table below, given that each Member nominating the donation has given careful consideration to whether there is a conflict of interest:

Council Member	Amount	Group/Individual/Purpose
Councillor Size	$200	To Emma de Haas for representing South Australia at the National Schools Cross Country Championships on the Gold Coast, September 2025.
Councillor Size	$200	To Nina Tschernykow for providing the homeless with haircuts.
Councillor Szilassy	$100	To Littlehampton Community Association for a contribution towards signage costs.
Councillor Jones	$200	To Littlehampton Community Association (LCA) as a contribution to the purchase of LCA badges, identifying volunteers when working in the community.

Background

1. Council receives many requests for assistance from individuals, community members and community groups. Requests may be received by Council Members via telephone, letter or via email, or direct to Council.

2. Council has budgeted an amount for 2025/26 of $19,006 which equates to $1,720 for each Council Member to allocate to individuals and groups at the Council Members' discretion. This is known as a Ward Allowance.

3. The Representation Review process (completed in October 2021) ensures equal representation (Council Member per elector) in each Ward. In October 2021 changes were made to the composition of wards and council member representation which took effect at the November 2022 election. This review process ensures the amount of Ward Allowance available to the community is equal between each of the Wards.

4. At the end of each financial year, a report of the expenditure of Ward Allowances will be reported to Council.

Ward Donation Procedures

5. Members receive a print-out indicating how much is still available to each Council member.

6. Individual members of the community or community groups may require small financial assistance for projects/initiatives of community interest and benefit from Council.

7. These requests should be made directly to the Mayor and/ or Council Members for their consideration / assessment.

8. Any requests received directly by Council will be acknowledged by the Governance Officer, and advised that any such requests received will be provided to all Council Members who may choose to contribute some funds from their annual Ward Allowance.

9. When determining donations, Council Members should consider the community interest / benefit to be received and enjoyed by the community at large as a result of that donation.

10. As per section S73-75A of the Local Government Act 1999 Council Members should also consider and assess any material, actual or perceived conflict of interest as a result of making a particular donation or voting on the donations.

11. Council Members may nominate members of the community or community groups to receive a donation from their Ward Allowance.

12. Nominations should be advised to the Council Member Enquiry email address ahead of the agenda production to allow for public visibility and transparency for the expenditure of public funds and for nominees to be included in the Council Meeting agenda. The form can be found on the extranet under Forms.

13. Any amendments made to the ward donations at the Council meeting will be reflected in the Council meeting minutes, available on Council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au

14. When making a donation in the Council Meeting, the Council Member should:
    a. Declare who the donation is to be made to, the amount and the purpose of the donation; and
    b. Complete and submit a Ward Donation Form to the Minute Secretary prior to the Council meeting.

Community Engagement

Informing only	Notification by way of Council minutes. Recipients will be notified of any donation.

Policy
There are currently no Council Policies in relation to Ward Donations.

Long Term Financial Plan:
Nil

Budget
The budget allocation for Ward Donations is $19,006 which equates to $1,720 recommended expenditure by each Council Member. Any unallocated ward allowance balance is not carried over to the next financial year. $300.00 has been expended year to date.

Statutory/Legal
There are no statutory/legal implications or requirements in relation to Ward Donations.

Section 73-75A of the Local Government Act 1999:
However, Council Members should be mindful of material, actual or perceived conflict of interest that may arise as a result of making a ward donation.

Staff Resource Requirements
The notifications of ward donations is incorporated into the existing responsibilities of the finance staff.

Environmental
There are no environmental implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

Social
Ward donations enable individual members of the community and community groups to request small donations to assist with their endeavours.

Risk Assessment:
It is the responsibility of each Council Member to assess the risks association with the ward donations.

Asset Management:
There are no asset management implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

Conclusion
Council Members have the opportunity to make ward donations.

13. INFORMATION REPORTS

Recommendation
That the following information reports be noted en bloc.

13.1 REPORT TITLE: UPDATE TO THE MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL HOUSING STRATEGY 2025

DATE OF MEETING: **4 AUGUST 2025**

FILE NUMBER: **DOC/25/95983**

Key Contact Steven Conn, Senior Strategic Planner

Manager/Sponsor Madeleine Walker, Manager Community Planning and Wellbeing

Executive Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Purpose:
To provide the background and context for the Mount Barker District Housing Strategy 2025 and outlining the process and timeframes for the updated strategy document.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. Council's existing Housing Strategy, endorsed in March 2020, sought to better understand the current and projected housing conditions across the district and to formulate strategies aimed at improving housing conditions and housing support services. It showed there to be very limited crisis accommodation and housing support services and a shortage of low cost rental options.

2. The greater context is that affordability has drastically reduced in recent years and there have been significant policy movements in this space, such as the National Housing Accord, State Housing Roadmap and Better Housing Future.

3. Council recently engaged Holmes Dyer Pty Ltd as preferred consultant to deliver the updated housing strategy. It is expected that initial community and stakeholder engagement will take place through August, draft strategy for community engagement in October and final housing strategy to be taken to Council in January 2026 for endorsement.

Background:

1. The current Mount Barker District Housing Strategy identified the following key issues impacting housing and homelessness across the district:
   - Limited crisis accommodation and housing support service providers
   - Limited government funded social housing options
   - High median rents when compared with metropolitan Adelaide
   - Limited low cost private rental options
   - An increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness.

2. Since endorsement of the current housing strategy, staff have been implementing actions from the housing strategy. This has included:
   - Informing government agencies and service providers about the local housing conditions and issues across the district
   - Advocating for an increased range and presence of crisis accommodation and housing support services across the district
   - Monitoring local, national and State housing conditions and remaining informed on the issues that have contributed to the housing crisis.

3. In the five years since Council's current housing strategy was endorsed, the issues of housing and homelessness have become more pressing nationally. In recent times, there has been significant policy action, with the most applicable being:
   - National Housing Accord
   - A Better Housing Future
   - South Australian Housing Roadmap
   - Greater Adelaide Regional Plan.

Discussion:

Council Response

4. In response to community concerns and the evident pressure in the housing market, it is imperative at this time that Council better understand the local housing environment, what actions can be taken to further support improved housing outcomes and the role for local government in effecting positive outcomes.

5. In Council's 2024-2025 annual business plan, funding was provided to update Council's Housing Strategy including a review into issues such as homelessness and housing affordability and associated actions required.

6. Council has since gone to the market for tenders and engaged the services of Holmes Dyer as the preferred consultant. Holmes Dyer has provided a program breakdown for the various stages and sub-stages, which when

corrected for the delay in project initiation, will see a final revised Housing Strategy likely taken to Council meeting in January 2026 for review and endorsement.

7. Council's existing Housing Strategy was developed as primarily an advocacy document. The new strategy document will look to provide tangible actions that can be implemented by Council to address identified local housing issues, being clear on the purpose, intended outcomes and level of intervention.

8. Messaging from the State government's Department for Housing and Urban Development (DHUD) has been that local housing strategies should be simple, evidence-based and actionable. The current policy context points to, firstly an expectation that councils will create a local housing strategy to meet obligations under the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and, secondly that they act as an important mechanism for streamlined Code Amendments through the State government and funding requests from Federal government as outlined in the National Housing Accord.

Broader Policy Context

9. It is commonly accepted that Australia is in the midst of a national housing crisis. It is widely accepted that when housing costs exceed 30% of household income, they are considered to be unaffordable or to put the occupiers in housing stress. Housing affordability has generally worsened significantly since 2007. Despite falling interest rates, house prices have risen much faster than incomes for most household groups.

10. In 2022, the Australian government released the National Housing Accord, which intends to bring together all levels of government to address supply and to enable more social and affordable housing. Two key actions from the Accord are for the delivery of 1.2 million well located, new homes and for a further 55,000 new social and affordable homes across the country by mid-2029.

11. In response to the National Housing Accord, the South Australian government has produced two housing policy documents, (1) A Better Housing Future (February 2023) and the South Australian Housing Roadmap (June 2024).

12. The Better Housing Future plan seeks to support the more vulnerable parts of the State's housing system by delivering more social and affordable housing, introducing greater protection for tenants, and increasing support for renters and home buyers.

13. The South Australian Housing Roadmap seeks to provide more homes, faster, by reducing timeframes for Code Amendments and land division approvals, while also investing in major infrastructure upgrades to

accelerate the supply of new homes. The Roadmap seeks to deliver increased land supply for residential development, with provision for an additional 25,000 new homes within the Greater Adelaide area.

14. In March 2025, the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (the Plan) was finalised and released. This document serves as the primary planning document for the region of Greater Adelaide and is to guide how a growing population is accommodated, outlining where people will live, work and move, while ensuring continued protection of the natural environment and landscapes. As part of the Plan, Councils are mandated to create local housing strategies that will outline how they will meet the housing targets set by the Plan and ensure that there is adequate infrastructure and services in place to support new residents. Council's revised Housing Strategy will go some way to meeting our obligations under the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan.

Housing Strategy 2025-2026

15. The update of the Mount Barker District Housing Strategy will unpack the detail of impactful housing policies introduced since 2020 and investigate the impact of the national housing crisis on local housing conditions. The updated Housing Strategy will also work to better understand the structure and function of the social housing and homelessness support network, identifying meaningful actions that are deliverable at a local government level.

Mount Barker in the context of the National Housing Accord

16. The National Housing Accord has recognised that updated local strategic plans are crucial for increasing housing supply and affordability. Mount Barker is doing the heavy lifting for the region in terms of being able to achieve the housing targets set by the Federal government.

17. Priorities for Council, as reflected in our Advocacy Plan, are for (1) Securing State and Federal investment to upgrade and expand our wastewater infrastructure to meet the demands of ongoing residential development through the growth area and (2) increased investment in public transport infrastructure. A properly informed local housing strategy will assist here as a mechanism to request funding for related improvements to the district.

18. Mount Barker is in a unique position in that it already has extensive land zoned for residential growth and is not, therefore in a position where the supply of land is a limiting factor on housing availability. Affordability of housing and a lack of diverse housing options are clear constraints to the local housing sector, to be examined in the revised Housing Strategy.

19. There were 715 new lots created in the last twelve months, making Mount Barker the fastest growing suburb in South Australia (as confirmed by Land Services SA).

Conclusion:

Following on from Council's current Housing Strategy, endorsed in March 2020 and in the context of reduced levels of affordability and significant policy movement in this space, it is prudent that Council seek to better understand the local housing environment and the actions that can be taken at a local government level to support improved housing outcomes. Please note the actions taken to date on an updated Housing Strategy for the district.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	2 March 2020	CM Reference	DOC/20/18748
Title	Mount Barker District Housing Strategy		
Purpose	To present Council Members with the findings of Mount Barker District Housing Strategy, highlighting the outcome of investigations into local housing conditions and to present a range of recommended strategies to address local housing issues.		

13.2 REPORT TITLE: WARD DONATION EXPENDITURE – PERIOD OF 1 JULY 2024 TO 30 JUNE 2025

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/81797

ATTACHMENTS: 1. DOC/25/92847 - SUMMARY OF WARD DONATION EXPENDITURE 2024/2025

Key Contact Maree Barns, Governance Officer

Manager/Sponsor Sue Miller, Team Leader Risk and Governance Officer

Executive Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Purpose

To provide a summary of ward donations made by Council Members to individuals and groups for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Summary – Key Issues

- Council Members may nominate groups or individuals to receive a Ward donation from their allowance at each Council meeting.
- In 2024/25, 47 groups and 4 individuals were recipients of donations allocated from Council Members' Ward Allowances for a total amount of $18,038.50.

Background

1. Council budgeted an amount for 2024/25 of $18,540.50 to allocate to individuals and/or groups at the Council Members' discretion. This is known as a Ward Allowance. The total amount expended in 2024/25 was $18,038.50.
2. At the end of each financial year, a summary report of the expenditure of Ward Allowances is reported to Council.

Discussion

3. Council receives many requests for assistance from individuals, community members and community groups.

4. Individual members of the community or community groups may require small financial assistance for projects/initiatives of community interest and benefit from Council.

5. When determining donations, Council Members consider the community interest/benefit to be received and enjoyed by the larger community as a result of that donation.

6. Council Members also consider and assess any actual or perceived conflict of interest as a result of making a particular donation.

7. Council provided $18,038.50 in ward donations to 47 groups and 4 individuals in 2024/25.

8. A summary of ward allowance expenditure, showing the group/individual and total amount received, is provided as an attachment to this report.

9. An amount of $502 was unallocated. This amount does not carry forward.

Conclusion

Council Members, at their discretion, allocated funds from their Ward Allowance to individuals and groups during the financial year.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	5 August 2024	HPRM Reference	DOC/24/79030
Title	Ward Donation Expenditure July 2023 to June 2024		
Purpose	To provide a summary of ward donations made to individuals or groups for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.		

Meeting Date	1 August 2023	HPRM Reference	DOC/23/73385
Title	Ward Donation Expenditure July 2022 to June 2023		
Purpose	To provide a summary of ward donations made to individuals or groups for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.		

Meeting Date	1 August 2022	HPRM Reference	DOC/22/75546
Title	Ward Donation Expenditure July 2021 to June 2022		
Purpose	To provide a summary of ward donations made to individuals or groups for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.		

Meeting Date	2 August 2021	HPRM Reference	DOC/21/110580
Title	Ward Donation Expenditure July 2020 to June 2021		
Purpose	To provide a summary of ward donations made to individuals or groups for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.		

Meeting Date	3 August 2020	HPRM Reference	DOC/20/76342
Title	Ward Donation Expenditure July 2019 to June 2020		
Purpose	To provide a summary of ward donations made to individuals or organisations for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.		

Attachment 1 to Item 13.2

SUMMARY OF WARD DONATION EXPENDITURE 2024/2025		
Groups	**Purpose**	**Amount**
Adelaide Hills Prostate Cancer Support Group	Produce information brochure	$300.00
Brukunga CFS	Purchase and upkeep of equipment	$310.00
Brukunga Community Association	Assist with operations of group	$110.00
Callington CFS	Operations of CFS	$200.00
Callington Recreation Park	Tourist Brochures	$200.00
Echunga Memorial Institute	Painting of Echunga Memorial exterior	$500.00
Flaxley Memorial Hall	Family Fun Day	$670.50
Friends of Mount Barker Summit	Purchase solar powered cameras	$370.00
Friends of the Mount Barker Library	Help with expenses of group	$200.00
Hahndorf Academy	Materials for Art activities	$200.00
Hahndorf Bowling Club	1st Aid Training to Members	$500.00
Hahndorf Community Assoc	Echoes of the Past Documentary, Stremple Avenue Community Garden bench restoration, Hahndorf Christmas	$975.00
Hahndorf Lions Club	Community Projects	$250.00
Harrogate Hall	Operations of Hall Committee	$200.00
Heysen Sculpture Biennial Inc	Printing costs of the Event Catalogue	$400.00
Hills Stoma Support Group	Assist Cancer Patient Fellowship	$135.50
Hills Wildlife Guardians Natvie Rescue	Care and rehabilition of wildlife	$200.00
Hills Winter Lantern Festival	Workshops Macclesfield Primary School	$250.00
Inkpot Arts	Wonders of your Wonderland Fundraiser	$200.00
Kanmantoo Hall	Operations of Hall Committee	$200.00
Kanmantoo-Callington Landcare Group	Equipment and planting for biodiversity and rehabilitation	$150.00
Laurel Intergenerational Playgroup	Craft supplies	$100.00
Littlehampton CFS	Purchase and upkeep of equipment	$250.00
Littlehampton Community Association	Chat &and Play social sessions	$100.00
Lofty Community Radio	Assist with on-going running costs	$1,166.50
Macclesfield Community Association	Macclesfield Young at Heart Christmas, Creative Arts Pursuits	$450.00
Macclesfield Newsletter	Support Macclesfield Newsletter	$200.00
Meadows Memorial Hall & Community Association	Meadows Anzac Day Dawn Service	$300.00
Mount Barker & District Resident Assocation	Environmental Forum May 25	$950.00
Mount Barker CFS	Upkeep of equipment	$300.00
Mount Barker Community Centre	Duck Flat Community Garden, Dinner, Macclesfield Community Pantry Volunteers	$585.00
Mount Barker RSL	Improvements to Mann Street Memorial, 2025 Anzac Day Events	$550.00
Mount Barker SES	Upkeep of equipment	$300.00
Mount Barker Swim Club	Costs involved in relocating to new Aquatic Centre	$200.00
Mount Barker Uniting Church	Hungry No More Program	$500.00
Mount Barker Carols Committee	Mount Barker Carols	$200.00
Mount Barker Pageant Committee	Christmas Pageant	$500.00
Nairne & District Residents Association	Assist defray traffic management costs, Nairne Community Carols Event and operations	$1,535.50
Nairne CFS	Operations of CFS	$200.00
Nairne Golf Club	Movember Cancer Research	$250.00
Nairne Landcare Group	Purchases-plants/tools/materials for biodiversity and rehabilitation	$550.00

Groups	Purpose	Amount
Nairne RSL	Nairne Anzac Day Dawn Service, assist with general administration purposes	$500.00
Nikita Grosser	Australian Women's Goalball Team	$100.00
Rockit Performing Arts	Disability Education Program	$215.00
RSL Macclesfield	2025 Commemoration Service RAAF Ensign	$300.00
Salvation Army Mount Barker	Community Connect Program	$250.00
Save our Wildlife	Rehoming possums, owls and cockatoos	$365.50
Total		$17,438.50

Individuals	Purpose	Amount
Beau Walsh	Represent SA U15 Water Polo	$100.00
Emma De Haus	School Sport Australian Track & Field Championships	$100.00
Levi Lloyd	National Country Basketball Comp	$300.00
Madison Devlin	World Dance Championship	$100.00

Total		$600.00
Total Groups/Individuals		$18,038.50

13.3 REPORT TITLE: FIDLER LANE MOUNT BARKER RAIL CROSSING

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/102393

Key Contact Matthew Dawkins, Manager Infrastructure Planning

Manager/Sponsor Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Executive Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Purpose:

To update Council on the findings of the rail safety reporting associated with provisioning a pedestrian and cyclist movement across the rail corridor at the now closed Fidler Lane road crossing of the corridor.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. The process to create and open a new at-grade road and footpath level crossing over the rail corridor at Heysen Boulevard required the closure of the Fidler Lane rail crossing to vehicles and pedestrians.

2. Since November 2024, access to all movements across the rail corridor along the Fidler Lane road reserve has been physically closed in accordance with these requirements.

3. Council staff recognise there is a strong desire for a trail crossing of the rail line and has engaged services from rail safety experts to prepare a report that considers options for managing the Fidler Lane road reserve crossing of the rail corridor which are being discussed with SteamRanger as the rail authority.

Background:

1. Council partnered with SteamRanger Heritage Rail (SHR) and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) to construct Heysen Boulevard over the SHR line. This road connection has been in place since the latter half of 2024.

2. The types of crossings referred to in the report are defined as:
    - Level Crossing - a crossing of the rail track with an intersecting road or pathway such that there is a need for the road or pathway traffic to look and give way to a train on the tracks.
    - Grade Separated Crossing – a crossing of the rail track with an intersecting road or pathway via a bridge or underpass and hence no conflict point between trains and the road or footpath users.

3. The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) is an independent body corporate established under the Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012. ONRSR has responsibility for regulatory oversight of rail safety in every Australian state and territory, to promote and improve national rail safety and ensure the safety of the community

4. ONRSR Policy for level crossings states in clause 9.1 that 'ONRSR does not support the construction of new level crossings and strongly encourages governments and industry to commit to a firm policy of 'no new level crossings' due to the inherent risks associated with the conflict point between the movement of heavy rolling stock on the track with other modes of transport that need to cross the track at grade via a level crossing.

5. The construction of Heysen Boulevard road and pathway over the railway line creates an additional rail level crossing. This new crossing was predicated on the closure of the existing Fidler Lane level crossing to the south of Heysen Boulevard which was considered a greater safety risk.

6. The Fidler Lane rail crossing has been closed, road removed adjacent, drains alongside constructed and fenced since November 2024 to offset the creation of the new Heysen Boulevard level crossing.

7. There remains a latent demand for a formal rail crossing point along the Fidler Lane road reserve to satisfy the community that uses this road reserve as a trail for walking and cycling.

8. Councils role is to ultimately lead the delivery of a crossing however Council must first negotiate approvals with the rail authority (SHR) for an acceptable crossing type that balances rail safety improvements with an affordable outcome for the community.

Discussion:

9. Since November 2024 pedestrians and cyclists have needed to divert around the closed crossing on Fidler Lane. It is evident that there remains a demand to cross the rail line at this location.

10. There is also evidence of minor movement north-south on the rail corridor in the vicinity of Fidler Lane where there is no trail or formal safe linkages. This is considered un-authorised access of the rail corridor and is a significant rail safety concern.

11. The opening of the Heysen Boulevard road and pathway crossing has been an important linkage in the road and trail network and online monitoring indicates the new level crossing is now highly used by walkers and cyclists.

12. Looking further afield along the rail corridor, there is high utilisation of formed/formal trails such as the rail corridor trail that runs north from Bluestone towards Hurling, Wellington, Fletcher Roads and on to the Laratinga linear trail.

13. It appears very evident that where there are defined and formed shared use paths and trails, users will use them rather than ad-hoc unformed "goat tracks" along and over the railway lines.

14. Council staff are currently developing a new trails action plan and this evidence of demand will be useful in determining priorities for new trail investment.

15. Preparation of a rail safety report is the first step towards the intent to re-open Fidler Lane rail crossing to pedestrians and cyclists only. SHR have agreed to work with Council to investigate a safe pedestrian and cyclist crossing at Fidler Lane.

16. Council has commissioned a rail safety report from rail safety consultants to guide discussion with SHR.

17. The rail safety report indicates any solution to a crossing of the rail corridor "…. *must consider and weigh up all relevant matters, including the likelihood of a hazard or risk occurring*….."

18. Further the report states that "*ONRSR regards a (crossing) solution as suitable if it is effective in minimising the likelihood or degree of harm of a hazard or risk, and does not introduce new and higher risks*."

19. The reporting leans towards preferring a grade separated crossing and this aligns well with the ONRSR policy on no new level crossings but acknowledges that it doesn't manage the north - south movement along the corridor.

20. The reporting also identifies however that while the installation of a passive level (maze) pedestrian crossing may not be strictly in accordance with ONRSR policy, using the funding that would otherwise be invested in a grade separation option (bridge) to instead augment the crossing project with an in-corridor shared use path will address the current unauthorised north-south access and hence could result in an improved overall outcome for the community.

21. Further consideration of the rail safety report will be given by Council staff and discussion with SHR will continue to identify an acceptable way forward.

22. The outcome of these discussions will inform an agreed position in-principle for crossing the rail line at Fidler Lane and any subsequent investment into further design and construction of a crossing will be determined by the priorities set through the endorsement of the upcoming Mount Barker Trails Plan.

Conclusion:

Council has now completed a rail safety report to inform the design of a future rail crossing at Fidler Lane and has commenced discussion with SteamRanger, as the rail authority, with the intent to reach an agreement in-principle on an outcome that meets the needs of the community, significantly improves rail safety and is affordable.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	8 October 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/133762
Title	CLOSURE OF FIDLER LANE MOUNT BARKER RAIL CROSSING		
Purpose	To inform Council of the closure of Fidler Lane Mount Barker at the rail crossing to vehicles and pedestrians and next steps to create a pedestrian and cyclist access across the rail corridor.		

Meeting Date	1 July 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/74893
Title	Closure of a Portion of Fidler Lane		
Purpose	To present a summary of the feedback received during community engagement on the proposal to install permanent traffic management measures to restrict motor vehicle access along a section of Fidler Lane, Mount Barker.		

Meeting Date	2 April 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/14698
Title	Closure of a Portion of Fidler Lane		
Purpose	To seek Council authority to cause notice of the proposal to install permanent traffic management measures to restrict motor vehicle access along a section of Fidler Lane, Mount Barker.		

13.4 REPORT TITLE: CONCLUSION OF SUMMIT AQUATIC AND LEISURE CENTRE COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/96084

Key Contact: Ian Hildebrand, Manager Communications and Engagement

Manager/Sponsor Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Executive Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Purpose:

To advise Council of the conclusion of the Community Reference Group (CRG) for the Summit Aquatic and Leisure Centre project (SALC).

Summary – Key Issues:

1. The Community Reference Group (CRG) was appointed in 2022.
2. The CRG provided a valuable conduit between the project construction team and the public.
3. The CRG has now concluded as the facility transitions to operations and the members of the CRG are thanked for their personal contribution.

Background:

1. In August 2021 Council endorsed terms of reference for a Community Reference Group (CRG) for the Aquatic and Leisure Centre Project (SALC).

2. In April 2022, expressions of interest were sought via Mount Barker District Council's website, in The Courier newspaper and advertised on Council's Facebook page.

3. In May 2022, members of the CRG were appointed:
   - Mayor David Leach
   - Pat Wheeler
   - Jake Culkin
   - Douglas McCarty
   - Aaron Newman
   - Naomi Pugsley
   - Aileen van Wijk

4. Members were representatives of clubs or groups that are likely to be based at the new aquatic and leisure facility and/or community representatives who are Mount Barker District Council ratepayers.

5. The timing for establishing the Community Reference Group allowed the group to be a key facilitator of information to the lead architect in the design of the SALC.

Discussion:

6. The group met eight times during the different phases of the project.

7. The input from members of the CRG was invaluable in shaping the design elements, fee structure and generating interest in the community.

8. As the SALC has now reached the conclusion of the construction phase and is moving into operations, the CRG will now be formally disbanded.

9. CRG members available will be presented with a certificate of recognition and appreciation at the commencement of this council meeting.

Conclusion:

The CRG for the SALC has played an invaluable part in the progression of this project to the point where construction has concluded and they are to be thanked for their personal contribution to the success of the project and the legacy that will be left for future generations.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	2 August 2021	CM Reference	DOC/21/120996
Title	CONFIDENTIAL REPORT – Aquatic and Leisure Centre		
Purpose	The purpose of this report is to provide a project update on the Aquatic and Leisure Centre and seek Council support for critical decisions that enable progression of this project in order to meet project timelines and risk mitigation activities.		

13.5 REPORT TITLE: BRUKUNGA TOWNSHIP STORMWATER DRAINAGE STUDY

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/94836

Key Contact Martin Waddington, Project Engineer

Manager/Sponsor Matthew Dawkins, Manager Infrastructure Planning

Executive Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Purpose:

To provide Council with outcomes following a study into stormwater management in Brukunga and what has been done to identify and prioritise the projects emerging from this work.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. A study of stormwater drainage in Brukunga was carried out by a consulting engineer in 2024.

2. Staff developed a full list of all identified projects which was estimated to be worth between $1M to $2M.

3. Projects have been prioritised using a set of weighted criteria that focus on technical merit so that they can be considered for future capital works programs subject to funding.

Background:

1. Council has undertaken a variety of stormwater studies, assessments and flood mapping projects across the District over a number of years. These include:
    - Macclesfield Flood Study: 1999
    - Meadows Township Stormwater Management Report: 1992
    - Nairne (flood mapping) 1999
    - Callington Township Kanmantoo Creek Flood Mitigation Scheme Review 1993
    - Kanmantoo Floodplain Mapping Report: 2004
    - Upper Onkaparinga River Catchment Floodplain mapping report (incl Hahndorf): 2004

2. Past major floods occurred in Mount Barker in 1986 and Callington / Kanmantoo (and other areas) in 1992. The District has not had a very large rain event for a while however it is probable that major rainfall events will continue in the future.

3. Changes to population and therefore land runoff characteristics will affect the performance of Councils stormwater drainage system, as will Climate Change. There is a need to continue to review and update Stormwater plans regularly.

4. Mt Barker, Totness & Littlehampton Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) (2016) is the only SMP endorsed by the Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) and so is able to be used to obtain SMA grants for larger drainage projects with a catchment area greater than 40Ha e.g. Fletcher and Bernhardt Crescent and the adjacent Railway Creek.

5. Council's endorsed Harrogate and Brukunga Township Plans, Action #34 recommends that Council should "Undertake a review of existing stormwater management within the townships" This action has now been completed for Brukunga.

6. In 2024 Council engaged a consulting engineer to undertake a drainage study of Brukunga and the results are provided hereafter..

7. The study made the following general observations:
    - Brukunga Township Stormwater Drainage system is an old system (town built in mid 1950's to support the adjacent pyrites mine) and some drainage infrastructure is at end of life, other drainage infrastructure are performing poorly and in some parts of the town there is a need for new drainage infrastructure to better manage and control runoff.
    - The township is generally sited on a hillside that is sloping down from east to west with discharge from the township via various pipe connections into a large underground drain that runs alongside the western side of the township and parallel with Dawesley Creek
    - Most roads are not kerbed, and road flows can enter private allotments
    - Council underground drainage and overland flow paths pass through private allotments in at least 4 instances, adjacent to trapped sags within the road network
    - Inlets into underground drainage are typically either single-sized side entry pits (SEPs) or open-ended and shallow pipe inlets
    - Residential rooftop discharge typically discharges directly into the residential allotment, rather than directly to the road reserve

Discussion:

8. Following the receipt of Brukunga Township Stormwater Drainage Assessment, follow up ground truthing inspections and discussions with community members, an Action Plan was devised including a comprehensive list of 20 projects estimated in delivery value between $1M- $2M.

9. It is evident from this township review that there is an unmet level of service and for which the capacity to fund is limited. As such there is a need to firstly rank the priorities from a technical merit point of view to guide where investment should be made first.

10. A scoring mechanism for technical merit has been developed and was presented to Council Members on 7 July 2025. The criteria and weightings discussed are as follows:

    - High maintenance and flood risk (45%)
      Where maintenance is frequent and costly in order to manage the threat of flooding that could be more cost effectively eliminated by Capital intervention or, where a flood were to occur it would result in significant damage to property or injury.

    - Asset renewal/asset protection (25%)
      Where the drainage project is a renewal or upgrade where the existing asset is at the end of its useful life or, where the provision of this asset protects another useful asset from damage or enhances its serviceability.

    - Connection with other Council projects (15%)
      Where the drainage project aligns with another project such that the two projects could be combined to delivered simultaneously thereby reducing overall cost and disruption to the public.

    - Social and environmental interest (15%)
      Where the provision of a drainage project eliminates minor nuisance water e.g. shallow water pooling where water could become stagnant, or could be dealt with through a minor maintenance intervention, or where the project is purely of an environmental nature.

11. The scoring system will be used to prioritise similar stormwater related projects across the district to ensure a consistent approach is followed. As more townships benefit from drainage surface studies, projects will be scored as part of developing an overall program of minor stormwater projects.

12. The Brukunga Drainage Study, with its prioritised list of projects, will serve to inform future iterations of the Council's Stormwater Asset Management Plan and proposed capital programs.

13. Some high priority works are now forecast to be undertaken in the next four years which may require reprioritisation of the current stormwater capital works program.

14. Regardless, design work will be undertaken this financial year at the highest priority site as well as physical modifications to an existing pipe to alleviate a potential blockage risk.

15. Engagement with the community on the outcomes of the drainage study and planned works will continue to occur including a meeting with the Brukunga Community Association in the near future.

16. Council has also provided funding this financial year to undertake a similar stormwater drainage assessment for the townships of Callington and Kanmantoo.

Conclusion:

The Brukunga Township Stormwater Drainage Assessment has now been completed and identified works prioritised for inclusion in Council's future Stormwater Asset Management Plan and capital works program based on priority.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	1 June 2020	CM Reference	DOC/20/58924
Title	HARROGATE AND BRUKUNGA TOWNSHIPS PLAN		
Purpose	To advise Council Members that staff have concluded a coordinated planning exercise to create the Harrogate and Brukunga Townships Plan, which identifies and prioritises actions to assist in the recovery and resilience efforts for the community following the Cudlee Creek Bushfire and to seek endorsement of this plan.		

13.6 REPORT TITLE: STATUS OF THE MOUNT BARKER ARTERIAL ROAD NETWORK

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/99397

Key Contact Matthew Dawkins, Manager Infrastructure Planning, Infrastructure

Executive Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Purpose:

To provide further information on the Mount Barker arterial road network as a result of the resolution of Council from the July 2025 council meeting.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. The arterial road network is observed to be under pressure from growth and timely investment into upgrading is needed.

2. Council has an advocacy plan and strong relationships with Government to seek further investment.

3. Council and Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) are investing into road network modelling to better understand the performance of the network and how it will need to adapt to cater for future growth.

Background:

4. At its July 2025 meeting, Council resolved the following:

Moved Council Hewett that Council staff prepare a report to the next meeting of Council outlining:

1. The status of the Mount Barker arterial road network including consideration of traffic volumes, congestion and accidents and identify key intersections which need to be prioritised.

2. Any future plans from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) to upgrade the arterial road network including anticipated timing, and;

3. The advocacy that Council is undertaking in seeking further State and Federal Government investment into the local road network to improve performance.

4. Could Council use traffic data devices to get an accurate assessment of the traffic during these peak times or arrange through DIT for this to be done?

5. For the purpose of this report, the “arterial road network” in the context of the Mount Barker growth area comprises Wellington, Flaxley and Adelaide Roads together with the two freeway interchanges at Adelaide Rd and Bald Hills Rd. All of the above roads (other than Bald Hills) are under the care and control of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) and as such the upgrade and improvement to these important transport network assets rests with the State Government, as are the junctions that the arterial road network makes with local roads.

6. Council’s role is to understand the local road network context and engage and inform State Government to better understand the impacts of growth and guide where Government’s investment might be best applied with regard to the arterial network.

7. In response to growth, the State Government applied a Deed with developers to help fund future transport interventions. Council mirrored this with the application of a Transport Infrastructure Separate Rate (TISR). A list of future road upgrade works is included in the Deed and the release of funds towards these works is administered by the Minister with advice for the Ministerial Advisory Committee to which Council has representation.

Discussion:

Status of the Mount Barker Arterial Road network

8. The Mount Barker arterial road network has a finite capacity to convey traffic and this capacity can be impacted by a range of influences such as the occurrence of intersections along the road, crossings for pedestrians, intersections with the local road network and development activity that occurs along the road frontage.

9. The lack of a central median and lack therefore of targeted protected right turning lanes to side roads impacts the capacity for the arterial roads to convey traffic efficiently. Some opportunity exists on the Wellington and Flaxley corridors for protected right turns however Adelaide Road does not have the width to accommodate four lanes with an additional central median for right turning.

10. A further consequence of the lack of right turn lanes on Adelaide Rd is the high rate of rear end collisions due to a car standing to turn and being hit from behind. Crash data indicates Adelaide Road between the Freeway and Druids Ave is particularly vulnerable to these types of crashes which then incur heavy delays while emergency services make their way to the crash and clear traffic. Given Adelaide Road is the primary link to the SE Freeway from the Mount Barker CBD and the central and western sector growth areas, the impact of crashes on Adelaide Rd escalates rapidly and causes

significant delays, gridlock and potential loss of access to the town and other important centres such as the hospital on Wellington Road.

11. Whilst development activity frontages and side roads along a road can influence the smooth movement of traffic, it is the various major road intersections where most traffic joins the arterial roads that has greatest influence on the efficient movement of traffic along the network.

12. Congestion and delay is invariably most evident during the morning and afternoon peak periods and these peak periods often are the focus of investigation, performance assessment and upgrade design.

13. There are technical standards outlined by Austroads (the peak organisation of road agencies in Australia and New Zealand) that give guidance to the road system performance. DIT manages a state-wide network and therefore seeks for a generally consistent level of service across its network of arterial roads.

14. Key intersections along a road typically become the focus of investments for network upgrades to achieve flow capacity increases and safer systems. That is, an improved intersection will typically improve flow of traffic along and onto the arterial road and such investments effectively improve flow between those nodes.

15. It is observed currently that, at times, the arterial network is not coping with growth at peak periods. The observed congestion is expected to grow and be evident over longer periods of the day and that intervention is needed to cater for ultimate planned development.

16. Key intersection connections to the arterial road network made from local roads (Hawthorn, Druids, Dumas, Gawler, Mann, Alexandrina, Hurling, Bollen, Rainbird, Heysen Boulevard (various locations), Albert, Victoria, Sims, Paech and Bald Hills Roads) are also under the care and control of DIT.

17. By inspection, it is evident that the most frequent and heaviest congestion is typically witnessed on Adelaide Road. Of greatest note is the segment between the SE Freeway interchange and the town centre local roads (Druids, Dumas/Morphett, Gawler and Mann St) as well as the complex intersection of Adelaide, Alexandrina, Wellington and Flaxley Roads.

18. By observation it is also noted that the Flaxley/Hurling junction incurs significant congestion at peak periods.

<u>Future Plans from DIT to Upgrade the Arterial Network</u>

19. Key arterial road network investments committed to by DIT for delivery over the near-term are:

- Adelaide/Wellington/Flaxley/Alexandrina Road intersection - DIT are finalising design and construction tender assessments to award a construction contract in the near coming months for completion in the current financial year.
- Adelaide Road Freeway Interchange - bridge duplication and dual on ramp lanes will improved access to the Freeway. The design and construction tender has been awarded and works are expected to commence by the end of 2025 with completion over approximately a further 2 years.
- Wellington Rd – upgrade to the road frontage as part of the hospital upgrade.

20. It is evident that the Department has identified that the above two Adelaide Rd intersections will have the greatest potential to improve the movement of traffic to the SE Freeway via Adelaide Rd and relieve congestion.

21. DIT are also about to commence further design work on Flaxley Rd to inform future planned upgrades to key junctions to support growth.

22. Council has assigned a staff member to be a single point of contact project liaison with DIT for these projects and they will represent the Council's and community's interest in these projects.

Council Advocacy to State and Federal Government

23. The Council has endorsed an Advocacy Plan which includes improvements to the road network. The Advocacy Plan can be found on Council's' website and progress is reported top Council on a monthly basis. The Advocacy Plan is informed by priorities that have fallen out of Council's endorsed Integrated Transport Plan and associated action plans.

24. Council has developed a solid connection to the relevant State Government transport leaders including Ministers and senior staff of relevant departments. Regular DIT CEO meetings cover local transport issues including future state investment plans. These relationships are important and can yield a greater understanding of the issues and investments needed by both Local and State Government. An example of the success of these relationships is the co-funding of the rail level crossing construction on Heysen Boulevard in 2024.

25. Council has endorsed a number of grant submissions to State and Federal Government relating to road network upgrades. The following grant programs have yielded a combined circa $9 million in the last year for investment on projects led by Council namely:
    - Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program
        - Springs Road East road and bridge upgrade
    - Active Transport Fund

- Bollen Road shared use trail and crossings

26. In addition, over a number of years Council has had great success leveraging funds through the Special Locals Roads Program (SLRP) for roads such as:
    - Bald Hills Road
    - Alexandrina Road
    - Springs Road west

27. The forward project list targeting the SLRP grant program is:
    - Bollen Road (current application made and awaiting advice of success or not)
    - Hartmann Alexandrina Intersection (in design currently)
    - Hartmann Rd (in design)
    - Sims/Paech Road (in design)

28. Whilst not technically part of the arterial road network, Council staff continue to advocate for the completion of the Heysen Blvd (connector road) and have met with and written to various government departments and Members of Parliament to fast track construction to bring immediate benefit to our growing community.

<u>Accurate Assessment of Traffic</u>

29. Whilst council could implement counters on the arterial network, the responsibility to monitor and analyse the data for the arterial network rests with DIT. Council do not have knowledge of what monitoring DIT routinely perform other than periodic traffic counts and the use of Bluetooth technology that tracks (de-personalised) origin - destination movement via passing mobile phones. This data has the ability to guide motorists on destination travel times. Council staff are not aware of the extent of this technology currently in Mount Barker however would seek that the Department consider this as part of the Mount Barker and Verdun interchange upgrades.

30. To improve and better inform the performance of the network (local and arterial), Council is currently leading a network modelling project that will give coverage of the following:
    - Stage 1 This stage describes the long-term development potential of Mount Barker using a 2021 baseline informed by census data. The focus is on understanding the network demands based on different growth scenario. Early results are confirming what we as local road managers and also the community are observing on the wider network. This is invaluable data as it gives technical basis to what would otherwise be anecdotal.
    - Stage 2 Building on Stage 1 outputs, Stage 2 focuses on operational-level assessment using DIT's Tactical Adelaide Model (TAM), which allows more detailed network performance analysis.

- Stage 3 is a critical phase and involves identifying the specific infrastructure interventions and timings required to support the ultimate development scenario. This stage is to be jointly funded with State Government.

Conclusion:

Council is working collaboratively with DIT and advocating for investment as opportunities present. This relationship building has yielded successes and will continue to do so especially as the network modelling evolves and yields agreed data and outputs that guide best investments and timing. The Council initiated network modelling project is highly valuable to both Local and State Government and will be an important source of truth for the timing of transport interventions into the future.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council - nil

13.7 REPORT TITLE: ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING ACTIVITY – MONTHLY UPDATE

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/99661

Key Contact Maddie Walker, Manager Community Planning and Wellbeing

Executive Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Purpose:

To provide a monthly update on Council's advocacy for infrastructure, services and policy change to meet the needs of the region's growing community.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. Council received a full advocacy update at its July 2025 meeting. This report provides the monthly follow up.

2. In the lead up to the March 2026 State Election, Council is intensifying its advocacy to secure tangible community benefits.

3. Current key focus areas include:
   a. Securing $48 million in co-funding from the State / Federal Government for the Laratinga Water Recovery Plant upgrade.
   b. Negotiating a strategic land opportunity to facilitate a multi-agency government investment - including a new school, social housing, and a park 'n' ride facility.
   c. Transport – Bollen Road, Special Local Roads Program (SLRP)

Background:

4. In early 2025, Council adopted its Advocacy Plan, identifying five strategic priorities:
   a. Wastewater infrastructure co-funding
   b. Public transport improvements
   c. Road network improvements
   d. Recreation and community investment
   e. Education and health investment
   f. Policy changes to support sustainable development

5. The last formal advocacy update was provided to Council in July 2025, detailing progress across all priority areas.

Discussion:

6. In the lead up to the 2026 State Election, Council administration will be undertaking a sustained and targeted advocacy approach. Monthly updates will be provided to Council Members to ensure visibility and alignment. This report is the second report in that series.

7. Since the July 2025 Council meeting, the following advocacy actions have occurred or are currently in progress:

Priority number	Priority description	Actions undertaken / in progress
1	Laratinga Water Recovery Plant Upgrade and Trunk Infrastructure (seeking $48m)	• Meeting held with Minister Nick Champion MP (24 June) • Letter sent to the Treasurer seeking a meeting to discuss State co-funding or an interest free loan • Submission lodged with Sequana in regard to the government review of ESCOSA • Briefing notes / prospectus prepared for further ministerial engagement.
2	Improved public transport services	• Meeting held between DIT and Council executives • Keoride extension has been included in the State Budget which is extremely positive and expansion of this service to other townships is still sought after. • Advocacy for additional Park and Ride facilities remains a priority and Council is discussing potential locations with DIT.
3	Investment in road upgrades and connectivity	• Continued advocacy to the State Government for the fast tracked completion for the remaining sections of Heysen Boulevard. • DIT have agreed to contribute funding and in-kind support toward road network modelling to inform the timing of future road upgrades • DIT will also commence design work on Flaxley Rd to inform future upgrades planned under the Deed with developers. • Continuing media interest in roads and traffic in the district. Courier editorials

Priority number	Priority description	Actions undertaken / in progress
		(9 July and 16 July) supporting Council's advocacy efforts.
4	Funding for recreational and community facilities	• Meeting held with Kylie Taylor, CEO of the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, to progress facility upgrades and update on Open Space Strategy. • Prospectus under development to support investment attraction for high-priority projects • Meeting with Athletics SA held to progress planning and funding of a dedicated athletics facility.
5	Securing educational and health services investment	• Ongoing engagement with the Department for Education on site planning for a new public primary school. • Engagement with the tertiary education sector and TAFE SA around future use of the City Centre Catalyst Site.

Next steps:

8. Continue targeted engagement with key Ministers, agency CEOs, and departmental staff.

9. Prepare Council's formal election advocacy materials ahead of the 2026 campaign period.

Conclusion:

Council continues to make strong progress across all advocacy priorities. Key focus areas this month includes co-investment in the Laratinga Water Recovery Plant and advancing a major land opportunity for a multi-agency project. A further update will be provided at the September Council meeting.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	7 July 2025	CM Reference	DOC/25/86795
Title	Advocacy Update		
Purpose	To update Council Members on the Advocacy Plan implementation.		

13.8 REPORT TITLE: COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE AT ST FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL - COMMUNITY USE

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/101145

Key Contact Laura Morgan – Manager Property

Manager/Sponsor Laura Morgan – Manager Property

Executive Alex Oulianoff – General Manager, Corporate Services

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present to Council information that details community use and overall performance of the Community Sports Centre (CSC) located at the St Francis de Sales College.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. Community use of the CSC, has increased over the past few years, which can be attributed to the growth of our district and enrolments at the college.
2. Community use remains on average to be approximately 60% of overall bookings.
3. St Francis de Sales College have reported to Council that community use of the CSC is at capacity for peak and shoulder periods.

Background:

1. On 21 March 2016 Council resolved to enter into a partnering and funding agreement with the St Francis de Sales College (College), which documents Councils capital commitment to develop a new four (4) court indoor gymnasium, suitable for community and elite level basketball and other indoor sports.
2. On 7 August 2017 Council resolved to contribute annually to the asset renewal of the indoor sports facility, with financial contributions to be paid to the College commencing in year 6 and concluding when the new joint use agreement concludes.
3. Construction of the St Francis de Sales Community Sports Centre (CSC) commenced in February 2018 and was completed in November 2018.
4. The official opening of the CSC occurred on 16 November 2018. Shortly thereafter, the Mavericks Basketball Club and Eastern Hills Basketball Association relocated from the Adelaide Hills Recreation Centre (AHRC) and took tenancies in December 2018.

5. Following the completion of the CSC, a new Community Use Agreement (CUA) was executed by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer dated 14 June 2019. Key elements of the CUA include:-

    a. establishment of a Management Committee with two School representatives and one Council representative (Alex Oulianoff - General Manager Corporate Services, and proxy Laura Morgan – Manager Property).

    b. defines hours of use for the School and the Community (for the Sports Centre) and reporting of the same.

    c. Council's asset renewal and resealing contributions based on the Community's pro-rata share of the Sports Centre payable from the 5th anniversary from commencement.

    d. The parties acknowledge the development of lighting facilities for the playing fields by the School but places no obligation on timing.

    e. The initial term is for 25 years.

Discussion:

6. The CUA defines School Use and Community Use of the CSC.

7. Community Use is defined as the combined total hours of both "General Community Use" and "Community Club Use", and requires that at least 2 courts be available to Community Club Users during school hours (8.30 am to 3.30 pm) in the first 7 years.

8. School representatives have reported community use in school hours during the school holidays has been a popular choice with hirers. With operational challenges for community use in school hours during the school term. This demand however is met by capacity at the Adelaide Hills Recreation Centre at the moment.

Community Use – Highlights and Initiatives (March-June 2025)

9. A large portion of Community Use detailed in both Table 1 and Table 2 can be attributed to the following regular hirers of the courts:

    a. Eastern Hills Basketball Association,

    b. Eastern Mavericks District Basketball Club,

    c. SA Country Basketball,

    d. Basketball SA, and

    e. Walking Football.

    f. Pickleball weekly bookings.

10. Other Community Uses at the CSC include:

    a. Eastern Mavericks – two day basketball camp during the April 2025 school holidays and another successful 3x3 event. They also hosted NBL1 games, which draws strong community attendance — reaching up

to 800 spectators per game. These events actively engage local schools and clubs through special invitations and community features.

b. Netball SA - held a Premier League game at the Centre in May 2025. Following its success, they have expressed interest in hosting additional games here throughout 2026 while their new stadium is under construction.

c. Hosted a Mid Hills Twilight Netball game in May 2025, with another already booked for early July 2025.

d. Sport SA basketball trials were hosted in March 2025.

e. The CSC hosted Sport SA's Division 1 Year 7/8 Round 1 & 2 Knockout Basketball competition in May 2025.

f. Rockit Performing Arts mid-year performance.

11. It is evident that both day time school usage and broader community usage has increase over the past few years, which can be attributed to the growth of the district and enrolments at the school. However, with this growth, the split of community use remains on average to be approximately 60% of overall bookings.

12. The following table (Table 1) summarises Community Use on a calendar year basis for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and the first 6 months of 2025, and Table 2 summarises Community Use from March 2025 till June 2025.

13. You will see that there is a drop of Community use in April 2025, due to public holidays in the Term school holidays, reducing the number of available hours.

Table 1 – Community Use calendar year comparison

	2019	2020 #	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (YTD)
School Use (hours)	2,393	1,455	2,522	2,918	3,235	3796.3	1546
Community Use (hours)	3,912	2,126	3,875	4,402	4,333	4710.75	2587
TOTAL (hours)	6,305	3,581	6,397	7,320	7,568	8507.05	4133
% Community Use	62%	59%	61%	60%	58%	55%	63%

hours impacted by Covid-19 related closures.

Table 2 – Community Use March – June 2025 monthly comparison

	Mar 25			Apr 25			May 25			June 25		
	Used (hrs)	Avail (hrs)	%	Used (hrs)	Avail (hrs)	%	Used (hrs)	Avail (hrs)	%	Used (hrs)	Avail (hrs)	%
School Use (9am-3pm)	288	228	126%	204	132	155%	294	252	117%	300	216	139%
Community Use (9am - 3pm)	52	228	23%	40	216	19%	53	252	21%	57	216	26%
Community use (3pm - 10pm)	334	560	60%	123	504	25%	339	588	58%	295	504	59%
Community use (weekends 8am - 8pm)	197	480	41%	131	288	46%	163	336	49%	173	336	51%

Facility Capacity Constraints and Impact on Growth

14. While the CSC continues to experience strong demand, the demand for certain timeslots is now in excess of capacity and limiting the growth of certain sports, in particular:

    a. Volleyball SA – request to run a competition on Saturday nights or weeknights. However, with courts at full capacity most evenings (excluding school holidays), the College have been unable to accommodate this request.

    b. Eastern Hills Basketball Association - currently runs games until 11:00 PM on weeknights due to a lack of earlier court availability. They also cannot expand grassroots sessions or high-performance training due to court shortages. Regular bookings often have to be bumped to accommodate try outs or presentations.

    c. A second Pickleball association has requested to host a Wednesday competition. Discussions are ongoing, but court access remains a challenge.

    d. Basketball SA - expressed interest in adding Thursday night games, but we are unable to schedule them due to lack of court space.

    e. Eastern Mavericks Basketball Club - is unable to grow its membership or training programs as they cannot access additional court time on Wednesdays or Sundays.

15. These limitations are significantly impacting the ability of Eastern Hills, Eastern Mavericks, and SA Country Basketball to develop their players and coaches at an optimal rate.

16. Additionally, the Centre's current capacity constraints are hindering efforts to expand participation in other sports, including volleyball, soccer, pickleball, and basketball.
17. The demand for indoor court space has outgrown the current infrastructure, and unless expansion or alternative scheduling solutions are implemented, community growth and sporting development will continue to be restricted at this site.

Proactive Planning for 2025/2026

18. Bookings have already been secured for the balance of 2025 and into 2026, including Basketball SA and SA Country Basketball seasons, Eastern Hills Basketball Association programs, and Eastern Mavericks activities.

Conclusion:

The College are meeting the conditions of the CUA by achieving a high level of Community Use programming at the CSC which has now put them in a position where community use programming is at capacity. As a result they are finding it difficult to accommodate all court bookings they receive for the CSC.

In accordance with CUA, Council will continue to allocate an annual budget and contribute to maintenance of the CSC.

Meeting Date	1 July 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/71433
Title	Community Sports Centre at St Francis De Sales School – Community Use		
Purpose	To seek Council's support to appoint Alex Oulianoff – General Manager, Corporate Services as the Member, and Laura Morgan – Manager Property as the Proxy Member to the St Francis de Sales School Community Sports Centre Management Committee, and to report to Council community use and overall performance of the Community Sports Centre (CSC).		

Meeting Date	4 September 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/79385
Title	Community Sports Centre at St Francis De Sales School – Community Use		
Purpose	To provide an annual report on the performance of the St Francis De Sales School Community Sports Centre and the Community Use Agreement with Council.		

Meeting Date	1 August 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/75103
Title	Community Sports Centre at St Francis De Sales School – Community Use and Council Appointment to the Management Committee		
Purpose	To provide an annual report on the performance of the St Francis De Sales School Community Sports Centre and the Community Use Agreement with Council and to appoint a replacement Member and Proxy member to the Management Committee for the Community Sports Centre at St Francis de Sales School.		

Meeting Date	6 September 2021	HPRM Reference	DOC/21/140953
Title	ST FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE – COMMUNITY USE AGREEMENT		
Purpose	To provide an annual report on the performance St Francis De Sales School Community Sports Centre and the Community Use Agreement with Council.		

Meeting Date	7 August 2017	HPRM Reference	DOC/17/67426
Title	Indoor Sports Facility for Shared Use		
Purpose	To seek authority for two matters regarding the proposed indoor sports facility at St Francis de Sales School ('the School') that are additional/further to the March 2016 Council meeting resolutions.		

Meeting Date	3 April 2017	HPRM Reference	DOC/17/24501
Title	Shared use facility partnership with St Francis de Sales School - update		
Purpose	To provide an update on the progress of the shared use facility partnership with St Francis de Sales School for a multi-use building.		

Meeting Date	19 December 2016	HPRM Reference	DOC/16/124394
Title	Shared use facility partnership with St Francis de Sales School - update		
Purpose	To provide an update on the progress of the shared use facility partnership with St Francis de Sales School for a multi-use building.		

Meeting Date	15 August 2016	HPRM Reference	DOC/16/82191
Title	Shared use facility partnership with St Francis de Sales School - update		
Purpose	To provide an update on the progress of the shared use facility partnership with St Francis de Sales School.		

Meeting Date	21 March 2016	HPRM Reference	DOC/15/109792
Title	Joint Use Community Facility Partnering Opportunity Proposal		
Purpose	To present the partnering opportunity provided by St Francis de Sales School for joint use of infrastructure for decision by Council.		

14. QUARTERLY REPORTS

RECOMMENDATION

That the following reports be noted enbloc.

14.1 REPORT TITLE: MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS QUARTERLY REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: **4 AUGUST 2025**

FILE NUMBER: **DOC/25/98108**

Key Contact Jamie Thornton, Manager Maintenance and Operations

Manager/Sponsor Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Executive Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Purpose:
To provide Council with a quarterly report for works conducted within the district by the Infrastructure Department Maintenance and Operations Unit for the quarter April to June 2025.

Summary – Key Issues:
1. Maintenance and Operations perform programmed and reactive tasks within service areas of Civil, Public Places, Environment and Natural Assets and Technical Services throughout our district.

2. Notable environmental achievements include planning and preparation of revegetation and tree planting programs, development of maintenance checklists for wetland maintenance, mulching programs to promote soil biome and tree health.

3. In liaison with the projects, property and assets team, Maintenance and Operations have been involved to quantify, program and procure council managed maintenance requirements in preparedness for the Summit Aquatic and Leisure Centre's (SALC) practical completion and grand opening in August.

Background:
1. Maintenance and Operations have an overall approved expenditure budget of approximately $14 million for FY 24/25 with 63 staff and numerous contractors to support delivery.

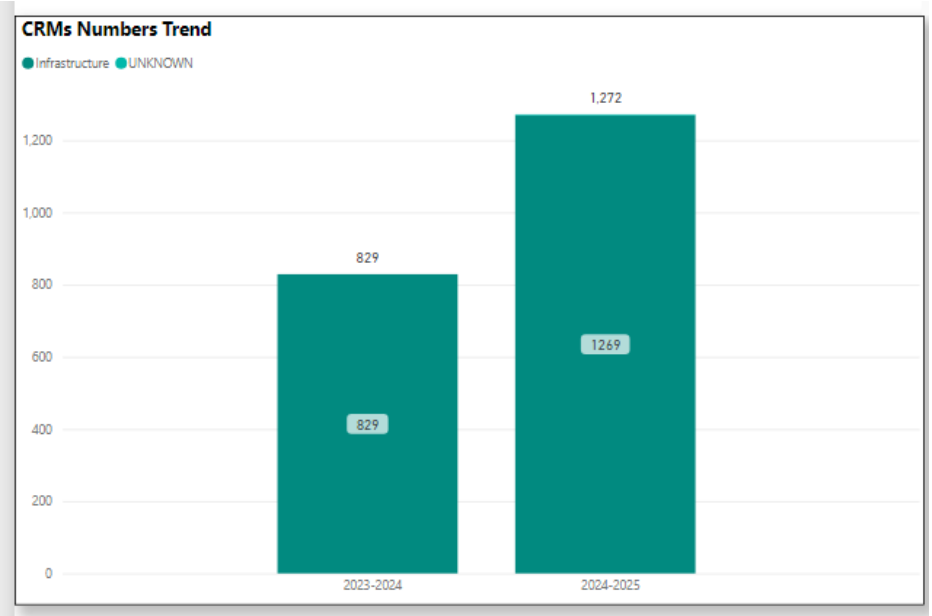
2. Quarterly reporting is designed to provide an overview of works undertaken, underway or planned to Council Members and the general public.

3. The report also summarises reactive work usually received through customer requests. These requests for maintenance can be raised by internal or external customers by contacting Council Customer Service unit in accordance with the request for service policy.

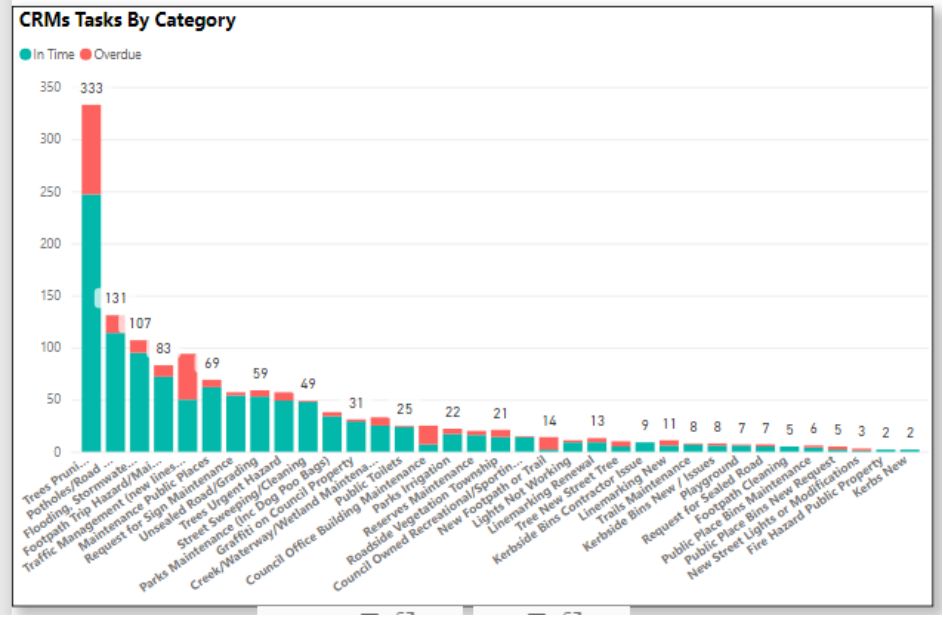
Discussion:

4. Customer Requests

- The number of Customer Requests (CRMs) received over the April, May, June period have increased over the same period in 2023/24 by over 50%.



- While all areas of Infrastructure received CRM's they predominantly fall into trees, roads and stormwater.



5. Public Places
    - Over 650 routine playground and fitness equipment inspections were completed (weekly 564 and monthly 94) during the quarter to identify maintenance requirements to ensure the 47 playgrounds assets continue to be compliant for public use.
    - Pine bark soft fall top up prior to the wet weather has been actioned in order to reduce later need and potential access issues during winter.
    - Renewal of new rubber soft fall on the Barker Road playground was completed, being required due to the existing surface being beyond reasonable maintenance repair.
    - Irrigation repairs remained a focus with the early continuing dry weather drawing attention to deficiencies of older systems within growth areas.
    - Post the long hot dry summer, removal of dead plants and mulching of garden beds continued through the quarter. Areas included main reserves in Meadows, Nairne and Mount Barker, refurbishing established reserves and where revegetation projects have previously taken place in order to promote good plant health and moisture retention.
    - An equivalent of five days was allocated to debris removal in parks and reserves due to weather events.
    - The addition of the rear discharge Electric Zero turn mower into the fleet has been received. This allows council to maintain grassed verges of main road thoroughfares and smaller high profile parks with more efficiency and effectiveness. Noted positives include reduced noise, elimination of the need to refuel and manoeuvrability.
    - The battery small plant continues to be well received, reducing noise and air pollution, increasing operator comfort amongst other positives including reduced two stroke fuel usage and associated hazards such as fuel splash and spills which improves safety and potential negative environmental impacts.
    - Teams successfully attended sites of public importance in preparation for Easter and Anzac Day events and provided support for many other events hosted at various council sites including the pop up park, Meadows sites, Keith Stephenson Park, Byethorne Park, Hahndorf and Davenport Square.
    - Cemetery review actions completed include setting the fees and charges for 2025/26 per the review recommendations, upgrade to the northern swale of the Dunn Crypt at Mount Barker cemetery and repairs to the Meadows Cemetery fencing.
    - During the quarter there were 10 burials, 9 ashes internments and 2 memorial installations across the districts cemetery sites.

6. Environment and Natural Assets
    - Forestree data for the quarter
        - 2193 tree inspections undertaken
        - 1715 total works completed
        - 994 trees pruned

  - 73 jobs to remove hangers or fallen branches
  - 114 trees removed
  - 47 stumps removed
- Successfully completed a restoration project at Parkview Drive, Mount Barker, incorporating soft exclusion zones with mulch and understory plantings around several mature and veteran gumtrees.
- 700m^3 of contractor and recycled transfer station mulch was spread around mature and new trees through the district to promote good tree health.
- Feral Olive woody weed removal conducted along Stamps Road, Bugle Ranges.
- Planting and guarding of approximately 2200 tube stock across various locations within the district.
- Installation of 45 biodiversity rings, a multipurpose planting arrangement that offers protection from fauna and doesn't require individual tree guards.
- Staff on-ground training sessions conducted with Water Sensitive SA in maintenance assessment of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) assets such as bio filters, constructed wetlands and detention basins incorporating environmental and stormwater function.
- Collaboration with Water Sensitive SA to create assessment checklists to manage maintenance requirements and WSUD asset data capture.
- Council staff supported 28 volunteer events during the quarter including Laratinga Wetland Warriors, Bluestone, Friends of Yantaringa and Friends of Mount Barker Summit, Nairne Landcare Group, Hills Biodiversity and Community Living Australia/Hills Community Options volunteer groups
- Facilitation of an Environmental Volunteer training day at the Laratinga Pavilion with focus to WHS and environmental information/strategies.
- Rabbit management continued with:
  - warren fumigation/ripping;
  - and reduction/thinning of understory harbour;
  - continued coordination with Landscapes SA
  - investigation into additional actions for an integrated management approach
- Four Laratinga Wetland tours were conducted for community, Schools and University groups.
- Distributed 200 subsidised native plant packs to community (total of 4000 native firewise plants.)
- Commencement of early planning for Birdfair November 2025.
- Finalised planning for 2025 revegetation season.
- Preparation of twelve environmentally focused social media posts.

7. <u>Civil</u>
   - Patrol Grading – 198kms Graded
   - Asphalt Repairs – 232m2 completed using 38 tonne of asphalt
   - Road Shoulder Works - 6.1km completed at Shady Grove Road, Paris Creek; Penna Road, Macclesfield and Arunga Road, Prospect Hill

- Completion of seasonal contract road sweeping assistance for autumn leaf drop through district hot spots.
- District Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) cleaning program– Round 2 Completed.
- Drainage Maintenance completed at - Blights Reserve, Wistow; Glen Brae, Wistow; Daniels Road, Wistow; Jones Road, Harrogate; Wirilida Road, Harrogate; Cosgrove Road, Macclesfield; Venables Street, Macclesfield; Nicole Road, Meadows; Adelaide Road/Buttunga Road, Echunga; Hillifields Road, Echunga; Mainstreet Strip Drains, Nairne and responsive works within the district due to seasonal rainfall events.
- Footpath Maintenance completed **-** Market Place, Nairne; Hahndorf Main Street, Hahndorf; Macclesfield Main Street, Macclesfield; Gawler Street, Mount Barker; East Parkway, Mount Barker; Edson Terrace, Littlehampton; Gum Tree Drive, Littlehampton.

8. Technical Services
   - Rapid response teams attended to 281 responsive jobs over the last quarter including most notable tasks- 72 dumped rubbish removals, 23 larger graffiti cleaning events, 43 sign related tasks.
   - Public toilet sewer pump repairs conducted at Nairne Recreation Grounds.
   - New benches installed at the Echunga RSL park.
   - Spot paving repairs conducted at multiple locations within Mount Barker CBD.
   - Renewal of power supply to the Keith Stephenson Park public toilets.
   - Repairs to roof at the Echunga Memorial Institute external toilets.
   - Successful planning and implementation of changes to the Kerbside Waste collection service to streamline collection days to accommodate current and future growth.
   - Staff have worked extensively on the SALC maintenance and handover tasks in preparation for practical completion during the quarter.

Conclusion:

This report outlines some of the key planned and reactive works undertaken by the Maintenance and Operations team within the Infrastructure Department of Council.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	Monday 4th August 2025	CM Reference	DOC/25/98108
Title	MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS QUARTERLY REPORT		
Purpose	To provide Council with a quarterly report for works conducted within the district by the Infrastructure Department Maintenance and Operations Unit for the quarter April to June 2025.		

Meeting Date	3 February 2025	CM Reference	DOC/25/9987
Title	Maintenance and Operations Quarterly Report		
Purpose	To provide Council with a quarterly report for works conducted within the district by the Infrastructure Department Maintenance and Operations Unit for the quarter October to December 2025.		

14.2 REPORT TITLE: ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25 PERFORMANCE MEASURES – 4TH QUARTER REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/101443

ATTACHMENTS: 1: DOC/25/97072 - ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2024 - 2025 REPORTING 4TH QUARTER

Key Contact Ian Hildebrand, Manager Communications and Engagement

Executive Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Purpose:
To provide a report on the 4th quarter (1 April – 30 June 2025) performance measures of the Annual Business Plan 2024/25.

Summary – Key Issues:
Performance measures were identified in the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan - this is the report for the 4th quarter.

Background:
1. The Annual Business Plan for 2024/25 was adopted on 8 July 2024 and this is the report on the performance measures for the 4th quarter.

2. The attachment provides a list of what progress has been achieved for the performances measures during the 4th quarter (1 April – 30 June 2025).

3. Reporting on the annual progress of performance measures from the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan will appear in the 2024/25 Annual Report due for release in November 2025.

Conclusion:
Progress on the achievements of the identified annual business plan measures are provided in the attachment.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	5 May 2025	HPRM Reference	DOC/25/57477
Title	Annual Business Plan 2024/25 performance Measures – 3rd Quarter report		
Purpose	To provide a report on the 3rd quarter (1 January – 31 March 2025) performance measures of the Annual Business Plan 2024/25.		

Meeting Date	3 February 2025	HPRM Reference	DOC/25/11013
Title	Annual Business Plan 2024/25 performance Measures – 1st and 2nd Quarters report		
Purpose	To provide a report on the 1st quarter (1 July – 30 September 2024) and 2nd quarter (1 October – 31 December 2024) performance measures of the Annual Business Plan 2024/25.		

Meeting Date	5 August 2024	HPRM Reference	DOC/24/103452
Title	4th Quarter Report on Annual Business Plan 2023/24 Performance Measures		
Purpose	To provide a report on the 4th quarter (1 April – 30 June 2024) performance measures of the Annual Business Plan 2023/24.		

Meeting Date	6 May 2024	HPRM Reference	DOC/24/49940
Title	3rd Quarter Report on Annual Business Plan 2023/24 Performance Measures		
Purpose	To provide a report on the 3rd quarter (1 January – 31 March 2024) performance measures of the Annual Business Plan 2023/24.		

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25 REPORTING – 4th QUARTER

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Key Performance Measures	4th Quarter Update
Volunteer Engagement	**Ongoing.** Refining content based on purpose and from comparison research of other VIO's and Councils ready for roll out end 1st Quarter 2025/26. Will be first whole of Council volunteer survey done for some time. Volunteer testimonial and promotional video's produced highlighting four Council volunteer programs and four individual volunteers' stories. Accessible on Council website – Volunteering page and will be shown via Council social media over coming months.
100% of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) devices, cabinets and signage are installed and operational in Council owned buildings and recreation grounds by 31 December 2024	**Achieved.** AED's installed within all legislatively required Council owned buildings and recreation grounds.
Renewal programs planned within budget and agreed scope and agreed quality by June 2025	**Achieved.** Renewal programs planning has been completed for 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and adopted for delivery.
Paech and Bollen roads concept designs, staging and cost plans completed by January 2025 in time for 2025/26 ABP planning	**Achieved.** Bollen Road detailed design complete. Bollen Road Upgrade has been lodged for Special Local Roads Program funding. **Partially achieved.** Detailed design contract for Paech Road awarded and design has started.

Integrated Transport Plan completed and adopted with comprehensive implementation plan by January 2025. 2024/25 actions completed by June 2025	**Achieved.** Integrated Transport Plan Completed and adopted October 2024. **Achieved.** Carparking occupancy and turnover survey completed. Staff undertaking analysis of data in 2025/25
Consultation, detailed design and cost plans for the Hartmann/Alexandrina/ Bald Hills roads intersection completed ready for Special Local Road Program application by March 2025	**Partially achieved.** Hartmann Intersection detailed design contract awarded and design has started. Not ready for Special Local Roads Program application. Consideration will be given to a 2026 application.
2024/25 new footpaths (design and construction) completed by June 2025	**Partially achieved.** Junction Road Littlehampton and North Road Nairne largely complete. Junction Street Nairne is complete. Bartley Street Stage 2 Nairne commencing end of July 2025.
100% completion of 2024/25 resheeting, patrol grading, sealed roads, sump cleaning, gross pollutant trap cleaning and stormwater programs within allocated budget	**Achieved.** All programs completed as planned.
Increase Library visitation, loans, program/event attendance by 15% by June 2025	**Partially achieved.** • The overall annual visitations up by 8.6% from 158901 in 23/24 to 173246 in 24/25. • The annual circulation of materials has increased by 5.5% up from 335657 in 23/24 to 354712 in 24/25. • The digital loan annual increase of 31.4% usage is consistent with previous years • The annual increase was almost 29% from FY23/24 to 24/25 with an additional 6905 community members attending library programs and events.

95% of Library collection items renewed or removed once they reach 40 loans or are older than 10 years	**Achieved.** The library has been focused on reducing materials that are older than 10 years. The library is within the threshold for age of collection with only 3% of materials older than 2015.
Fire to Flourish program actions completed and grant acquitted by March 2025	**Achieved.** Commonwealth Government – Round 1 – Preparing Australian Communities – Local Stream Final report and acquittal submitted 21 March 2025 and accepted as final.
2024/25 actions in the Child and Youth Action Plan delivered by June 2025	**Achieved.** Youth Places Feasibility Study report on track with report and draft recommendations to be presented at the October 2024 Council Meeting. Support for school-led Youth First Nations Cultural Immersion Days scheduled for Term 3 and 4. Delivery of monthly 'Wednesday's Hit Different' monthly youth event in collaboration with Mount Barker High School
Nairne Main Street upgrade completed within budget by June 2025	**Partially achieved.** Some delays experienced due to wet weather. Construction works are approximately 90% complete, forecast completion August 2025.

ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Key Performance Measures	**4th Quarter Update**
Plant and maintain 150 new street trees	**Achieved.** Over 150 planting locations assessed and approved, stock ordered and planting to commence in optimal planting season commencing July 2025.
Sites requiring rabbit warren fumigation identified and targeted fumigation completed by June 2025	**Achieved.** Warren fumigation/ripping; and reduction/thinning of understory harbour; continued coordination with Landscapes SA and investigation into additional actions for an integrated management approach.

Complete Laratinga Management Plan to transition the wetlands from a wastewater facility to a community asset	**Partially achieved**. Early stages of planning and research. Draft to be completed by December 2025/January 2026.
Develop Biodiversity Action Plans from Lead Environmental Strategy	**Not achieved**. Action Plan will be completed after the Environment and Sustainability strategy is completed which is yet to be endorsed.
Environment and Sustainability strategy completed with community engagement and endorsed by Council by June 2025	**Partially achieved.** Consultation on the draft strategy undertaken.
Complete native vegetation roadside management plan	**Partially achieved.** Feedback from NVC incorporated into draft document, which is going to the July Native Vegetation Assessment Panel.
A minimum of 12 events and activities delivered in the environmental education program including a minimum of two biodiversity education events, Environmental Volunteer Recognition event, 4 social media posts per month, Clean up Australia Day, school and community tours of environmental and biodiversity places of interest	**Achieved** *Conducted 4 Laratinga Wetland tours for community and educational facilities *Plant distribution day- 200 subsidised native plant packs to community (total of 4000 native firewise plants) *Commencement of early planning for Birdfair 2025 *Finalised planning for 2025 revegetation season (multiple events) *Preparation of 12 environmentally focused social media posts. *Council staff supported 28 volunteer events including Laratinga Wetland Warriors, Bluestone, Friends of Yantaringa and Friends of Mount Barker Summit, Nairne Landcare Group, Hills Biodiversity and Community Living Australia/Hills Community Options volunteer groups plus a development and training day
Planting of a minimum of 10,000 plants in the revegetation program by June 2025	**Partially achieved**. Community revegetation events planned throughout July 2025.

Through the use of Forestree software reduce overdue tree inspections by 50% by June 2025	**Partially achieved.** 2193 tree inspections undertaken were completed in the fourth quarter. High and moderate risk inspections were prioritised for completion, those that were not completed stay in Forestree for future planning of works.
Through the use of Forestree software reduce open tree maintenance CRMs from June 23/24 year end levels by 50%	**Achieved.** 1715 total works completed in the fourth quarter. 404 CRMs were received from April to the end of June. 287 CRMs were completed and 117 were left open to be completed.
Transition kerbside and public place bin collections to new Kerbside Waste Management contract by June 2025	**Achieved.** Complete with full transition completed and new trucks delivered.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Key Performance Measures	**4th Quarter Update**
Implement alternative and improved Visitor Servicing Model by June 2025	**Achieved.** 1. **Installation of three visitor servicing signs** featuring a map and QR code in the Hahndorf precinct at the following locations: • Carl Nitschke Car Park • Alec Johnston Park • Beerenberg **2.** Digital guidebook covering the townships of Macclesfield, Echunga, Meadows, Prospect Hill, Flaxley, and Paris Creek has been created with 90% of businesses and attractions added. Target launch date of August 2025.

Run a meet the buyer event that links local business to procurement processes by March 2025	**Not achieved.** The procurement team and economic development have progressed plans to hold a Mount Barker Meet the Buyer Event later in this calendar year. Council's procurement entry points and info continue to be promoted at local business precinct group meetings and in one-to-one business meetings.
Deliver a Skills Expo to support business development in the district by June 2025	**Achieved** April 9 2025.
Endorsement of Summit Development Agreement with Precinct Partner by December 2024	**Achieved.**
Deliver 2024/25 actions in the Arts Plan by June 2025	**Achieved.** Identified 2025 Arts Plan actions on track. Creative Horizons Arts Plan Midpoint Progress Report presented at June 2 Council Meeting.
Connect with over 80% of businesses in the creative sector to establish opportunities for further local employment and investment growth by June 2025	**Achieved.** A large focus on the creative sector has occurred with the Self- Employment expo - completed in April 2025 and also the First Nations Creative Business event – completed in June 2025. These two events combined attracted approximately 80 creative businesses from our area.
Establish Nairne Main Street/Tourism & Business Association by June 2025	**Achieved.** Event held at Tin Shed Distillery on May 28, with 45 business owners and managers from Nairne and the Hay Valley in attendance. The session aimed to strengthen connections between the Council and local businesses, while providing networking opportunities. The Economy team presented on available support services and shared local demographic and spend data, reinforcing the value of small business, local support and tourism. Post-event survey results indicated strong interest in future events, with business support information as the most valuable topic. Attendees expressed interest for regular informal

	catch-ups and a Facebook group to share updates and form collaborations. Council staff will assist those interested in forming a working group to explore next steps.
Deliver Invest Mount Barker advocacy campaign by June 2025	**Partially achieved**. New invest website has been completed along with search engine optimisation of the site. Investment attraction prospectus is in final draft stage. Further promotion and advocacy to occur over August/ September 2025.
Secure and support a major Music Festival at the Summit Sport and Recreation Park by June 2025	**Achieved.** Council delivered the 'Summit Showdown' at the Summit Sport and Recreation Park on Friday 21 February, a match simulation between the Adelaide Football Club and Port Adelaide Football Club. The event attracted a crowd of 6,100 attendees, reached a national audience, and generated media exposure valued at nearly $5 million. Council also established a successful local business sponsorship program which provided opportunities for brand exposure and industry collaboration.
Advocate for state infrastructure and services to be delivered commensurate with growth	**Achieved.** Advocacy for wastewater infrastructure, road infrastructure and permanent Keoride service. Advocacy update reported to Council monthly.

LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Key Performance Measures	**4th Quarter Update**
At least 10 communications per month on planned works in the public realm	**Achieved.** Social media April = 10 Social media May = 7 Social media June = 14 Website April = 3 Website May = 3 Website June = 0

100% of Council Member training program delivered by June 2025	**Achieved.** 10 Information and Briefing Sessions 2 Strategy Sessions 1 Training Session
100% of organisational development training program delivered by June 2025	**Partially achieved.** All planned training has been delivered, with the exception of courses relying on factors beyond T&D control, such as the completion of the Project Management framework (i.e training in such cannot be delivered until the framework is finalised)
100% of first year of three year Employee Diversity & Inclusion Plan delivered by June 2025	**Achieved.** • Plan Launch completed • Common law Contract TEC reviews based on market value in 2024; • Traineeship program reviewed and diversity employment statements are now included in all adverts; • Healthy Ageing program has been updated; • Feasibility of Breastfeeding accreditation requirements has been completed and is being considered as part of the Accommodation project; • Feasibility of white ribbon accreditation requirements has been completed and recommendation to not undertake due to cost • Respect@Work Training & refresher Delivered (93% attendance); • Staff Inclusion and Access Training Delivered (89% attendance) • Civic center reviewed for DDA compliance and modification being planned as part of accommodation project
100% WHS competency framework Training delivered	**Achieved.** All planned training for the period has been delivered
100% of WHS procedures revised to the LG Safe Model	**Partially achieved. 8 of 18** Transition of Polices to the new model has commenced.

100% of first year of three year WHS document review completed by June 2025	**Achieved.** 175 additional documents have been developed and sent to Council for review
80% of Council projects provide an engagement plan that is communicated to the public through council reports and on the council website	**Achieved.** Council projects requiring engagement have had an engagement plan, council report, Your Say page and communicated on Council's website: • Environment and Sustainability Strategy completed) • Amendment to Parks Community Land Management Plan completed) • Draft Community Funding and In-kind Support Policy (completed) • Annual Business Plans – consolidated and GMB Water (completed) • Long Term Financial Plans – consolidated and GMB Water (completed) • Strategic Asset Management Plans – consolidated and GMB Water (completed) • Asset Management Plans (completed) • Mount Barker Centre Masterplan (in progress)
Commencement and completion of 80% of Council projects are promoted and communicated through internal and external media	**Achieved.** Council projects commenced and completed to date in the fourth quarter have been published on social media, Council's website and with on-site signage.
Complete the review of Council's By-laws, seek Council endorsement and approval by September 2024	**Achieved** – Aiming to undertake the additional community consultation that relates to By-law 7 (Animal Management) in the 1st quarter of 2025-26.

WORKING SMARTER

Key Performance Measures	**4th Quarter Update**
Implement technology to improve customer experience and service delivery by June 2025	**Partially achieved.** **Network Modernisation (Major Desktop / Network Infrastructure Changes)** –. Foundational projects to enable the delivery of customer service improvements are currently underway. Delays have been experienced by an underperforming third party

	contractor and was beyond councils control. Civic Centre upgrade is scheduled for July 2025 with remaining sites in the months proceeding. All network equipment has been delivered. **Unified Communications (Microsoft Teams Calling / Modern Contact Centre)** - A Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the supply and installation of a unified communications solution and a modern contact centre is in its final stages with a contractor expected to be appointed in July 2025. **Geographical Information System (GIS) -**The Geographical Information System (GIS) upgrade is well underway to provide a modern mapping tool. FME (a tool to connect live data to ESRI) has been purchased and configured with other underlying server infrastructure in the final stages of development. The organisation has been surveyed which will determine the priority planning for migrating SSA (current Mapping system) to ESRI this calendar year.
All infrastructure projects will be planned, designed and delivered with due consideration to required project management resources, funding, risk management and community engagement	**Achieved.** There were over 155 individual projects in the 2024/25 capital program including capital renewal and capital new projects. Whilst a majority of projects are complete, there are a number of multi-year projects that will continue and projects that will be carried forward into the 2025/26 financial year mainly due to the availability of resources and contractors. Project management plans prepared in accordance with project management framework including resourcing, funding, consultation and risk management.
Increased on-boarding of additional Maintenance and Operations staff to offset the use of contractors for works on infrastructure and open space assets	**Achieved.** On-boarding for the Open Space Team has been completed.

WASTEWATER/RECYCLED WATER

Key Performance Measures	4th Quarter Update
Commence construction of the Laratinga Water Recovery Plant by the fourth quarter of the 2024/25 financial year	**Partially achieved.** Council's project team and Harmony Water are in the final stage of closing out clarifications relating to design and the principals project requirements document set. However, a number of project delivery constraints have impacted on the program including resourcing impacts, design issues requiring reworking and additional scope items that required design change. Key activities have been brought forward including hazard and operational study (HAZOP) and commencement of 70% design activities to maintain sECI momentum in preparation for let of contract.
Nairne to Hay Valley Recycled Water Stage 1 servicing customers by December 2024	**Achieved.** Nil to report, defects liability period.
Nairne sewer trunk main project operational March 2025	**Achieved.** Final stage of work has been completed as at June 2025. Nil issues to report, project in defects liability period. (practical completion achieved Feb 2025).
CBD & Central Sewer Trunk projects	**Partially achieved.** Work is progressing well with both projects with CBD trunk main forecast for completion late August / early Sept 2025 subject to weather. Central sewer trunk main forecast for completion Feb 2025. Both projects have been affected by heavy rains late in Quarter 4 and challenges relating to ground water; however, the contractor BMD is managing the constraints well.
Keep ourselves and the community safe with a target operations and capital works construction Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) of less than 3	**Achieved.** BMD completed work in Q4 with the following recorded incidents; 1. Tipper tailgate not engaged properly, small amount of ballast fallen of the back of truck 2. Site fencing panels not secured appropriately which could allow non-approved access to the site works

Capital works delivery target of 100% for environmental and health compliance	**Not achieved**. Due to a change in design and the need to move a launch / retrieval pit, a tree located along the southern extent of the rail corridor for the Central Sewer trunk project had to be removed. The tree was not identified as in need of removal in the original project planning. A sewer bypass pump hose wore out at a bend allowing effluent to leak to the environment. Small pond of effluent was pumped out, minor incident.
Distribute an additional 50 (ML) mega litres of recycled water per annum for beneficial reuse in the district	**Partially achieved.** Negotiation underway for supply of recycled water to service Cattle Route Road customers
Enter into recycled water supply agreements with two new customers	**Achieved.** Supply agreements underway with two new customers
Create a level of brand awareness and ongoing brand recognition through results of marketing campaigns, surveys about the brand and any other messaging or customer feedback the Wastewater Service receives	**Achieved.** Simple have continued to support the wastewater subsidiary with a focus on the ongoing development of the website, which was launched on 9 July 2025. In additional team emails were converted to @gmbwater.au from 1 July 2025. Continued focus on customer and community engagement for the trunk sewer projects and Western Lagoon desludge work AMP, ABP and LTFP that went out for public consultation in June 2025 were all GMB Water branded documents to further raise awareness of the subsidiary establishment and branding.
Issue Section 56 permits to 70% of existing trade waste generators	**Partially achieved.** Implantation of WasteID tags after transition to full approval, 36% of trade waste customers active in Waste ID
Complete 95% of planned sampling program for recycled water and wastewater	**Achieved.** Over 98% of planned samples have been taken over the reporting period.
Identify and implement programs that will improve network reliability including;	**Achieved.** 100% of planned maintenance activities have been completed over the reporting period.

• Flushing program, 95% of planned works completed • Smoke testing and stormwater ingress, 95% of planned works completed • Maintenance hole condition assessment, 95% of assessments completed • Siphon and pump station chamber maintenance, 95% of planned works completed	

14.3 REPORT TITLE: MOUNT BARKER COMMUNITY LIBRARY QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/101144

ATTACHMENTS: NIL

Key Contact Rebecca van Diemen, Team Leader Library Services

Manager/Sponsor Ben Footner, Manager Customer Experience

Executive Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Community Plan 2044:
Objective 6 – Children & youth: our District will have 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.

Objective 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.

Objective 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.

Objective 11 – Volunteer Support and Recognition: deliver, facilitate and support a diversity of volunteering opportunities and celebrate our volunteers for their valuable contributions.

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

Annual Business Plan:
Nil

Purpose:
To provide Council with a quarterly performance report for the Mount Barker Community Library.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. As the Mount Barker District grows there is a need for the Council to be more proactive and sophisticated in monitoring the performance of key services to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the community.

2. This report is provided on a Quarterly basis to give visibility to the ongoing performance of the Mount Barker Community Library.

3. The Library audience has continued to grow this quarter, with the trend of steady increases continuing across most metrics.

Background:

4. As the Mount Barker District grows and with it the demand for Council services, it is important for decision makers to have greater visibility over key performance metrics to better inform their decision making.

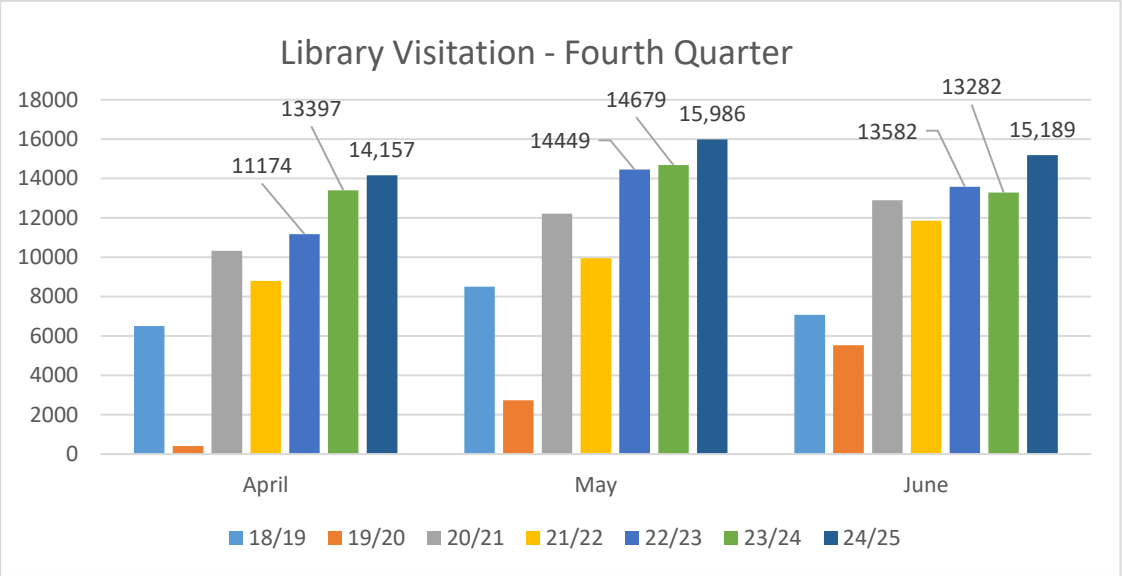
5. Library Services are one of the most visible and popular services that Council provides, and as such it is appropriate that regular reporting is provided to Council on performance, particularly in the context of ongoing discussion and potential decision making around next steps for service delivery.

6. What follows is the Mount Barker Community Library's performance report for the fourth quarter of the 2024/25 Financial Year, with statistics and insights provided across all key service areas including collections, programs, and general operations. As this is the final report for the 2024/25 FY some annual statistics have also been included.

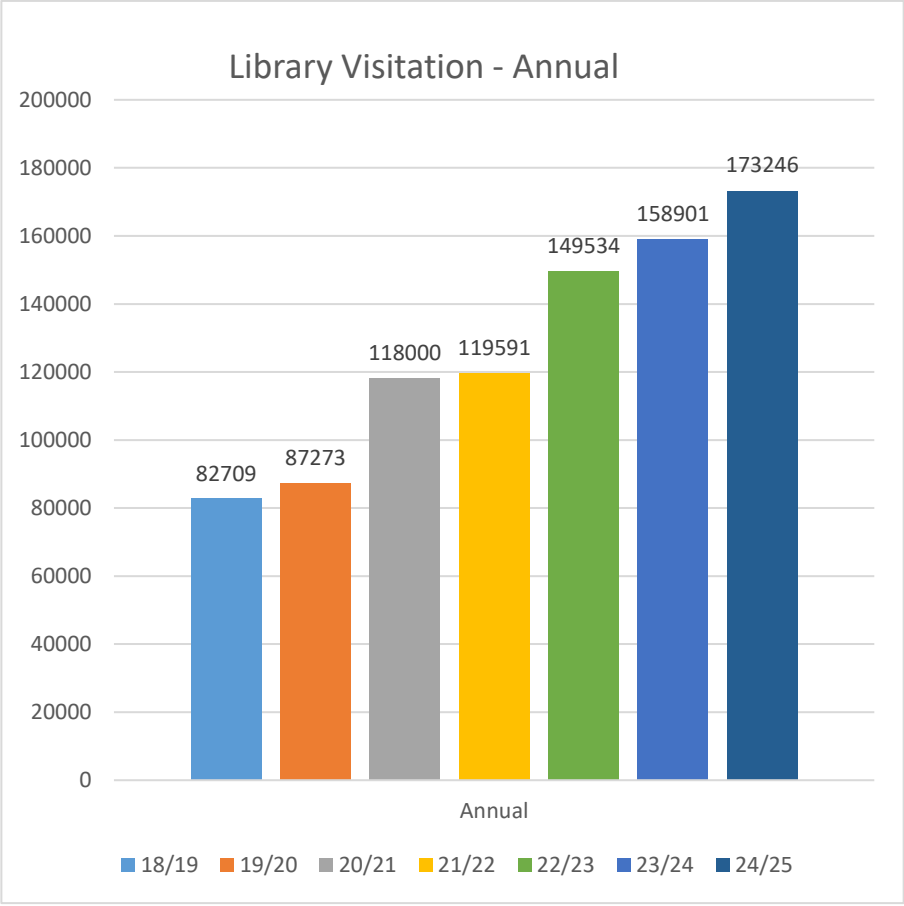
7. The focus of this quarterly reporting is on core service areas at a high level, however there is the potential to expand and/or delve deeper in future reports. Councillors are welcome to provide feedback on areas they would like to see in more detail and staff will investigate the possibility of inclusion in future reporting.

Discussion:

8. Library Visitation

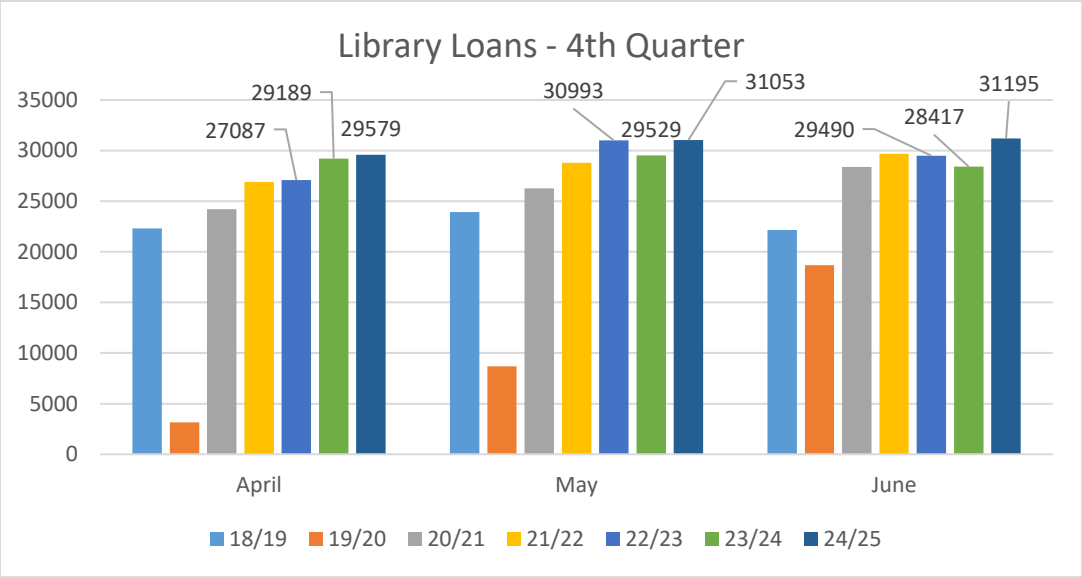


Visitations continue an upward trend for Q4 24/25 and up by 9% from the previous time last year.

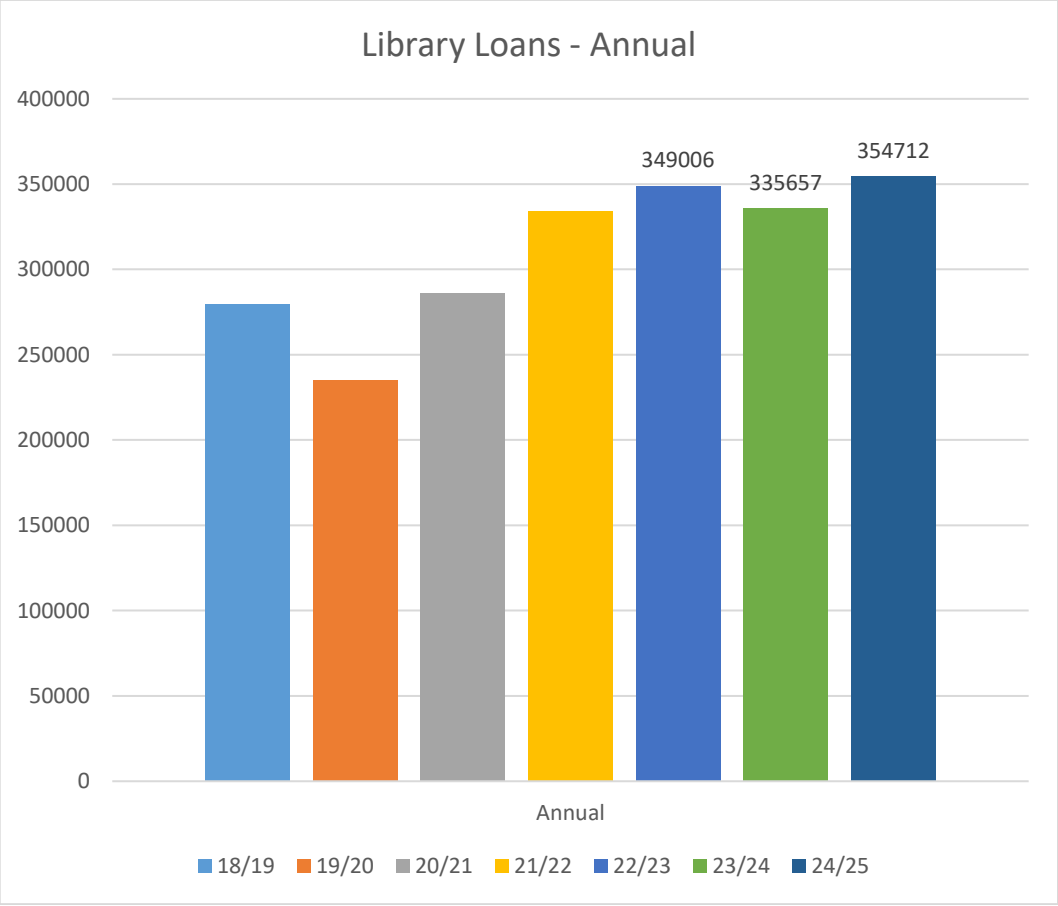


The overall annual visitations up by 8.6% from 158901 in 23/24 to 173246 in 24/25.

9. Library Circulation (loans)

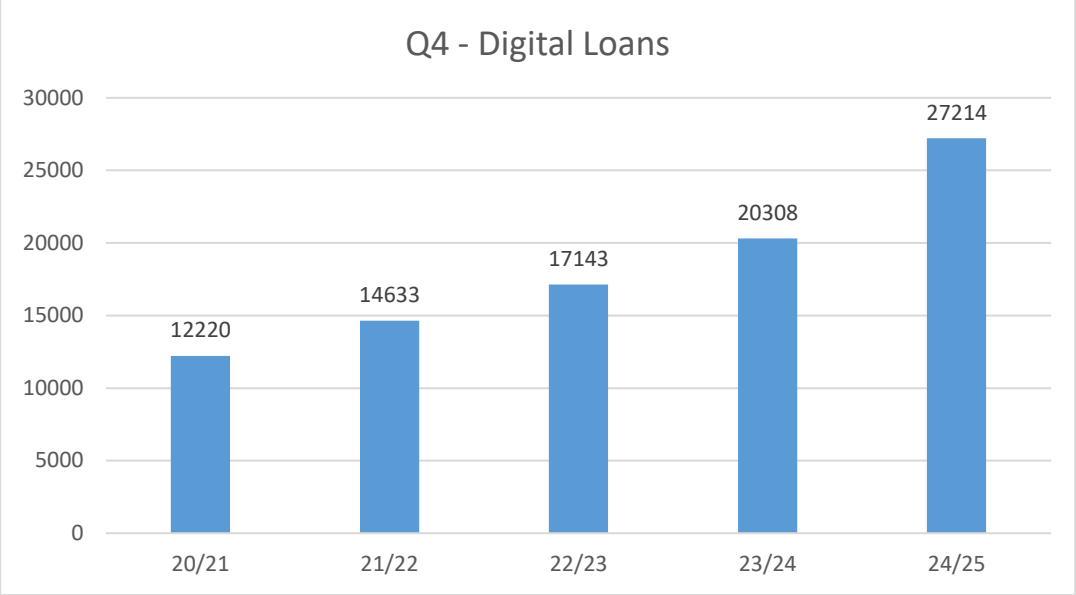


Check outs and renewal of physical materials have increased for Q4 24/25 by just over 5% in comparison to the same time last year, with a total of 91827 items loaned for the quarter.

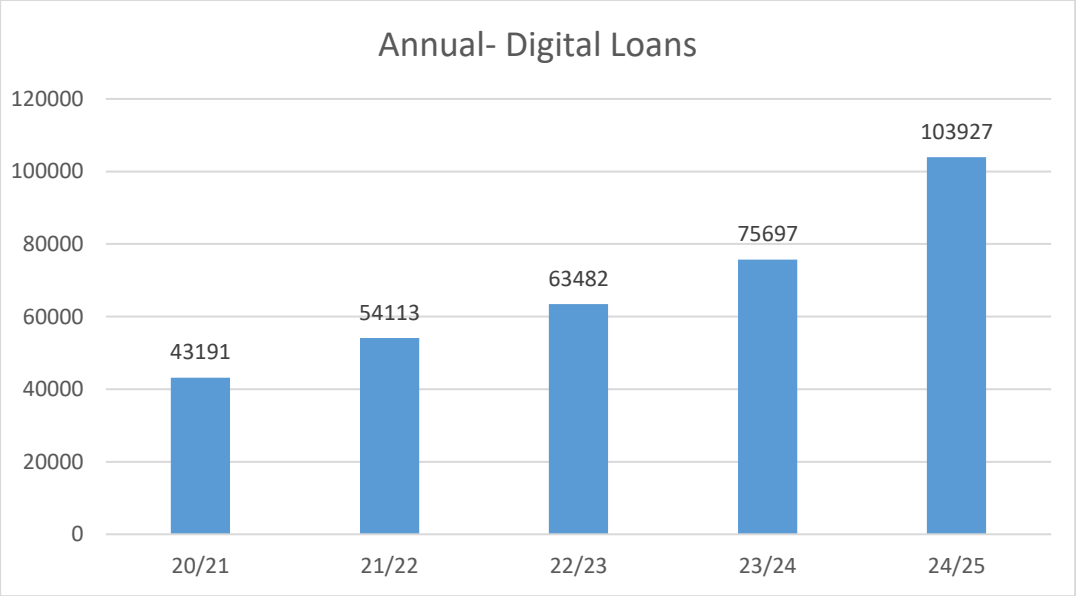


The annual circulation of materials has increased by 5.5% up from 335657 in 23/24 to 354712 in 24/25.

10. Digital Loans

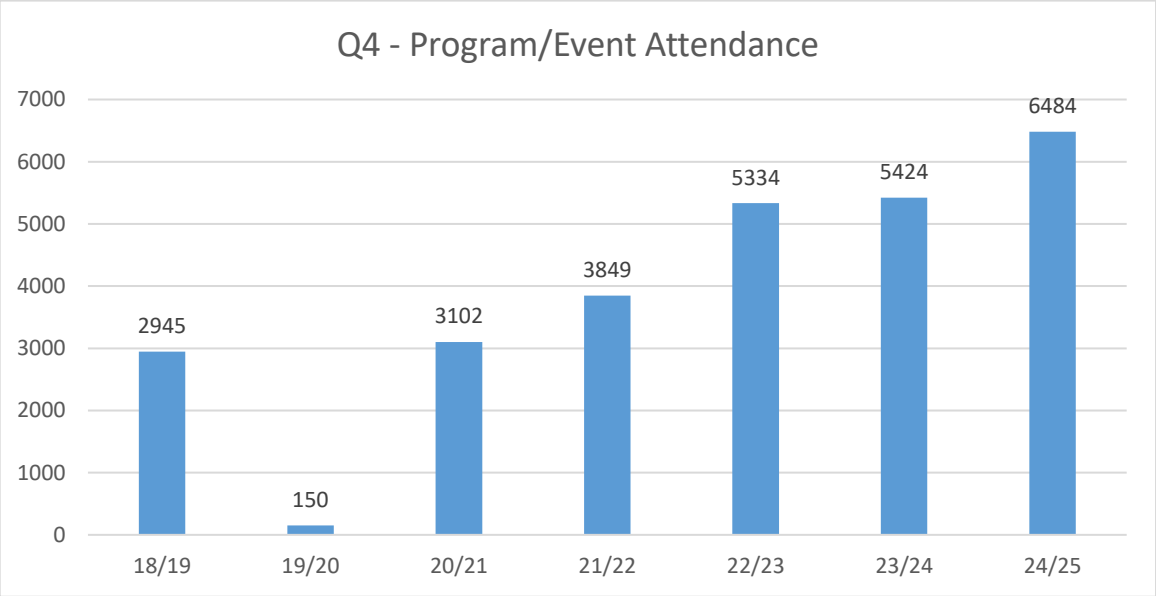


The popularity of our digital collections (e-book and e-audio) continues to grow, with loans increasing by 29% in comparison to the same quarter last year.

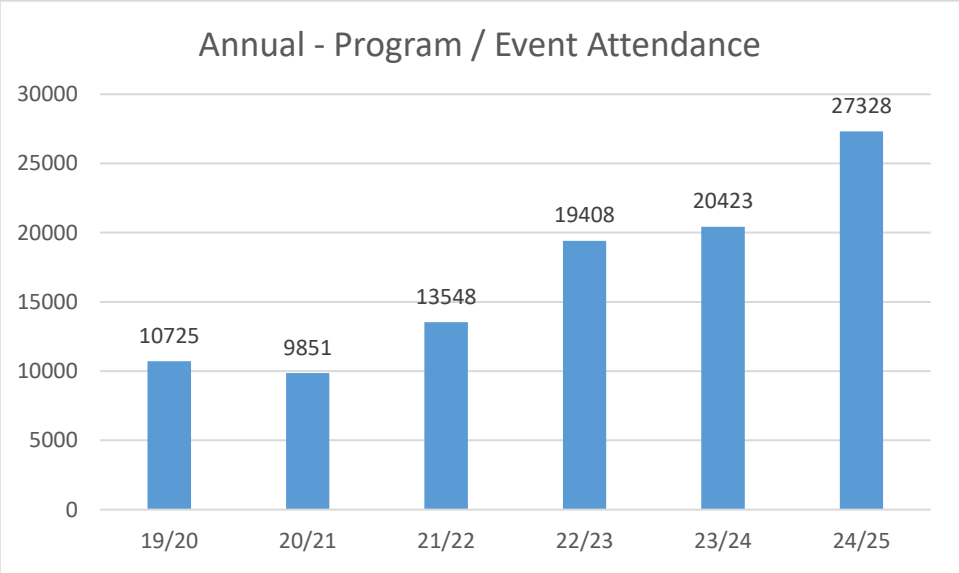


The annual increase of 31.4% usage is consistent with previous years and shows that the need for both digital and physical collections by the community plays an important role in delivery literacy outcomes.

11. Event/Program Attendance



Strong attendance at Library programs and events continued across Q4, with an increase of 17.8% compared with the same quarter of last year.



The annual increase was almost 29% from FY23/24 to 24/25 with an additional 6905 community members attending library programs and events.

12. Key Highlights

Key Highlight of the last quarter of 2024/25 included:

- A fully booked April School Holiday Program featuring craft activities, an Easter egg hunt, and workshops on watercolours, food forests, and propagation. After the Easter break, we reopened to a record 1,659 item returns in a single day.
- Several popular author events with Michelle Prak, Fleur McDonald, Leonie Kelsall, and Laurelle Cousins, as well as a special presentation on rare native plants by Mark Nitschke.
- May's History Month featured talks by Kay Boon, Maya, and Jennifer Mackenzie Dunbar, plus a well-received photo slideshow of Mount Barker in the 60s–80s, which attracted over 200 seated viewers.
- Outreach highlights included a library presence at local events, CAFHS tours, and the launch of Mellows Multis for families of multiples. We also began **Find Your Tribe**, a social program for young adults in partnership with Mission Australia, NDIS, and Council.
- In June, Pride Month was celebrated with a diverse book display and ALIA's "Freedom to Read" campaign, both of which drew strong community support.

13. Benchmarking

Library Service	Active Members	Population Stats 2023/2024	Membership as % of 7th population	Loans April-June 2025	Loans per capita 8th
Adelaide City Council Library Service	22,999	26,120	N/A		Data inaccurate
Adelaide Hills Library Service	12,449	41,448	30%	108,842	2.6
Burnside Library Service	19,044	46,692	41%	150,024	3.2
Campbelltown Public Library Service	17,574	56,013	31%	157,851	2.8
Charles Sturt Library Service	33,111	124,906	26%	179,820	1.4
Gawler Public Library	5,778	26,123	22%	26,408	1.0
Holdfast Bay Library Service	12,595	38,061	33%	172,924	4.5
Marion Library Service	28,759	96,658	30%	174,675	1.8
Mitcham Library	24,468	68,403	36%	173,423	2.5
Mount Barker Community Library	**13,054**	**41,059**	**32%**	**93,100**	**2.3**
Norwood Payneham & St Peters Library Service	9,665	38,001	25%	76,429	2.0
Onkaparinga Library Service	46,148	178,546	26%	426,031	2.4
Playford Library	20,332	103,420	20%	70,581	.78
Port Adelaide Enfield Library Service	33,827	135,894	25%	184,536	1.4
Prospect Public Library Service	8,039	22,741	35%	43,068	1.8
Salisbury Library Service	28,053	148,003	19%	115,425	.78
Tea Tree Gully Library Service	27,468	102,666	27%	173,447	1.7
Unley Library Service	15,560	39,085	40%	98,849	2.5
Walkerville Public Library Service	3,503	8,179	42%	21,758	2.7
West Torrens Library	15,170	63,105	24%	94,064	1.5

Of the 20 metropolitan library services Mount Barker Community Library is performing solidly, sitting in 7th for membership as a percentage of population, and 8th for loans per capita.

Community Engagement:
In the 2024 MARKYT Community Scorecard exercise Library Services were the highest rated service area for Council with a with a 95% positive rating and a Performance Index Score of 75 (out of 100).

A dedicated consultation process was recently conducted as part of the Library Needs/Options Analysis process, with over 1700 responses received. Results are available publicly via the Council website, and will be used to inform a new Library Action Plan that will guide service delivery priorities for the short to medium term.

Policy:
N/A

Long Term Financial Plan:
Considerations for a future library redevelopment have been made in the Long Term Financial Plan to allow for library services to expand to meet district growth.

Budget:
The increasing demand for library services continues to put pressure on current library resourcing (staff and collections).

In February 2025 as a result of Library Needs Analysis findings Council passed a motion to consider further increases to library funding as part of the 2025/26 budget process to bring library operations, budget, staffing and collection resources up to accepted national standards. As a result an additional staff member and funds towards the purchase of new library shelving to increase capacity have been included in the 2025/26 budget. Funds have also been allocated for a pilot project to improve service delivery to outlying townships.

Grant funding from the State government is allocated on a per-capita basis so will increase in line with the population of the district, however the last funding agreement removed indexation which now means councils must absorb inflationary impacts (which have been significant over the last 12 months).

Statutory/Legal:
N/A

Staff Resource Requirements:
Current staffing levels have been able to accommodate current increases in demand, but additional resources will need to be considered in future to maintain service delivery in line with growth in population. An additional staff member has been included in the 2025/26 budget.

Environmental:
N/A

Social:
The Mount Barker Community Library is having a significant positive impact on the wellbeing of people in and around the district as evidenced in the results of the most recent MARKYT Community Scorecard.

In addition, frequent and consistent positive feedback is received from members of the public - particularly relating to speaker events, toy library services, children's programs, and the housebound delivery service and outreach services.

Risk Assessment:
N/A

Asset Management:
N/A

Conclusion:
Overall the Mount Barker Community Library has experienced another quarter of strong growth and consistent overall performance. Increases in visitation numbers continue to create high demand for study spaces, public computing, and general usage of lounge areas and the children's space.

The pressures on our current facility will only increase as the community grows, and quarterly reports will continue to be provided to ensure conversations around next steps for library service delivery remain fully informed.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	5 May 2025	CM Reference	DOC/25/55761
Title	Mount Barker Community Library Quarterly Performance Report		
Purpose	Third Quarter 2024/25 Financial Year Report		

Meeting Date	3 February 2025	CM Reference	DOC/25/9279
Title	Mount Barker Community Library Quarterly Performance Report		
Purpose	Second Quarter 2024/25 Financial Year Report		

Meeting Date	4 November 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/166346
Title	Mount Barker Community Library Quarterly Performance Report		
Purpose	First Quarter 2024/25 Financial Year Report		

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

Activity
Littlehampton meeting with Infrastructure staff re leaf litter Springpark Rd.
Pastoral meeting with Councillor.
Adelaide Hills Rally meeting with organisers Mayor's Parlour.
South Australian Local Government Officers Association welcome Auchendarroch House.
Headstone unveiling Pte Bertie Ross Macclesfield Cemetery.
Council agenda meeting with Governance staff Mayor's Parlour.
NAIDOC Week Dinner and film night at Auchendarroch House.
Adelaide Hills Stoma Support Group Nairne District Hotel.
Webinar Training on Governance Norman Waterhouse.
Interview panel for SHLGA Executive Officer position Victor Harbor Council office.
Hahndorf Community Association committee meeting.
Webinar to discuss drought hosted by LGA.
NAIDOC Week Family Fun Day at Laratinga Pavilion.
Interview at Radio Italiana in Hindmarsh.
Funeral Mr Garth Watts at Echunga Golf Club.
Community reference group information session City Centre Catalyst project in Chambers.
Meeting with child care providers in Chambers.
Observe community consultation open spaces held in library.
Nairne District Residents Association meeting.
Chair CEO Annual Performance Review Panel in chambers.
Observe community consultation session open space held in Von Doussa clubrooms.
Behavioural Standards Panel webinar hosted by LGA and Dept Local Government.
Funeral Ms Lyndell Davidge OAM at Heysen Cedars Hahndorf.
CEO PRAP feedback session with CEO.
Visit Harrogate Hall, meet line dancing cohort.
Attend regular meeting Hon Josh Teague with CEO at Stirling Electorate Office.
Attend Funeral Service Mr Greg Ruckert in Kleemans Mount Barker.
Adelaide Hills Farmers Market meeting stakeholders at Mann St.
Mayors/CEO Dinner at Novotel Resort Rowland Flat.
Tour refurbished Ballarat Library with Library Manager.

16. MEMBERS' REPORTS

16.1 Councillor Szilassy

Date	Activity
30 June	Information and briefing session
30 June	Confidential briefing session
1 July	National Trust meeting
4 July	Nairne Lions Handover dinner
6 July	Macclesfield RSL - The Headstone project, unveiling of military headstone
7 July	July Council meeting
7 July	Information and briefing sessions
8 July	NAIDOC Dinner and Nunga Screen - Auchendarroch House
8 July	Littlehampton Community Association monthly meeting
11 July	Meeting with external consultant – CEO review
14 July	Information and briefing session
14 July	Confidential briefing session
16 July	Nairne & Districts Residents Association – Councillor Forum

17. QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

18. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

18.1 REPORT TITLE: CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: GMB WATER MOUNT BARKER REGION WASTEWATER UTILITY BOARD – APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/198584

Key Contact	Sue Miller, Team Leader Risk and Governance
Manager	Alison Hancock, Executive Manager
Sponsor	Andrew Stuart, Chief Executive Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

This item will be issued as a separate addendum to the Council Meeting agenda due to the timing of the GMB Water Board meeting scheduled for 30 July 2025 at which the board will consider in confidence Audit and Risk Management Committee membership for recommendation to Council to appoint.

It is anticipated the addendum will be issued no later than 5pm Thursday 31 July 2025.

18.2 REPORT TITLE: CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/105433

Recommendation:

That Council:

Pursuant to Section 90(3)(d)

1. **Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that all members of the public except the Chief Executive Officer; Executive Manager; General Manager Infrastructure, General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services, General Manager Corporate Services; Manager Strategic Projects and Economic Development and Minute Secretary be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 18.2 Confidential Item: Unsolicited Proposal.**

   The Council is satisfied that pursuant to Section 90(3)(d) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda item is commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to :

   - **prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or**
   - **to confer a commercial advantage on a third party.**

   In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information. The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the disclosure of this information may result in a competitor receiving the information to the detriment of the Proponent.

Section 91(7) Order

Pursuant to Section 91(7)

5. **That having considered Agenda Item 18.2 Confidential Item: Unsolicited Proposal in confidence under 90(2) and 3(d) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act orders that the Council report, attachments and all minutes be retained in confidence until 4 August 2032 or such lesser period as may be determined by the Chief Executive Officer and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.**

18.3 REPORT TITLE: CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2024/25

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/96112

Key Contact **Mayor David Leach**

Recommendation:

That Council:
Section 90 (3) (a) Order
1. Pursuant to Section 90(3)(a)
Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that all members of the public and staff other than the CEO, Executive Manager, Minute Secretary and Richard Altman (Independent Consultant) be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 18.3.

The Council is satisfied that pursuant to Section 90(3)(a) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda item is information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of the Chief Executive Officer in that details of his performance review will be discussed which are sensitive and are details only known to those who have participated in the review process.

The Council is satisfied of the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the disclosure of details of the Chief Executive Officer's performance may prematurely be disclosed.

8. Section 91(7) Order
After having considered Agenda Item 18.3 Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review 2025 in confidence under 90(2) and 3(a) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act orders that this agenda item, minutes and Attachments 2 and 3 be retained in confidence until 16 December 2033 being 7 years after the expiry of the CEO's employment agreement except that Attachment 1, the Summary CEO Performance Review report, will be released 12 months from the date of this Council meeting being 4 August 2025 and that the resolution of Council in relation to the remuneration of the CEO and the Strategic Performance Objectives contained in Attachment 4 will be released to the CEO immediately and then subsequently released publicly within 30 days of the date of this resolution and that any remaining information will be retained in confidence until determined by the Council that they be released.

18.4 REPORT TITLE: CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: DELEGATION OF COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

DATE OF MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/106953

Key Contact	Sue Miller, Team Leader Risk and Governance
Manager	Alison Hancock, Executive Manager
Sponsor	Andrew Stuart, Chief Executive Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

This item will be issued as a separate addendum to the Council Meeting as documents were still being prepared at the time of publication of the agenda.

It is anticipated the addendum will be issued no later than 5pm Thursday 31 July 2025.