



**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 be held in the Laratinga Pavilion, Environmental Services Centre, 100 Springs Road, Mount Barker on Tuesday 2 April 2024.

7.00 pm

Council Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Stuart'.

A. Stuart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

27 March 2024

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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 4 March 2024 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

5.1 Ruth Vasey – National Trust SA (Mount Barker Branch)

5.2 Angie Mitchell – Reclink Australia

6. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

6.1 TITLE: MOUNT BARKER COMMUNITY CENTRE
DATE: 2 APRIL 2024
FILE NUMBER: DOC/24/39115

Questions asked by Councillor Szilassy

In relation to the annual financial contribution made by Council to the Mount Barker Community Centre (MBCC), could administration please advise:

1. The current annual amount contributed by Council to the MBCC, and the current term of this arrangement?
2. If the annual financial contribution to the MBCC is indexed annually to CPI, to account for cost increases felt across the board? If not to CPI, could staff please advise if the annual contribution is indexed annually, and by how much?
3. If it is possible for a formal Funding Agreement to be put in place for MBCC that gives consideration to a long term agreement (for example 3 to 5 years) so as to provide surety of funding support to this not-for-profit community service? Could this formal Funding Agreement also consider the below:
 - 3(a) Implementation prior to the start of the 2024/25 financial year?
 - 3(b) Development of the Funding Agreement to be a publicly accessible document?
 - 3(c) The projected funding needs of MBCC in proportion to growth effects and forecast growth rates in our district?
4. If it is possible for Administration to request for MBCC to present to Elected Members annually at an open informal briefing session, to provide updated information on the programs offered, achievements, performance, funding streams, priority needs and future objectives?
 - 4(b) Could an open informal briefing session occur before the draft Annual Business Plan 2024/25 is presented to Council?

Background provided by Councillor Szilassy

The Mount Barker Community Centre (MBCC) was established over 40 years ago and is a not-for-profit, non-government, incorporated organisation.

Last year MBCC registered approximately 30,000 attendances, cementing it as a much valued and integral part of our community's fabric. Of the 150 programs directly offered by MBCC, all have a shared focus on health and wellbeing, welfare, inclusion, personal development, and building connections and support networks. Many programs and courses are offered at no cost, or at low-cost to participants, to ensure that all community members are accommodated and have the opportunity to access activities which can support further learning and enhance quality of life.

Further to the direct programs offered by MBCC, another 175 programs are offered by other organisations at MBCC facilities. To assist MBCC in performing a vital function for our community, volunteers donated a combined total of 19,000 hours last financial year across the many programs and services on offer. As MBCC is our district's only community centre, it relies on partial funding support from Council.

One of the functions of a council is to provide for the welfare, well-being and interests of individuals and groups within its community. I understand Council and MBCC to have a strong, collaborative relationship, working in partnership in the community development and welfare space. Council supports the MBCC in many ways, and in addition to Council's annual funding contribution, I understand that Council has assisted with a lease arrangement for the current MBCC premises.

A long-term formal Funding Agreement with Council would provide surety to MBCC, allowing the Centre to continue providing the high level of local programs and services needed by our community. It would also allow the MBCC to plan further than 12 months in advance, and to strategically plan for the expansion of programs and services to meet the forecast population growth expected in our district.

In addition, a contemporary formal Funding Agreement with Council would provide the MBCC with reporting opportunities to demonstrate performance, achievements, KPIs, goals and accountability. An opportunity for an open, annual presentation to Elected Members would also be beneficial, to highlight goals and future direction. With greater financial security, MBCC may also be better placed to attract other funding opportunities and develop income streams to further deliver community support for the benefit of the Mount Barker district.

Councillor Szilassy

25 March 2024

Officer response:

Council have in place a schedule of regular planning meetings with Mount Barker Community Centre (MBCC). Identified at these meetings is the need to align MBDC and MBCC's strategic planning, priorities, and resources, as well as the importance of formalising a funding agreement and implementing reporting to demonstrate MBCC's performance and accountability.

At a meeting held on 27 February 2024, Council and Mount Barker Community Centre staff agreed to jointly present to Council Members at an open Informal Briefing session which has been scheduled for 3 June 2024. This briefing will provide Council Members with updated information on the programs offered, achievements, performance, funding streams, priority needs and objectives of MBCC.

Answers to Councillor Szilassy's specific questions will be provided to Council Members in a separate memo before the Council meeting and then included in the minutes. The questions will also be used to guide content for the Briefing session in June.

Anne Ross

Team Leader Community Development

7. **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE – COUNCILLORS**

8. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

8.1 TITLE: FUTURE OF LIBRARY SERVICES
DATE: 2 APRIL 2024
FILE: DOC/24/36343

Motion

I move that:

1. Council acknowledges the significant discussion within the community on whether or not the library should be relocated from Dumas St to the City Centre site (noting that a decision of Council on this matter has not been made).
2. Council acknowledges that the existing library on Dumas St is at capacity or nearing capacity, whilst it continues to deliver the same services albeit with a growing customer base; and
3. Council staff prepare a report, to determine the future library service provision to support our growing community; and
4. Council staff consider the feasibility of operating Councils library services across both the existing Dumas Street library and an additional library space at the City Centre and how these two library spaces may be curated to optimise service provision to the community; and
5. Included in the report, staff be requested to provide an outline of a community engagement program to ensure that the community is engaged and consulted regarding this important topic of discussion.

Councillor Orr
12 March 2024

Background provided by Councillor Orr

After listening to community feedback regarding the relocation of the existing library to the City Centre site, this proposed Motion focuses on expanding library services while retaining the much-loved aspects of the current library, in particular the services offered for children and young parents.

Expanding the library services to acknowledge our growing and rapidly expanding community, particularly considering the current library's capacity constraints, presents a proactive solution. At the current library

location, where ample parking is available, children's services can expand and thrive, providing a safe and accessible space for families to engage with library resources. This setup minimizes the stress of navigating through traffic with young children, fostering a welcoming environment for families.

Simultaneously, the creation of a new space within the City Centre offers exciting possibilities. This space can serve as an adult library, study area, co-working hub, and meeting venue. By incorporating meeting rooms and a co-working hub, the new space becomes a focal point for collaboration, innovation, and community engagement.

Moreover, utilizing the walls of the new space as an art exhibition area showcases the talents of local artists, enriching the cultural landscape of the city centre. This initiative not only supports local artists but also enhances the vibrancy of the city centre, attracting residents and visitors alike.

Overall, the proposed expansion of library services caters to diverse community needs, enhances accessibility, fosters innovation and creativity, and contributes to the cultural enrichment of the City Centre. By listening to community sentiments and adapting the library's offerings accordingly, the expansion aligns with the community's aspirations for a dynamic and inclusive library experience.

Council Officer Comment

Council staff recognise the need for progress on this matter.

We propose a three stage approach to inform Council's decision making regarding the future of library services comprising of:

- 1) A detailed analysis of library service delivery needs against industry standards and benchmarks, factoring in district growth;
- 2) A high-level analysis of various site options, including projected costs, timeframes, usage uplift and flow-on economic benefits of each (quantified where possible).
- 3) A comprehensive consultation process designed to capture the priorities, expectations and aspirations of the community concerning the future library services/facilities.

An analysis of the multi-site proposal that forms part of this motion can be included in the above process steps.

A report summarising the above in more detail will be provided to the May 2024 Council meeting for endorsement. Once endorsed it is expected to take approximately 4-6 months to complete all elements and present back to Council with options for decision making.

Ben Footner
Manager, Customer Experience

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

NIL

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**11.1 SUMMIT SPORT AND RECREATION PARK (SSRP) BOARD – 20 MARCH 2024**

11.1.1	REPORT TITLE:	MINUTES OF SUMMIT SPORT AND RECREATION PARK (SSRP) BOARD – 20 MARCH 2024
	DATE OF MEETING:	20 MARCH 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/39424
	ATTACHMENTS:	Minutes provided separately on the Council website – Summit Sport and Recreation Park Board Minutes 20 March 2024 (click here)

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Summit Sport and Recreation Park (SSRP) Board meeting held 20 March 2024 as circulated to Council Members and available on the Summit Sport and Recreation Park Board page of Council's website.

11.1.2 **REPORT TITLE:** **CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE**
DATE OF MEETING: **20 MARCH 2024**
FILE NUMBER: **DOC/24/20988**
ATTACHMENTS: **NIL**

Recommendation

- 1. That Council note that the Summit Sport and Recreation Park Board have forwarded the following capital projects to Council for consideration in the Council's 2024/25 budget deliberations:**
 - a. Master planning and subsequent cost calculations for the whole of the SSRP facility (Stage 1 and Stage 2) to support future grant funding opportunities.**
 - b. LED super screen on Premier Oval**
 - c. ICT and AV upgrades to Premier Oval Clubhouse and soccer pavilion to enable function usage of the venue**
 - d. Food and beverage pods (to support uses such as canteen, BBQ and beverage)**
 - e. Kitchen upgrade in Premier Oval clubhouse**
 - f. Environmental review of the site to inform future investment of renewable energy projects**
 - g. Remediation of the Premier Oval Cricket wicket square and increase in turf wickets from four to six as per request from SACA.**
 - h. Remediation of Cricket Practice Nets**
 - i. Purchase of transportable cricket sight screens.**
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11.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE – 21 MARCH 2024

11.2.1	REPORT TITLE:	MINUTES OF SECTION 41 COMMITTEE – AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING 21 MARCH 2024
	DATE OF MEETING:	21 MARCH 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/40011
	ATTACHMENTS:	<i>Minutes provided separately on Council’s website – Audit and Risk Committee Minutes 21 March 2024 (click here)</i>

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held 21 March 2024 as circulated to Council Members and available on the Audit and Risk Committee page of Council’s website.

12. REPORTS**12.1 REPORT TITLE: **CLOSURE OF A PORTION OF FIDLER LANE******DATE OF MEETING: **2 APRIL 2024******FILE NUMBER: **DOC/24/14698******ATTACHMENTS: **ATTACHMENT 1 DOC/24/40617 MAP OF
PROPOSED CLOSURE OF FIDLER LANE******Key Contact **Matthew Dawkins, Manager Infrastructure
Planning, Infrastructure******Manager/Sponsor **Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure******Community Plan 2020-2035:****CW Goal 4: Safety and Resilience**

CW Objective 4.3 Undertake town planning, infrastructure provision and asset management to facilitate healthy lifestyles and safety.

CW Goal 5: Mobility and accessibility

CW Objective 5.3 Apply a strategic, planned and consistent approach to the provision, development and maintenance of roads and footpaths.

Annual Business Plan:

This network management objective is linked to the operation and maintenance of a safe local road network.

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.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. The section of Fidler Lane, Mount Barker considered in this report is a local track of limited access that is unsuitable for use as a made road to service the volumes that are predicted for an urbanised catchment north and south of the road. This section of road reserve is heavily constrained with mature remnant native vegetation and is a difficult road to maintain and operate as an all-weather local access road.
2. Master planning of the land development activity north and south of the segment shown in Attachment 1 has provisioned for new roads that effectively eliminate the need for the existing Fidler Lane to service motor vehicles.

3. Community engagement on the closure of a portion of Fidler Lane to motor vehicles is now sought with the intent of keeping the road and rail crossing open to pedestrians in the longer term.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. **Pursuant to Section 32(1)(b) of the *Road Traffic Act 1961* authorise the publication of the notice of the proposal to close a portion of Fidler Lane, Mount Barker at its western end (Barker Road to 1100m east) to motor vehicles ;**
2. **Notes that a further council report on the results of public consultation will be brought back to Council for resolution in June 2024;**
3. **Notes that Steamranger Heritage Rail as the Rail Manager propose that, as a requirement of the delivery of a new level crossing for Heysen Boulevard over the rail line, all at grade access and movement across the rail corridor at Fidler Lane (including cyclists and pedestrians) will be prohibited subject to a safety assessment;**
4. **Authorise the CEO to write to the Minister for Transport seeking support and assistance to facilitate safe pedestrian and cyclist movements at grade across the rail corridor at Fidler Lane in line with Council's trails plan.**

Background:

1. The section of Fidler Lane east of Barker Road is on a narrow road reserve that is studded with mature remnant native vegetation. It is narrow and in the master planning of the surrounding land development, Fidler Lane has been excluded from consideration as a corridor for 2-way road traffic.
2. As part of land development, the developers of land south of the lane will build new roads to connect land developments north-south across the Fidler Lane road reserve.
3. Connection to the collector road network will be at Heysen Boulevard via the two existing roads, Polo and Equine Drive. No new land development access is planned to be permitted to connect directly to Barker Road.
4. The section of Fidler Lane that is the subject of this report is classed as a "Natural Surface - Track Limited Access" meaning that is not an all-weather road currently and is not maintained or re-sheeted with rubble materials. It is therefore difficult to traverse in a 2WD vehicle from time to time in wet conditions.

5. The Fidler Lane road reserve is an ad hoc east-west walking and cycling trail route between Barker Rd and the north-south section of Fidler Lane and is well used. Councils walking and cycle planning will very likely identify this as a formal trail route. There is considerable community concern and opinion currently about the corridor as a trail.

Discussion:

Fidler Lane Proposed closure to Motor Vehicles

6. The map in Attachment 1 shows in red the section of Fidler Lane proposed to be closed to motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act. (1961).
7. In green are the proposed two new road links to be delivered as part of land development to the south of Fidler Lane.
8. Circled in blue is the rail crossing of Fidler Lane where it is required by the rail authority to be closed to all modes of transport as a result of the opening of the of a new rail level crossing at Heysen Blvd.
9. The advancing land development on the north side of Fidler Lane (Minters Field) has seen the development of a local road network that does not rely upon the use of Fidler Lane or Barker Road to connect the collector road network.
10. Polo and Equine Drives act as the north-south connections to Heysen Boulevard and the township planning has identified these roads will extend to the south side of Fidler Lane to allow progression of land development and linkage to Heysen Boulevard.
11. Extension of these roads will be at the developers cost and will be designed to accommodate formal trail crossing facilities of both abovementioned north-south running roads.
12. Fidler Lane is planned to remain a local unmade road corridor with a future east-west trail linkage that is closed to motor vehicles yet open to walkers and cyclists.
13. As part of the community engagement to close Fidler Lane to motor vehicles described above, the consultation will include notice that, as a proposed requirement of the Heysen Boulevard level crossing rail safety approvals, all modes of transport may be prevented from crossing the rail corridor on Fidler Lane.
14. Subject to the feedback received, Council will continue to advocate for the Fidler Lane rail crossing to remain open to pedestrians and cyclists.

Fidler Lane Rail Safety Considerations

15. The completion of the new Heysen Boulevard level crossing is currently progressing as a jointly funded project between Council and the State Government.
16. The construction of all new level crossings such as Heysen Boulevard (for all modes of transport such as walkers, cyclists and motor vehicles) requires the approval of the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) under Rail Safety National Law (the Law).
17. The Law notes that new “at grade” level crossings are a significant risk to rail-road-pedestrians and are not preferred.
18. Recent incidents on the Steamranger Heritage Rail (SHR) line (outside of the Mount Barker District Council) brings rail safety very sharply into focus when considering a new level crossing such as Heysen Boulevard and rail safety requirements are very closely monitored by the regulator, ONRSR.
19. Where “at grade” crossings (level crossings) cannot be avoided (eg Heysen Boulevard), the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RiSSB) indicates that “consolidation of rail crossings” mitigates the risk of introducing a new crossing.
20. Given that the Fidler Lane rail crossing is not signalised and hence a high Australian Level Crossing Assessment Model (ALCAM) risk score, SHR has indicated that the Fidler Lane crossing should be closed to all movements as part of the consolidation of crossings.
21. In order therefore for the new Heysen Boulevard level crossing approvals to progress without delay, it is a proposed requirement from SHR and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (our funding partner) to initiate closure of Fidler lane over the rail crossing to all modes of transport using physical barriers such as fences and earthworks.

Trail Planning

22. Fidler Lane to date has facilitated an informal trail connection for walkers and cyclists and other trail users.
23. Trail planning has identified Fidler Lane is an important rail crossing link and there are no other convenient alternative routes available if Fidler Lane closes to all modes of transport.
24. If Fidler Lane closes to all modes of transport as part of an approval to open Heysen Boulevard across the railway corridor the next closest road crossing (and potential walking/cycling crossing) is Native Avenue (approximately 2.3 kilometres south).

25. Native Avenue is well outside the MDPA growth area and is not a convenient route for walkers and cyclists. As such, walkers and cyclist will likely cross the railway line in ad hoc ways randomly along the rail corridor. Such informal movements are considered by Council to be dangerous and worse than a well-designed and compliant pedestrian/cyclist railway crossing maze.
26. It is important that the State Government is aware of the negative consequences described above. This could be articulated to the Minister for Transport via a letter from Council's Chief Executive Officer. The timing of that correspondence to be after the proposed road closure community engagement.

Community Engagement:

Decision to be made	Closure of Fidler Lane as shown in attachment 1 to all motor vehicles. Closure of the Fidler Lane rail crossing to all modes of transport.
Key factors to be considered in decision (dot points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council proposes to introduce traffic management measures (vehicle restriction only) • Fidler Lane will continue to be a public road reserve to be maintained by Council. • Heysen Boulevard Level Crossing provides a safer signalised crossing. • There are no property access points within the proposed section to be closed. • Existing pedestrian and cyclist movement will be maintained. • Proposed closure across the railway corridor relates to a requirement to open a new level crossing at Heysen Boulevard.
Area of community influence	<p>Aspects that are fixed: Closure of the Fidler Lane railway crossing is a matter being considered by the rail authority and is based on a safety argument. Council can advocate for this to remain open.</p> <p>Key areas for community input: Support and or comment on the road and rail closure / traffic management measures</p>
Method of consultation, informing community & cost	<p>Public Notice placed in The Courier Council's website / Public Notice Board Letters to be sent to adjoining owners Notice issued to Commissioner of Highways</p>
Feedback to stakeholders/Council	At subsequent Council meeting.

Timeframe for consultation	for	Consultation period will be for 30 days.
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Policy:

Public Consultation Policy

Long Term Financial Plan:

Not applicable to the road closure process. No provision for trail construction at this time.

Budget:

The cost to close Fidler Lane to unauthorised motor vehicle traffic can be accommodated within existing maintenance and operating expenditure which is offset by a reduction in costs to maintain this section of road. Any changes to the rail crossing will need to be considered as part of a future budget review.

Statutory/Legal:

This proposed road closure is in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 1961 and the Local Government Act 1999.

Staff Resource Requirements:

The process will be coordinated by existing staff.

Environmental:

The proposed road closure will allow local remnant vegetation to flourish and will restore this corridor to a more natural form with less demand for road making material and an associated reduction in silt and rubble runoff into watercourses.

Social:

The proposed closure will facilitates a safer walking and trail riding experience along this portion of Fidler Lane.

Risk Assessment:

There is considered to be a negligible impact on the community as a result of proposed road closure.

There is a need to further engage with regulators and funding partners on establishment of a safe Fidler Lane trail crossing of the railway line.

Asset Management:

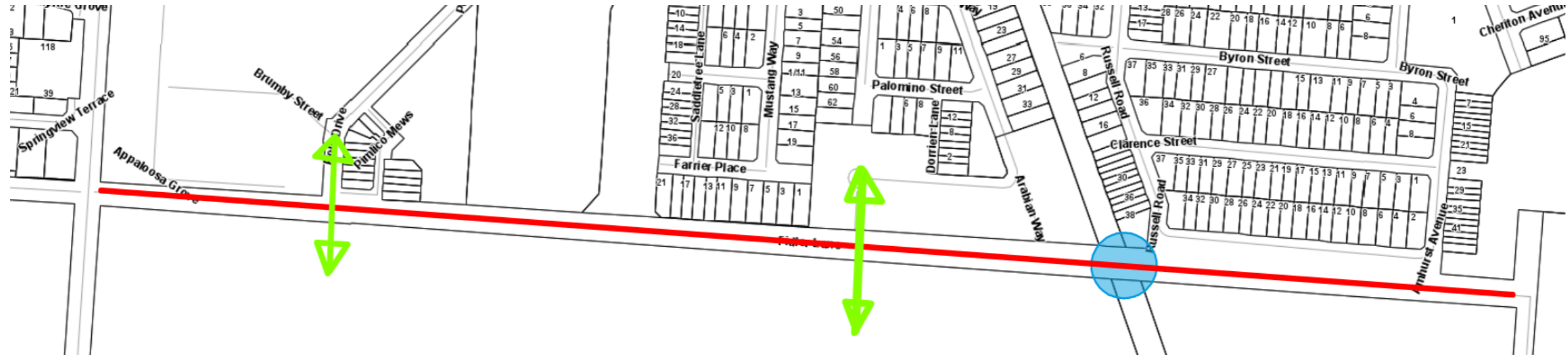
Minor reduction in length of unsealed Local Road to maintain. The proposed barriers to prevent motor vehicles will be similar to that used on Sims Rd. This will enable maximum accessibility for all.

Conclusion:

Council approving this recommendation to commence consultation to close a portion of Fidler Lane to unauthorised motor vehicles is an important step in better managing the unsealed road network in Mount Barker within areas of land development and demonstrates a commitment to providing fit for purpose and safe trails to connect our community.

No Previous Reports.

Attachment 1 to Item 12.1



12.2	REPORT TITLE:	BOLLEN RD - SPECIAL LOCAL ROADS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION – STAGE 1
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/37201
	ATTACHMENTS:	Nil
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Matthew Dawkins, Manager Infrastructure Planning
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Community Plan 2020-2035:

Community Wellbeing

CW Goal 1 Activity and movement Physical and mental health and wellbeing is supported by opportunities to access parks and natural areas, quality open space and recreation and sporting facilities.

Annual Business Plan:

Bollen Road detailed design is included in the endorsed annual business plan for 23/24 as a priority project. There are sufficient funds remaining in the 23/24 budget allocation to complete the detailed design. Some carry forward funds to Q1 of 24/25 will be required. Design needs will be complete for Stage 1 by approximately October 2024.

Purpose:

To seek endorsement for Bollen Road Stage 1 construction to be the subject of a Special Local Road Program (SLRP) grant application for anticipated commencement in 2024/25.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. Bollen Road is a key road in the local road network and is due for renewal and upgrade to meet the functional requirements of a growing community.
2. Council endorsed the Bollen Road upgrade concept design at its meeting on 4 March 2024 and the next stage of detailed design is about to commence.
3. The Special Local Roads Program has been identified as the most appropriate possible funding source for the upgrade of Bollen Road and applications for this program are now due.

Recommendation:**That Council:**

- 1. Authorises the CEO, or their delegate, making application to the Special Local Road Program for up to two-thirds contribution to construct Bollen Road Upgrade Stage 1 at an estimated gross cost of \$1.3 million (excl. GST), and;**
- 2. Notes that the remaining cost of the project will need to be funded by Council and will be included in the draft 2024/25 annual business plan and budget with an assumption that the grant revenue will be available.**

Background:

1. Applications for the latest Special Locals Road Program (SLRP) funding round opened on Monday, 4 March 2024 and will close at 4pm, Monday 29 April 2024.
2. Council has been successful in previous applications for SLRP funding including:
 - Bald Hills Road (Hartman to Old Princes Highway)
 - Alexandrina Road (Secker to Hartman)
 - Springs Road (Daddow to Bald Hills)
3. Southern and Hills LGA (SHLGA) coordinate all submissions for SLRP funding from the region and Council staff have been participating in a Roads Working Group to identify and prioritise the regional priorities. Priorities are derived from a detailed road scoring process describing the shortfall in adequacy of the level of service provided by different roads.
4. Assessment of applications for grant funding under the SLRP are best made in a regionally coordinated way. In this case, the basis for regional significance will be related back to the Southern and Hills LGA Regional Transport Plan.
5. The SLRP program is expected to be heavily subscribed i.e. there are more regional road projects in the mix currently than funds available.
6. Project applications from the Southern and Hills LGA region have historically successfully sought and achieved two-thirds of project funding.

Discussion:

7. In the regional transport plan, Bollen Road is regarded as regionally significant for wider community access to services and development e.g. school, child care centre, future church/play of worship.
8. Bollen Road (Hawthorn to just short of the Flaxley Rd intersection) has been the subject of community engagement and concept design preparation over the past year noting that the Flaxley Road intersection is a Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) responsibility.
9. At the 4 March 2024 Council meeting, Council resolved to endorse the concept (30%) design and to advance detailed design and documentation. The report identified a project totalling expenditure of approximately \$5.6 million, intended to be delivered over three stages of construction with the first stage (estimated value of Stage 1 being \$1.3 million) envisaged to be implemented in 2024/25 subject to grant funding.
10. Stage 1 of the project will focus on the northern end of the road to address the existing poor geometry of the intersection with Hawthorn Road and adapt the road to the land development taking place on adjacent land. The scope is however proposed to also respond to the community feedback on the concept design and staging to incorporate improved pathway connection(s) to the new school and childcare centre on Bollen Road and improve access over Western Flat Creek adjacent to Memorial Drive.
11. Council staff will prepare the application with input from consultants that have authored the Southern and Hills LGA Regional Transport Plan.
12. An outcome from the grant application will be known by around September 2024.
13. Subject to a successful outcome, the works are scheduled to be tendered between October and December, contract awarded in January 2025 with construction to start in February 2025. Construction would need to be practically completed by 30 June 2025 unless a grant funding extension is sought and awarded.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	The Bollen Rd project will be listed on Council's website.
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Policy:

N/A

Long Term Financial Plan:

The current endorsed LTFP has made a provision for the upgrade of Bollen Road with an assumption that approximately two-thirds is grant funded.

Budget:

There is \$138,175 for Bollen Road Upgrade detailed design in the current annual business plan and budget. The forecast construction cost estimate for the upgrade of Bollen Rd Stage 1 is circa \$1.3 million (excl. GST) inclusive of contingency and in today's dollars. The detailed design process will guide the further refinement of the project cost. Up to \$866,000 (two-thirds of Stage 1 project cost) in SLRP grant funding is being sought.

Statutory/Legal:

N/A

Staff Resource Requirements:

The grant application will be prepared by staff with some consultant assistance. Design is underway using external consultants and delivery will be tendered to the open market.

Environmental:

The concept design has avoided any tree removals. The detailed design work will build upon that principle and give consideration to other positive environmental outcomes.

Social:

This project will have a positive social benefit as there will be pedestrian infrastructure linking with existing trails and paths, enhancing active transport opportunities and improving safety and function.

Risk Assessment:

There is a high risk that the forecast project cost may be different to the actual cost as result of escalation and market conditions. The cost estimate used will be indexed for 2024/25 and include suitable contingency to allow for unforeseen circumstances given the design is in its early stages.

There is risk that the grant application at two-thirds of the project cost will be unsuccessful. Whilst Bollen Rd is an eligible project for SLRP funding, the funding available is likely to be over-subscribed from our region and this is a competitive process, there is no guarantee that the application will be successful.

Asset Management:

Much of the road infrastructure is at the end of its useful life and is due for renewal in accordance with Council's asset management plan.

Conclusion:

Bollen Road Upgrade is an important project for the local community and is a strong candidate for SLRP funding in 2024/25 to reduce the financial impact on ratepayers.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	3 October 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/123469
Title	Bollen Road Mount Barker Concept Design		
Purpose	To present Council Members with the draft concept design for the proposed upgrade of Bollen Road, Mount Barker and to seek endorsement to undertake community consultation on the 30% concept design.		

Meeting Date	5 February 2024	CM Reference	DOC/23/174262
Title	Bollen Road Consultation Summary		
Purpose	To inform Council Members of the feedback received from the community during community engagement on the draft concept design for the upgrade of Bollen Road.		

Meeting Date	4 March 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/21857
Title	Bollen Road Upgrade – Final Concept Design		
Purpose	To present an amended concept design for endorsement that responds to feedback received during community engagement (where appropriate to do so), and give council an overview of an early cost estimate, funding strategy, and staging of works.		

12.3	REPORT TITLE:	PAECH ROAD UPGRADE – DESIGN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/032271
	ATTACHMENTS:	ATTACHMENT 1 –SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (SCPA) - DOC/24/20892 ATTACHMENT 2 – UPDATED FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN – DOC/24/36706 <i>This attachment is provided separately on the Council website (click here)</i>
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Matthew Dawkins, Manager Infrastructure Planning
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Community Plan 2020-2035:

CW Goal 1 Activity and movement physical and mental health and wellbeing is supported by opportunities to access parks and natural areas, quality open space and recreation and sporting facilities.

CW Goal 4 Undertake town planning, infrastructure provision and asset management to facilitate healthy lifestyles and safety.

CW Goal 5 Apply a strategic, planned and consistent approach to the provision, development and maintenance of roads and footpaths.

Annual Business Plan:

Paech Road preliminary design is an approved project within the endorsed 2023/24 annual business plan.

Purpose:

To present a summary of the feedback received during community engagement on the draft concept design for the upgrade of Paech Road, Mount Barker and to seek endorsement of the updated concept plan.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. During the community engagement period between 23 January and 13 February 2024, 739 people viewed the project information webpage and draft concept design, 36 people completed the online survey, around 50 people attended the drop in session to provide feedback in person and 4 people emailed more detailed responses.

2. Feedback themes included tree preservation, road form and function, pedestrians and cyclists access, speed management, and intersection upgrades.
3. All of the feedback received has been collated, summarised and responded to as shown in Attachment 1. As a result of the feedback received, a number of minor changes have been made to the concept design and is now submitted to Council for endorsement.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. **Notes the results of community engagement and responses provided (Attachment 1);**
 2. **Endorses the updated concept design for Paech Rd (Attachment 2);**
 3. **Notes the indicative staging plan and cost opinion, including the need to undertake further network modelling to finalise intersection designs and that any changes to budget will be considered as part of the next budget review;**
 4. **Note that a further Council report on detailed design and funding outcomes will be provided ahead of any construction works.**
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Background:

1. Council has allocated funding to prepare a concept and detailed design for the upgrade of Paech Road in Mount Barker.
2. On 15 January 2024 Council resolved to authorise staff to undertake Community engagement on the draft concept design for the upgrade of the Paech Road.

Discussion:

How We Engaged:

3. The consultation period between 23 January and 13 February 2024 included the following community engagement activities:
 - a. A project information page was created on Council's engagement platform "YourSay", providing details on the proposed concept design.
 - b. An information letter was mailed to directly abutting properties on Paech Road, providing arrangements for the drop in session (held at Aston Hills shopping centre), the consultation period and information on how to provide feedback.
 - c. An online feedback survey was created for those taking part to give feedback online.
 - d. An email address was provided for those wanting to provide more extended feedback responses.
 - e. A drop in session was held on 8 February 2024 at the Aston Hills shopping centre on Paech Road for community members to attend

and provide feedback. Further consultation was also held with residents directly affected by the design.

- f. Electronic signs were installed at each end of Paech Road advising the timing of the consultation period.

What We Heard:

4. In response to the feedback received, a Summary of Consultation and Proposed Amendments (SCPA) table has been prepared. The SCPA table and full summary of all feedback received on the project is contained within Attachment 1.
5. The key themes in the feedback were associated with:
 - a. Preservation of vegetation (exotic and native)
 - b. Traffic controls and speed environment
 - c. Property access
 - d. Pedestrian and cyclist access and safety
 - e. Road form and function
 - f. Intersection treatments
6. The key specific feedback included the following:
 - a. Strong support for the proposed pedestrian pathways and road upgrade
 - b. Strong current need for pedestrian infrastructure
 - c. Support for the early installation of a footpath (even temporary) between Heysen Boulevard and Belmont Crescent (Hartmann Rd) given that road reconstruction may be several years away.
 - d. Strong support to reduce the speed limit
 - e. Concerns about potential vegetation removal
 - f. Concerns about the bends present at Paech/Sims and Sims/Hartmann intersections
 - g. Concern about heavy vehicles using Paech Road as a cut through
 - h. A need to improve safety and crossing points for pedestrians
 - i. A need for another refuge crossing between Heysen Boulevard and Springbrook Drive
 - j. A need to improve safety and reduce speed in the section between Potts Road and Wellington Road
 - k. A need to improve the roundabout at Hartmann Road/Belmont Crescent
 - l. A need to speed up construction of Heysen Boulevard
 - m. A need to improve Hartmann/Alexandrina/Bald Hills intersection
 - n. Concerns about safety at Paech/Wellington intersection

How We Listened:

7. As a result of the feedback received from the community, a number of changes have been made to the draft concept plan to ensure the final design outcomes are, where possible and practical, consistent with the community expectations.

8. The following are some of the key changes made in the final concept plan:
 - a. Relocation of the pedestrian refuge at Springbrook Drive to further north near the creek crossing in order to better serve Spinebill St/Heron Gve and Springbrook Drive.
 - b. Relocation of shared path to be back of kerb between Heysen Boulevard and Wise Ct
 - c. Relocation of pram ramp on Springbrook Drive on eastern side of the light pole

Cost Opinion:

9. An independent quantity surveyor has provided a high level cost opinion for the construction of Paech Road Upgrade based on the draft concept design. The total construction costs are estimated to be \$17 million in today’s dollars (excl. GST and incl. 50% contingency).
10. This estimate includes generous allowance for pavement and retaining due to design only being at a concept stage. After completion of a detailed design, a more refined quantity surveyor cost estimate will be prepared with a reduced contingency given the greater level of detail.
11. Pre-tender cost estimates at the time of delivery of each phase will also be obtained to inform anticipated budget needs and any grant funding submissions.

Staging Plan:

12. Council staff propose a staged delivery approach over a number of years, subject to funding and other priorities. The following staging has been proposed and will be considered for inclusion in the next iteration of Council’s Long Term Financial Plan:

Stage	Extents	Proposed Timing
1	Between Belmont Crescent and Heysen Boulevard	FY 25/26
2	Heysen Boulevard to Sugar Court	FY 26/27
3	Sugar Court to Potts Road	FY 27/28

13. Note that each stage will be better refined once the detailed design is completed.

Funding:

14. The project lists associated with the Councils Transport Infrastructure Separate Rate (TISR) identifies the linkage of Hartman, Sims and Paech only as far south as the Heysen Boulevard/Paech intersection for potential funding from the TISR funds. The separate rate project list also includes the intersection of Heysen Boulevard and Paech Road.

15. South of Heysen Boulevard, Paech Road is not currently identified to be funded from the TISR. Further work will be undertaken by staff to refine the eligible projects to be funded from the TISR which could include the addition of this road segment.
16. The Transport Deed between some developers and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport only makes mention of the intersection of Heysen Boulevard and Paech Road but falls short of flagging that Deed funds will contribute to the intersection upgrade. The timing and allocation of Deed funds to this project will be a matter for the Ministerial Advisory Committee.
17. The amount currently provisioned in the LTFP for the upgrade of Paech Rd falls short of the high level cost opinion provided however noting that there is still a need for further value management and design review before updating the next iteration of the LTFP.
18. Separately, and in an effort to reduce the funding impact to Ratepayers, it is believed that this project will be an ideal candidate for the Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) or other grants rounds that exist from time to time. Taking into account other organisational priorities, this project will be considered for future grants rounds.

Next Steps:

19. It has been identified that the type of intersection treatment needed at Paech and Potts/Yunkunga as well as Paech and Heysen Boulevard requires network traffic modelling to predict the future traffic volumes on the local network. The current budget provision doesn't cover that scope and it is estimated that a further \$40k will be required to enable those investigations to occur. This will be considered in the next phase of design.
20. Some land acquisition is needed in parts to deliver the Paech Rd concept design in full and so discussions will continue to be had with land owners where necessary.
21. Subject to Council endorsement, Council staff will proceed to undertake the next phase of detailed design and network modelling to inform grant funding submissions.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	The community will continue to receive updates and information via Council's website and targeted stakeholder discussions as needed.
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Policy:

In accordance with Public Consultation policy.

Long Term Financial Plan:

The projects as outlined in this report are included in the Long Term Financial Plan 2024-2034 (LTFP) that has recently concluded community consultation and is proposed to be adopted in May 2024.

Budget:

There is \$60k for Paech Road Upgrade Design in the current annual business plan and budget. Any advanced funding to complete network modelling and design will be considered at future budget reviews or as part of the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Statutory/Legal:

Not applicable.

Staff Resource Requirements:

Consultant design resources and internal project management resources required.

Environmental:

Detailed design work will give consideration to retention and reuse of existing pavement materials and utilisation of recycled products wherever suitable. Other initiatives such as permeable paving and tree sensitive pavements will be included where feasible to do so.

Social:

This project will have a positive social benefit as there will be pedestrian infrastructure linking with existing trails and paths, enhancing active transport opportunities and improving safety and function.

Risk Assessment:

A full risk assessment will be completed for the project as it continues, including safety in design.

Progression of the concept to the preliminary design (then then ultimately detailed design) is important to enable timely planning, design and implementation of improvements to Paech Road to accommodate residential growth.

The risk of community not supporting the project is mitigated by undertaking community engagement and keeping them informed of any major changes.

There is a risk that grant funding assumptions may not be realised leading to a delay in the project delivery or increased costs to the ratepayer.

Asset Management:

Much of the road infrastructure is at the end of its useful life and is due for renewal in accordance with Council’s asset management plan. An estimate of the ongoing maintenance costs will be provided when the final design is presented to Council for endorsement.

Conclusion:

Paech Road Upgrade is an important project for the local community as residential growth expands into that area and the asset nears end-of-life. Results of community engagement have now been incorporated into the concept design for Council endorsement before proceeding with the next phases of design development and delivery.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	15 January 2024	CM Reference	DOC/23/165976
Title	Paech Road Concept Design		
Purpose	To present Council Members with the draft concept design for the proposed upgrade of Paech Road, Mount Barker and to seek endorsement to undertake community engagement on the same.		

PAECH ROAD UPGRADE - DROP IN SESSION COMMENTS		
Held at Drakes Supermarket - 8 February 2024		
Attendees approximately 60		
Theme	Comment	Response
Speed	Potts Rd to Wellington Rd should also be 60km/h	To be considered
	Agree with 60km/h	Your support is noted
	Keep speed limit at 80km/h	Not appropriate, no longer an open rural road.
	Reduce the speed limit	Agreed - 60km/h proposed
	I think that the 60km should extend from Potts road to the Wellington road as there are homes whose drives come straight onto the road and there is a crest which reduces visibility, and there will be much more traffic. I am very pleased to read that no more trees will be cut down and impressed that there will be pedestrian and bicycle paths.	Speed limits are set by Department of Infrastructure and Transport and are based on certain criteria. Council will continue to advocate with the state department for a 60km/h speed limit. Works from Potts to Wellington Road is unfortunately out of scope for this project.
	Lower the speed limit from Potts Rd to Wellington Rd and provide shoulders	
Pedestrian Refuges	Provide at Glenlea Blvd (North)	Thank you, your feedback has been addressed in the plans
	Provide near creek crossing	Thank you, your feedback has been addressed in the plans
Paths	Happy with Shared path	Your support is noted
	Accessible paths for wheel chairs	Paths will be constructed to meet accessibility standards
	Path in Sims Road on South side	Path in Sims Road on the south side was not originally considered due to it being heavily treed. However we will investigate if there is any merit in doing so.
	Construct paths first	Unlikely to be practical due to the close proximity of the road works
	Review Stravo Data heat map for pedestrian/cyclist movements	Will be undertaken
	Relocate path to near the kerb from Heysen Blvd to Wise Ct	Relocated to clear the drainage infrastructure and rock walling
	Widening required along school boundary and Hartmann Rd/Sims Rd to accommodate shared path	Negotiations have commenced
	Overall it looks good, but as a Glenlea resident I'm a bit disappointed to see a narrower footpath on our side of Paech Rd, but I understand this is probably due to Trees being in the way. However, I would like it if there was a path on the Glenlea side of Paech Rd, that would link the new path that goes through the mini reserve at the northern end of Glenlea Boulevard and connect to path at end of Springbrook Dr. So we would not have to cross Paech Rd to traverse around the block.	Paech Road is constrained with the existing narrow road corridor and heavy vegetation, which causes difficulties in achieving the required widening plus the shared path. With the existing road reserve, all that we can fit is a 1.5m footpath behind the row of trees with some pinchpoints. We have proposed a connection point from #4 Glenlea Boulevard to the new shared path which people can use to get into the internal path network in Glenlea Boulevard.
	Road design upgrade looks good, there needs to be footpaths / pedestrian access from Aston hills to sims road/ Hartman road. As there is a school on sims road and a school planned to be built in Aston hills pedestrian access is a must for the safety of children. I have seen too many young families already having to walk on the road at the intersection of sims rd/ Hartman rd/ peach rd. Please consider this as an important safety issue.	Shared path has been proposed in the plan from the Emerald Way roundabout, all the way to Glenlea Boulevard to address pedestrian and cyclists movement and safety.
	Pedestrian access is a necessity. Leave it the way it is dippys. Create the footpath elsewhere that's not road side - it will take only one of you city dipwits to drive up on the curb and take out a person. Stop digging up perfectly good paddocks and relocate elsewhere	The path on Paech Road is proposed to be set back from kerb wherever possible. However we are constrained by the road corridor and vegetation, so in some places the only way to put a path in is behind the kerb. We are aware that there is a big demand for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in Paech Road, whose function is changing from a rural environment to a more urbanised road with developments on both sides.
	Make sure there is safe pedestrian access on both sides of Paech road. Crossing this road and walking along this road is currently very dangerous and there must be safe opportunities for pedestrians and cyclists to stay off the road itself. The 90degree bend from Hartman Rd and Sims Road is dangerous and must be made safer. Roundabouts may help at Sims Road corner if there is also a roundabout at Hartman Road and Bald Hills Road. Traffic flow along Paech Road begins here. Paech Road must be wider and with appropriate guttering.	Paech Road is constrained with the existing narrow road corridor and heavy vegetation, which causes difficulties in achieving the required widening plus paths on both sides. Moreover, there are only a few houses with direct frontages into Paech Road and the rest of the houses only have their back fences onto Paech Road and hence will not be able to access the path from their properties directly. However in saying that, we will investigate the possibilities of having a footpath on the opposite side between Sims Road and Heysen Boulevard. There are widening works proposed on the Hartmann Rd/Sims Road bend, with the provision of a protected right turn lane into Sims Road. We investigated the option of installing a roundabout on the Sims/hartmann intersection, however it did not provide any benefit to traffic flow when compared to the proposed intersection layout. However it could be considered as a future option if there is change in traffic conditions. The Hartmann/Alexandrina/Bald Hills intersection is currently being investigated by the staff as part of a separate project. More information will be released in the upcoming months regarding this.

Theme	Comment	Response
	From reviewing the design concept, it appears there has not been any consideration for connecting the footpaths from the existing paths along sims road, up to sims road extension, or along peach road. It is already incredibly dangerous for anyone trying to ride a bike or walk along these roads, yet people are doing it every day. Failure to account for pedestrian and cyclist traffic along these sections of peach/sims road would be a huge oversight and reflect very poorly on MTBDC. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE include adequate crossing and walkway extending up sims road from the existing path on the corner of sims/hartman, up to the along peach road. This is the only way to currently access this entire area of Mt Barker! Peach road should have dedicated bike lanes the entire length of the road. In addition, the corner of sims/peach road should be designed in a way that the current blocked off/Unsealed section of Sims road can be sealed/extended to Heysen BLVD. This would ease traffic along peach road, and allow much easier access to the sports park and shopping centre. Please consider this when designing these intersections.	There has been a pedestrian refuge proposed that connects the path on Sims Road with the new shared path on Hartmann/Paech Road. We will also investigate the possibilities of having a footpath on the opposite side between Sims Road and Heysen Boulevard. Due to the road width constraints, on road bicycle lanes cannot be provided on Paech Road. However shared path has been provided to provision for pedestrians and cyclists movement. The section of Sims Road has been blocked off to motor vehiclesto deal with safety issues associated with short cutting and dust. Its envisaged future usage is to provide local access to service the school block.
	As a pregnant resident of Springbrook (between Paech Road and Glenlea), I am SO excited at the prospect of having a footpath! I'm having blissful visions of walking my baby over to the shops at Aston Hills now that the estates will be so safely joined. I cannot wait!! Well done gang!	Your support is noted
	Please consider a pedestrian crossing refuge at the bottom of Wilton Court/ Paech Rd. The amount of people who currently walk down this street with bikes, children and dogs and cross through the current scrub is very high. They cut straight across into Spring Brook. I would hate for someone to get hurt	Your concern will be addressed in the plans.
	Provide a path on western side of Paech Rd between Glenlea Blvd and Potts Rd	Path between Potts and Glenlea Blvd is not considered necessary at this stage, pedestrians can make use of the path network within the Glenlea Estate
Intersections	Heysen Blvd - Install traffic lights	More modelling and geometric considerations to be undertaken
	Yunkunga Road - buy land and build a roundabout. Hay trucks use the intersection	Intersection options are still being considered.
	Brook Street - provide a trail	Will be considered as part of a future project. Very minimal current use which cannot justify extending the path
	Sims Rd/Hartmann Rd - provide a roundabout	There are widening works proposed on the Hartmann Rd/Sims Road bend, with the provision of a protected right turn lane into Sims Road. We investigated the option of installing a roundabout on the Sims/hartmann intersection, however it did not provide any benefit to traffic flow when compared to the proposed intersection layout. However it could be considered as a future option if there is change in traffic conditions.
	with forecast of building on all available land behind golf course. two lane roundabout to ease congestion. just look forward	Intersection options are still being considered for Hartmann/Alexandrina/ Bald Hills intersection
	Sims Rd/Paech Rd - provide a roundabout	A possible option but it is dependant on school requirements
Luthern School	Access should be from Sims Rd	Your comment is noted. However, the school has not yet submitted formal plans and no decision has been made at this stage.
Roadway	Sims Rd/Paech Rd - look at turning paths and lighting	Required design standards for both have been provided
	Please design the intersection Sims Road and Hartman Road to have a turn right only lane turning from Hartman to Sims Road. Please get rid of the speed humps on Sims Road.	A protected right turn lane has been designed in Hartmann Road to facilitate turning into Sims Road. Speed humps on Sims Road is unfortunately out of this project scope.
	Whilst this upgrade is needed I believe it should include the resurfacing and widening including new and upgrade of existing footpaths along Hartmann road from the new roundabout to the Alexandria intersection.	Will be considered as part of a future project.
	This concept of having a roundabout installed at the intersection of Heysen Blvd and Paech Rd can't come soon enough. I live near this intersection and frequently hear cars travelling on Paech Rd heading north towards Sims Rd excessively exceeding the speed limit. What concerns me is they would be unable to reduce speed quickly to avoid a collision as there is no room on the road to divert quickly. The extension of the 60 km speed limit from Sims to Potts is appropriate.	Thank you, your feedback is noted.
	I'm concerned that the road remains a single lane road given the increased population in the area and only 2 freeway entrances. It would appear to be a lost opportunity to spend considerable resources and not increase the road to double lane.	Thank you for expressing your concern, but a double lane is not warranted for the road function and ultimate traffic volumes on Paech Road

Theme	Comment	Response
	<p>It seems to me that the proposal represents wasted effort if it does not include realignment of Paech and Hartman roads to eliminate the two dog-legs, which my experience tells me are dangerous at present. Before the vacant land north and south of the short piece of Sims Road gets built on, council should exercise compulsory acquisition of enough land to create a double curve and form a continuous pavement of Paech and Hartman roads. I can appreciate the speed mitigating properties of the two right-angle corners, but I think that can be achieved equally well with a double-curve, which will better accommodate the significantly increased traffic volume that we are already seeing, and that is without taking into account the rapid increase in population occurring in the immediate area. I am taking a longer-term approach than the patch job proposed, and the timing will be critical, with the opportunity lost if housing development continues without constraint. It will be hugely more costly NOT to make this change now.</p> <p>Another aspect I have thought about is to approach the State Government to designate Paech/Hartman an Alternate B37 road, therefore subject to State funding rather than Council. Furthermore, none of this will come to much good unless the intersection of Hartman with Bald Hills Road is significantly upgraded. There are already serious delays (morning and evening) in traffic movement due to poor design of the corner (not taking into account forward planning for increased population) and plenty of available space for a roundabout as well as slip lanes along Hartman and on the Westbound approach on Bald Hills Road.</p> <p>I am seeing these changes as parts of a single project to cope with clearly visible increases in traffic volumes, not as separate issues. I am very concerned that the project as presently described will just make matters very much worse at the Bald Hills road end.</p>	<p>You're absolutely right about the importance of the bends at Paech and Hartmann Roads in maintaining a safe speed environment. At the current urban speed limit of 50 kph, these bends allow for safe road design without the need for land acquisition or straightening.</p> <p>Paech Road's role has evolved into more of an urban collector road rather than a cut-through route. With proposed new pedestrian infrastructure and a future school in mind, it's crucial to maintain a lower speed environment. This approach also helps direct heavy vehicles to the arterial road network, making the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>We are currently considering various upgrade options for the Hartmann/Alexandrina/Bald Hills Road intersection, with a recommendation expected to be presented to Council in May 2024. Depending on the progress of the design, it's possible that the upgrade of the Hartmann intersection may coincide with or precede the upgrade of Paech Road.</p>
	<p>Paech Road should be planned as a heavy vehicle bypass around Mt Barker. Is a Heavy vehicle road a priority in the transport plan? Attention needs to go into the pinch point at Alexandrina Road and Hartman Road before any other works commence. Thank you</p>	<p>Paech Road is not intended to serve as a bypass for heavy vehicles. Its primary function is that of an urban collector road, given the presence of developments on both sides, a future school, a bus route, and increased pedestrian activity. Heavy vehicles are advised to use the arterial road network instead.</p>
	<p>Hoping there is room made for buses to pull in at bus stops. Possibility of a roundabout corner Sims and Hartmann Rds in future should traffic increase to the point where the planned turn right lane does not cope to keep traffic flowing. As there is a school planned for between Sims and Heysen Boulevard can consideration be given to car parking being directed to Sims Rd (currently dirt) instead of blocking up Heysen Boulevard for all the people living in Aston Hills. Let's not repeat the school hour parking problems that occurred around St Francis school. Looking forward to safe cycling and walking along and across Paech Road</p>	<p>The determination of suitable bus stops will be made by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, ensuring they are fit for purpose.</p> <p>The possibility of a roundabout on Sims/Hartmann Road, it may be considered in the future if deemed necessary.</p> <p>The school has not yet submitted formal plans. No decision has been made at this stage.</p> <p>It is also important to note that congestion on urban roads during school hours is an expected phenomenon</p>
	<p>Road keeps breaking up - bring back the Romans</p>	<p>Road pavement is due for renewal which this project provides.</p>
<p>Drainage</p>	<p>Road keeps flooding at creek crossing - pipes too small</p>	<p>The drainage issues will be examined at the detailed design stage</p>
	<p>The draft plan looks excellent and will deliver MUCH NEEDED changes for all residents, thank you for your work! 1) The plan doesn't specify what will be done to address the major drainage issues on Paech Rd near Springbrook Dr, in the waterway or dip in the road. This is a major hazard whenever it rains and must be permanently fixed. 2) an additional pedestrian access path into Glenlea or Springbrook estate would be great, providing easy access into Aston Hills. Thanks</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. The drainage issues will be examined at the detailed design stage. There has been access provided into Glenlea and Springbrook wherever possible. However, we will investigate the need and possibility to facilitate additional paths.</p>
	<p>All well and good but completely pointless when all the traffic comes to a stop and the intersection of Hartmann and Alexandrina. This needs to be done first</p>	<p>We are currently considering various upgrade options for the Hartmann/Alexandrina/Bald Hills Road intersection, with a recommendation expected to be presented to Council in May 2024.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Please upgrade the intersection of Hartmann Rd and Bald Hills Rd</p>	
	<p>The design is fine as a frequent user of this road and resident of Aston hills.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Bus route, stop locations are all determined by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport. At this rate the planned bus stops are located between Sims and Heysen Boulevard.</p>
	<p>I would suggest the inclusion of bus stops would also be especially beneficial for residents and should be pursued.</p>	
	<p>Realign Hartman Road to continue straight at Sims Road instead of the ridiculous dogleg that is currently there. Hartman would then join Paech Road at the Heysen Boulevard Roundabout. No doubt you will respond that the land is already owned by Adore Estate. Have some foresight for once and trade this land for the current Paech Road land that can be closed down. If you don't understand my suggestion, call me. Looking forward to Mount Barker council using some imagination and leadership to long-term solutions rather than bandaids.</p>	<p>The bends at Paech and Hartmann Roads play an important role in maintaining a safe speed environment. At the current urban speed limit of 50 kph, these bends allow for safe road design without the need for land acquisition or straightening.</p>
	<p>It lacks vision for future population growth.</p>	
	<p>The plan provided would have been perfect PRIOR to all of the subdivisions surrounding the road, however now - this plan is already dated.</p>	
	<p>The section of Hartmann Rd, Sims Rd and Paech Rd needs to be completely redesigned/realigned and reconstructed.</p>	
	<p>Hi Team, very happy to see the shared path (pedestrian/cyclist) within the draft design. This will make it safer for children especially walking/riding their bikes to and from schools. Also happy to see the roundabout at the entrance of Heysen Boulevard - if we can only get the drivers to slow right down when approaching/entering roundabouts like the roundabout by the Emerald Way estate. Half of the motorists speed through roundabouts like it isn't there. Thank you.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback</p>
	<p>The concept is sound for the area proposed but won't address larger issues. Intersection of Hartman, Alexandria Rd requires a roundabout to handle the traffic flow coming from Paech Rd. Why is the Sims Road extension to Heysen Boulevard closed? A more straight forward route. Needs to be past Potts Rd to Wellington Rd. The traffic is always increasing and this is short term, thanks</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Paech Road's role has evolved into more of an urban collector road rather than a cut-through route. With proposed new pedestrian infrastructure and a future school in mind, it's crucial to maintain a lower speed environment and direct heavy vehicles to the arterial road network, making the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The road is proposed to be widened to accommodate 3.3m lanes in each direction and shoulders. The trees will undergo pruning as part of the project, no tree removals (except for a dead tree) has been proposed.</p>

Theme	Comment	Response
	<p>Its a very positive start to improve Paech Road. It is used by main forms of transport and the road has become in disrepair. Trucks will continue to use Paech Road as a thoroughfare from Strath through Wistow etc. thus Paech road needs to be WIDER and STRONGER to take the load. Happy that there is a roundabout at Heysen Boulevard, but please get rid of the spoon drains that are at Emerald Way roundabout. They are very hurtful to your back cross over.</p> <p>The pathway is desperately needed as residents of Aston Hills dangerously walk on the verge and trucks coming wizzing by. There is hardly any room for trucks and cars to pass safely at the moment.</p> <p>Presently the trees are dangerously hanging over Paech Road. Will they be cut back or removed?</p>	<p>We are currently considering various upgrade options for the Hartmann/Alexandrina/Bald Hills Road intersection, with a recommendation expected to be presented to Council in May 2024.</p> <p>The adjacent developer will undertake some corrective works on the NW approach of the roundabout.</p>
	<p>Excellent, well-considered design.</p>	<p>Your support is noted, thank you.</p>
	<p>As a daily user of this road, and a local (Springbrook) resident, I would like to highlight the immediate NEED for this project to commence. Heavy vehicles are constantly utilising this very narrow road, pushing oncoming traffic off the road. The trees are far too close to the existing road. I have lived in the area for 2 years, and have never had pedestrian access to the remainder of Mt B due to the safety concerns. The constant flooding north of Springbrook Drive is also a huge safety concern. I appreciate the detail in the new design, especially the turning lane for Springbrook Dr, and consideration to widen Paech Road. While the need for a roundabout isn't currently urgent, it will ensure a seamless transition once the future Heysen Blvd is built.</p> <p>Please know that while the local community may not be vocal about this matter, the urgency is certainly there.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. We understand the urgency of the need for upgrade and will do our level best to ensure design and delivery staging is on track. Stormwater design and management will be looked at in the detailed design.</p>
	<p>I'm delighted that large native trees of local species will be retained.</p> <p>Could I suggest that all native trees of local species be retained, including the dead tree referred to. Dead trees provide hollows for native wildlife which has suffered grievously from habitat destruction during the extensive housing & business developments in Mt Barker.</p> <p>In the photo above I note that on the east side of Paech Rd there is a number of regenerating native tree saplings of local species. These need to be retained to compensate in tiny part for the removal of so many wildlife habitat trees in Mt Barker. Already many of these regenerated trees have been removed through grass mowing & it is wise to cease this practice as so much of our wildlife is approaching extinction. To follow this suggestion would certainly enhance the natural environment credentials of Mt Barker District Council.</p> <p>On Hartmann Rd there are several palm trees at the entrance to a housing estate. These need to be removed as soon as possible as they are exotic species & quite unsuited to the area. They provide little or no habitat for local wildlife & need to be replaced with native local tree & shrub species.</p> <p>Exotic grasses growing along Paech Rd are both annual grasses & provide little or no wildlife habitat. Importantly, they dry off during summer & present a serious bushfire hazard. They need to be replaced with local native grass species (e.g., Kangaroo Grass, Themeda triandra) which are perennial & retain a touch of green during summer & are therefore much more bushfire resistant than the exotic species. They also provide wildlife habitat for butterflies, small native birds & pollinating insects.</p> <p>To further reduce bushfire hazard I suggest that fence lines along Paech Rd be planted with local native creepers such as Hardenbergia violacea which are also bushfire resistant & provide habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>Paech Rd is clearly a wildlife corridor opportunity & , if Mt Barker Council sees fit, could be linked to other native vegetation in the Mt Barker area to reduce the threats to biodiversity posed by developments which, frankly, are not displaying a great deal of sensitivity to this aspect of our community life.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the future of Paech Rd & I look forward to the natural enhancement of this increasingly important thoroughfare.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>The dead tree has to be removed to accommodate for road widening in that direction so as to not impact other trees in the opposite direction. However prior to removal our environmental health officer will examine the tree for any sign of habitat. Any wildlife found will be safely relocated as needed.</p> <p>Whilst native trees are good to support wildlife habitat, exotic trees helps build urban forest resilience which is needed in this ever changing climate. Mount Barker Council has been trialling different exotic species to determine it's suitability in the climate here. Although exotic trees dry off in the summer, the location mentioned is not a high bushfire risk zone. Paech Road will have a landscape overlay done which will include native understory and tree planting wherever possible.</p>
	<p>The design looks great compared to what the situation currently is and I am very please none of the lovely trees will be removed apart from the one dead tree. However I do think having pedestrian access onto each street in Aston Hills seems like a bit of over kill, I understand pedestrian access is important but surely not in every street? It seems like you are ripping up lovely front yards that people have spent 7+ years on to save people walking an extra say 40m. I think there should be access on Wilton court as it leads to the bike path and Mattner as its close to the drakes shop but Spicer st and Barnett lead to nothing that cant be easily accessed from either of those other streets? People brought the end blocks of land hoping to live in a quiet cul-de-sac, if pedestrian access is given to each street that is ruined for all those houses not to mention verges (funded by the residents not council) have been landscaped and maintained for years to now be ripped up and replaced with foot paths, what a waste of time and money.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. While we do understand that some of these access might go over lawns, it is essential for us to create a connected pedestrian network, and give people from these other side streets easy access onto the proposed shared path on Paech Road. However we will look at the demand and feasibility more closely at the detailed design stage.</p>
	<p>Draft concept appears good</p> <p>We live at Paech Road and have the following comment on the draft drawing</p> <p>x next to us has a right of way to the property and no access is shown on the draft document</p> <p>Our x property has two access crossing which need to be included in the plan</p>	<p>Need to contact Kevin - #196</p>

Theme	Comment	Response
	<p>My wife and I are the owners of x Springbrook Drive, Mount Barker. Our side boundary is against Paech road.</p> <p>We are happy with the plan and excited for greater pedestrian access along Paech Road.</p> <p>Our one request (and we have also given this in person at consultation on Feb 8 2024) is that the pedestrian crossing ramp at the start of Springbrook Drive is moved slightly towards Paech Road, to be on the Paech Road side of the existing light pole.</p> <p>Our verge is already landscaped, and this minor alteration of the plan would avoid significant impact and distribution to the look and feel of our whole front yard, as well as impact financially given we have already spent money to complete this.</p> <p>Speaking with council in person, they said it's a minor move and shouldn't be a major issue.</p> <p>If anything this allows pedestrians crossing from the path on the east of paech road to cross safely to the west (by our boundary fence), walk around the big tree and essentially it would be a slight diagonal instead of a jagged path to be able to cross over Springbrook drive and continue walking either down Springbrook Drive on the existing footpath or along the western side of paech road into the Springbrook estate.</p> <p>It would be appreciated if this can happen, I would love to be able to explain this feedback on site in person to make more sense if possible.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. At this stage there doesn't seem an issue in doing so, however we will investigate your request more closely in the detailed design and get in contact with you.</p>
	<p>My husband and I are the owners of x Springbrook Drive, Mount Barker, just off of Paech Road.</p> <p>We like how the current concept plan looks and very excited for the upgrades, we would just really appreciate the pedestrian crossing ramp at the start of Springbrook Drive to be moved onto the east side of the light pole, towards Paech road. Currently it appears to the west side of this light pole on the concept plan.</p> <p>We have spent a significant amount of time and money on landscaping our front yard based on previous advice given about future footpaths and ramps and leaving the ramp where it is currently suggested would highly impact that, and bring a higher volume of foot traffic much closer to the front of our house.</p> <p>Speaking with council in person, they said it all seemed pretty doable/affordable to make this minor move. It would be greatly appreciated if this can happen and we're happy to discuss in further detail, especially in person, to get a greater understanding of our perspective if you would like.</p>	
	<p>An important aspect of the redesign is not just the parts affected by the opportunistic housing area but also the connection with Wellington Road and the increased traffic in Wistow. The corner of Paech Rd and Welly road is dangerous with many accidents because visibility to the west is limited by the acute angle. There should be a 50km speed limit in Wistow. Strath drivers in the morning are always in a hurry to drive to ADELAIDE while doing their makeup and talking on their mobile phones.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Paech Road is a local road and its form and function in the local network will need to respond to the introduction of a greater proportion of local traffic using the road to connect with Heyden Boulevard. Our focus currently is the segment of road within the surrounding land development. The road reserve along that segment is narrow with significant stands of remnant native vegetation along it. Through the road upgrade, the road form and function will be changed to acknowledge the ever-growing residential activity north of Potts.</p> <p>Your concern is duly noted, and it is acknowledged that a proportion of traffic uses Paech Road currently as a route from Wistow through to Bald Hills Road and the freeway interchange via Paech and Hartmann. However, ultimately, Wellington Road and Heyden Boulevard will serve as the preferred collector route for traffic seeking to move between Wistow and the Bald Hills Road Interchange. Whilst not a direct part of the current concept design scope, the junction treatment at Wellington Road is indeed a location where modifications may be negotiated with State Government in the future to assist in deterring cut through movements of traffic.</p> <p>At this stage, a speed limit reduction has not been considered for the section of Paech Road between Potts and Wellington Road. However, when it is due for renewal, we will investigate options to improve safety which may include widening wherever possible and reducing the speed limit to 60 km/h (subject to required approvals by Elected Members and DIT).</p> <p>We will continue to advocate your concerns to the state government.</p>
	<p>I think everyone in the area would agree that Paech Road desperately needs an upgrade. The road has been damaged by developments along it, and the volume of traffic has increased enormously. It has gone from a quiet country back road to a busy urban area and by pass in just a few years. On a related matter, our community is concerned about the impact that developments in both Mount Barker and Strathalbyn are having on the volume of traffic that passes along Paech Road and through Wistow everyday, in both directions. The volume of traffic has increased enormously in recent years, and we also see more and more heavy vehicles passing through and stopping in Wistow. This has increased the potential risk of traffic accidents and the noise level in Wistow.</p> <p>The Paech road and Wellington road intersection has become very busy, and given that there isnt a turning lane onto Paech Road heading out of Wistow on Wellington Road, this</p>	
	<p>The Wistow Community Association agrees that Paech Road should be upgraded for the reasons specified in the consultation paper. However, the draft concept plan only covers Paech Road as far south as Potts Road, and we feel that there are also road safety issues at the southern end of Paech Road where it intersects with Wellington Road.</p> <p>Paech Road has changed from a quiet rural back road only a few years ago to a busy urban road around Aston Hills, but it has also become a busy by-pass route for those travelling to/from Strathalbyn and other areas southeast of Mount Barker via Long Valley Road or Wellington Road. As a result, the volume of traffic at the Paech Road - Wellington Road intersection, and passing through Wistow in both directions, has increased significantly.</p> <p>The Paech Road - Wellington Road intersection is in an 80kmh zone just outside Wistow where the speed limit is 60kmh. There aren't any turning lanes onto Paech Road from Wellington Road, and with high traffic volumes in both directions along Wellington Road, which includes trailers, trucks and other large vehicles, this causes traffic hold ups in an 80kmh zone when vehicles turn against the traffic. This is a dangerous road safety area.</p> <p>We are also concerned about the impact of increased traffic through Wistow itself. A large number of vehicles pull over and park on both sides of Wellington Road to visit the Wistow</p>	

Theme	Comment	Response
	<p>I acknowledge the need to upgrade Paech Road to take an increasing volume of all types of traffic and applaud Council's intention of retaining trees, in particular native trees, wherever possible. I wish to raise the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> At the junction of Yungkunga and Paech it is intended to eventually put in another road on this steep incline to facilitate traffic from Paech into Yungkunga (one presumes). This will take out most if not all the vegetation at this corner site. I wish to point out that this corner was formerly the home of a beautiful Casuarina verticillata (Weeping She-Oak) grove, with excellent line of sight from Yungkunga so that traffic approaching on Paech was easily observed and no accidents were ever recorded at this corner during that time. For whatever reason the She-Oak grove was destroyed and the corner allowed to return to 'scrub' which now blocks the view from Yungkunga Road of any approaching traffic from the north. If possible could this area be replanted with Weeping She-Oaks which were once prolific in this area and provided a food source for many birds, including the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo? Because these trees do not have vegetation for 2m from ground level, line of sight can be restored. With regard to 'Brooks Road' which now appears on the Paech Road map I wish to point out that no such road has ever existed in that location, and the fact that council has now chosen to extend the existing Brooks Road from the top of the hill due west reveals council's intention for further land subdivision. Brooks Road currently starts on Yungkunga Road and heads directly uphill due north, servicing the Brooks home and two other properties on that road - one at the very end of it. This has been the situation for the past half century and no doubt a bit earlier than that. It is concerning that Council is already planning for further subdivision, despite the land between Brooks Road (off Yungkunga) and Paech Road adjacent Glen Lea development still being zoned 'primary production land'. Can you please clarify why this has been done, if urban sprawl is indeed to halt at the current boundary outlined in the Ministerial DPA of 2010? The traffic on Harper Road has noticeably increased since a 60kph limit has been placed on parts of Paech Road. To avoid the heavy trucks and 'speedsters' in our district from moving their regular travel from Paech to Harper Road (adjacent active farm land) it would be very much appreciated if serious and urgent consideration could be given to changing Yungkunga and Harper Road speed limit to 60kph to protect what has long been recognised by Council as of 'high conservation value' and requiring 'wildlife' protection signage. To leave this road at the current 80kph does not show any intention on the part of Council to protect wildlife or roadside vegetation. I request that Council planners consult with arborist Chris Lawry and the records which show Harper Road as of 'high conservation value' and "with significant wildlife in need of protection". Please note that the increased high speed traffic on Harper Road is making our farming enterprise ever difficult to manage, with a semi-trailer loading cattle at our yards recently having to request that traffic be stopped on Harper Road to achieve access to the ramp. 	<p>Thank you for your feedback. The Brooks Road that has been shown on the plan is an unmade road, extension of the built Brooks Road. Council has no intention of formalising a road through there. The proposed development on the Eastern side stops at the unmade Brooks Road, and the proposed development on the West Stops before #45 as per the MDPA boundary.</p> <p>Speed limits are set and approved by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport as per criterias identified in the speed limit guidelines. Yungkunga and Harper are both rural roads with very minimal access and setback properties, which lend themselves to being more of a 80 kph speed environment.</p>
	<p>Path along Paech should stay on the eastern side and under the cover of trees to provide a shaded path, this also means you can increase width of road on western side and not impact tree roots and provide wider safer roadway. Provide path crossings to eastern side from western side where sideroads/estate road entrances are and have paths into the developments/housing.</p>	<p>Thank you for your response.</p> <p>For context, Paech Road is a local road and its form and function in the local network will need to respond to the introduction of a greater proportion of local traffic using the road to connect with Heysen Boulevard. Our focus currently is the segment of road within the surrounding land development. The road reserve along that segment is narrow with significant stands of remnant native vegetation along it. Through the road upgrade, the road form and function will be changed to acknowledge the ever-growing residential activity north of Potts.</p> <p>Road users now include a growing number of local walkers and cyclists. The road upgrade will include traffic management treatments that reflect these growing road users as well as a lower speed limit. There will be some modest road widening and establishment of footpaths and/or trail set back from the road. Locations for future bus stops are being scoped. These may be partially indented.</p> <p>Through a combination of lower speed limit and the new local road intersections along the road we don't expect this upgrade to attract a significant increase in volumes coming onto the road from Wistow. We note to you though that it is important that Heysen Boulevard between Wellington and Paech progresses as soon as possible.</p> <p>Whilst not a direct part of the current concept design scope, the junction treatment at Wellington Road is indeed a location where modifications may be negotiated with State Government in the future to assist in deterring cut through movements of traffic. The timing of that could be coordinated with completion of Heysen Boulevard between Wellington Road and Paech Road (timing subject to developer activity and construction of the Heysen Boulevard).</p> <p>With regard to the new roundabout at Belmont/Emerald Way, this is outside of our current project scope however we are aware that our City Development engineers have required improvements to be made to the roundabout by the Emerald Way developer.</p>

Theme	Comment	Response
	<p>Bolting horses and closed stable doors come to mind here (as they do wherever there is another diabolical development within this Council area). Widen the road and straighten out the 90 degree bends. Compulsorily acquire the land necessary (including houses). It's not speed and stupid people that lead to road deaths, it's bad road design - this is bad road design. What is happening at the Wistow end? Does the world really end at Potts Road? Make Paech Rd drivable again and you will end up with problems at the Wellington Rd intersection - think about that one now, not later. And then there's the garbage roundabout at Hartman Rd - who designs and approves these things? Improve Paech and, once again, you are just kicking the can down the road to create another problem. It's not hard - there is "can't" and there is "won't". Do this throughout the Council area BEFORE more housing is approved. The total and complete lack of planning on the part of the Council is indicative of total incompetence and it has to stop. If you don't like what I'm writing, then don't create the problems in the first place. Absolutely zero thought has been given to the infrastructure necessary to service these developments. Where are the bus stops? How will the road cope with buses stopping and pulling out? How will the road cope with the next development, and the one after that and the one after that? Well, of course, there is nothing and so it won't. Can't afford it? Yes, you can. Take a look at the amount of rates you're going to be getting from all of this - spend it on safer, user friendly roads.</p>	<p><i>It is acknowledged that a proportion of traffic uses Paech Road currently as a route from Wistow through to Bald Hills Road and the freeway interchange via Paech and Hartmann. However, ultimately, Wellington Road and Heysen Boulevard will serve as the preferred collector route for traffic seeking to move between Wistow and the Bald Hills Road Interchange. The construction of Heysen Boulevard is led by the land development sector as a requirement of the conditions of development. Presently, Heysen Boulevard is complete from Springs Road to Paech Road. The section between Wellington and Paech Roads is still under construction. Developers are liaising with Council on designs for the un-constructed section of the road as they stage their investments. The timing for completion of Heysen Boulevard to Wellington is not certain given the investment rests with the development sector. In the interim there is no intent to prevent the use of Paech Road for that purpose. Ultimately it is not considered sustainable to retain Paech Road as the default connection between Wistow and the Bald Hills Road freeway interchange. As such, the designs for Paech Road are more forward thinking and assume Heysen Boulevard will be delivered from Paech To Wellington. Council continues to advocate to State Government to find ways to accelerate the construction of Heysen Boulevard ahead of the developers commercial decision making. With regard to straightening Paech Road at Sims Road. At the default urban speed limit of 50 kph, this section of road can safely and successfully be designed through the two bends mentioned without the need to acquire land and straighten the road. We are happy to consider more closely your concerns around future bus stops not being indented. We don't expect a rapid roll-out by State Govt of new bus routes and potentially we would not support a bus route service until Heysen Boulevard connects completely between Wellington and Springs Road</i></p>
	<p>Any plan for the upgrading of Paech Road should include an upgrade of the Wellington Road-Paech Road Tee-intersection. There is a constantly increasing volume of traffic using Wellington Road. Currently there is no right hand turning lane from Wellington Road onto Paech Road. Vehicles turning right onto Paech Road hold up traffic behind them when turning because there is only one lane of traffic. The upgrade of Paech Road, and the development occurring along that road, is an indication that there will be a higher volume of traffic using that road. This means a higher volume of traffic turning right into Paech Road from Wellington Road. The problem at the Wellington Road - Paech Road intersection will only increase.....The next intersection Potts Road- Paech Road- Yunkunga Road is also currently a bad intersection and increased traffic volume along Paech Road will only increase that problem. There is a need to improve that intersection.</p>	
	<p>Could you provide some further commentary regarding the strategic / future considerations for this road? I see that this road is currently and foreseeably will remain as a primary transit route for residents between the Bald Hills Road / Freeway intersection and the current south eastern region of Mount Barker and beyond (Wistow, Strath, etc). Given the currently approved residential development, the demand on this road will increase, there can be no argument regarding this. Much of your commentary indicates an intent to slow traffic along this road, namely "growing numbers of cyclists and pedestrians", "lower speed limits", and the current design retaining the 90 degree road bends. This appears to be at odds with the requirement of this road - which needs to increase traffic flow, not restrict it. Non recessed bus stops will only exacerbate this problem. Is there an alternative future plan regarding the known issue of circular motion from the Bald Hills Road / Freeway Intersection South, then to the West, that may reduce requirements for Paech Rd? When will it be implemented? Your comment including "modifications may be negotiated with the State Government" indicate the council's acknowledgement that there is opportunity and need for improvements in future. Rather than do the minimal now, and then have residential zoning prevent future infrastructure improvements, can we please apply some forward thinking / strategy? What is the council's intended strategy?</p>	
	<p>Great to read that "All high-quality vegetation (trees, understory and grasses) will be retained. No trees are proposed to be removed along Paech Road (other than 1 dead tree)." So does that literally mean that only 1 (dead) tree will be removed in the whole project? That all existing trees/bushes/vegetation will remain? Also, great to read in the plan that the shared path will realign/adjust to avoid tree removal and that tree sensitive design will be in place to reduce impact to tree root systems. Its important that all trees and native vegetation are retained in this project as we are losing far too many across the district. What wildlife management strategy will you have in place to manage any wildlife displaced as a result of these works? What revegetation/plantings are planned and if so will they be native indigenous plants? Re the roundabout at Heysen/Paech: will the pedestrian refuges be wide and long enough to safely accommodate people with bikes, prams, mobility scooters, etc. Thanks</p>	<p><i>Thank you for your comment. Our plan involves removing only one dead tree, which will be repurposed as a landscaping feature in a nearby reserve. Before removal, our Environmental Project Officers will conduct thorough inspections of the tree and surrounding vegetation to assess the presence of wildlife. Any wildlife found will be safely relocated as needed. The impact on exotic shrubs is minimal, and those affected will be replaced with native vegetation as part of a landscape overlay for Paech Road. This overlay plan will be developed once the concept design is finalized. Regarding the conceptual Heysen/Paech roundabout, pedestrian refuges will be constructed to meet Australian Standards, ensuring ample space for pedestrians and cyclists. This commitment to safety and accessibility aligns with our broader goals of creating sustainable and inclusive infrastructure.</i></p>
	<p>What I am seeing here is a section of road with a proposed pedestrian facility. What I am not seeing is the design principles that underline any proposal of this nature. I see the Community Plan which has objectives: CW Objective 5.2 Enable safe and direct pedestrian, bicycle and mobility scooter movements to, from and through urban areas and public spaces. and CW Objective 5.5 Ensure accessibility requirements are met through all publicly developed and maintained assets and through the development planning system. However, it seems to me that we need to make it as easy as possible for pedestrians to get around so that we can walk everywhere in safety. To that end, surely the bare minimum for a through road like this, should be for a footpath on both sides of the road, thus minimising the need to cross over? Then, when crossing is required, it should be pedestrian-priority. In other words, a proper crossing (zebra) where the car traffic gives way. If we don't get it right now, we are condemning future generations to an unhealthy lifestyle.</p>	<p><i>Thank you for your comment. The path switch to the western side was made in order to provide a safer location for pedestrians (abutting residential allotments rather than open rural land), offset from kerb, and less impact on existing native vegetation. However, your comments will be considered following the close of consultation in the development of the final concept design.</i></p>

Theme	Comment	Response
	<p>Thank you for the response, and well answered. The context of the Heysen Bvd plan to me makes the proposed design for the Sims Rd bend softening seem appropriate, the completion timing of Heysen Bvd as you have mentioned will be interesting to observe, especially considering current economic climate and state government track record. Appreciate the council enforcing this condition of development. Your response regarding bus stops is appreciated. The Springbrook Drive / Paech Rd Intersection will likely be a choke point considering it includes the only 3 direct resident driveway connections, a pedestrian walkway crossover, and the intersection. Minimal trees in this area presents an opportunity for better consideration perhaps?</p> <p>The section of Paech Rd between Heysen Bvd and Wellington Rd is interesting as Strath and Wistow traffic will continue to utilize Paech Rd despite Heysen Bvd (when complete) as it is more direct. Features such as the aquatic centre, Larating Wetlands and Summit Sport and Rec Park are also likely to increase traffic demand along this route. Adding additional pressure to this is the recent upgrade to Long Valley Road from Strath, which has already increased traffic from the south (Strath, south coast, etc). Even with the Heysen Bvd plan (which is yet to have a specified timeframe) there is current and increasing demand for a fast (80km/hr minimum) connector between Wistow and the Freeway to the East of Mt Barker, which for now is Paech Rd and within maybe 2-5 years? should include Heysen Bvd. I realize this is once again greater context, but can you please advise how this requirement is intended to be addressed?</p>	<p>A protected right turn lane has been included in the design to facilitate vehicles turning right into Springbrook Drive. No further treatment is warranted at this location. We recognize the presence of conflict points there and are currently considering the addition of turning bays for the properties located between the shared path and their property boundary.</p> <p>While Paech Road between Heysen Boulevard and Wellington Road offers a more direct route, it will have a lower speed limit and a more urban speed environment. Residents of Strath wishing to access the Aquatic Center, wetlands, etc., can do so via Heysen Boulevard and Springs Road, where traffic flow is expected to be better than via Hartmann Road.</p> <p>As we transition to a more urbanized environment, roads will be adapted to suit this change in form and function. A high-speed connector typically represents an arterial road, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). In this case, the arterial road providing such a connection between Wistow and the freeway would be Wellington Road.</p>
	<p>The announcement of an upgrade for Paech Road is very welcome news. Fantastic! However, as we all know, it is well overdue. Paech Road is a mess. Humps, bumps, narrow, bad shoulders and unsafe. Whilst applauding the plans, there are several factors needing serious consideration and action. What about the section south of Potts Road? This is a very poor and unsafe section of Paech Road. We live on Paech Road, south of Potts Road. We constantly observe speeding traffic and unsafe practices. We note the increasing number of heavy trucks. We observe 'Truck and Dog' heavy vehicles that are allowed to be up to 23 metres long and carry 55 tonnes belting along a narrow rough road - and we see a few 'hairy moments'. The speed limit from Wellington Road heading north needs to be immediately reduced to 70KPH or less up to the new proposed speed limits further north. We note that no provision exists in the proposed plan for pedestrians and cyclists south of Potts Road. An increasing number of pedestrians and cyclist use this unsafe road. Do we need a major fatal accident to take place before changes are made? Bus stops in the proposed plan need fully indented stops. I note in previous comments a plan to 'fix' the terrible roundabout at the intersection of Hartman Road and Emerald Way. Bump-bump-bump-bump then bump-bump-bump-bump (Eight times across the roundabout). Who designed this? Who authorised payment for it? Hopefully the concrete gutters will be removed and replaced by a better design. It seems the planned section of Heysen Blvd will take a few years to complete. Surely the Council and State Government can take action to get this moving and completed. It should have been a priority before this. Connected with this proposal is the fact that Wellington Road will take more traffic. The section of Wellington Road between Wistow and Heysen Blvd (At the new Woolies) needs a lot of work, rebuilding in sections and a total resurface. Of particular note is the terrible surface at the Wellington Road and Red Cedar Parade junction. What a terrible section of rough Road that develops pot holes after almost every heavy rain! (One such pot hole costing me a front tyre on my car). As a road user, tax payer and rate payer it is frustrating to observe short sighted planning and road building. Surely we can do better than this. We are not a developing country are we? Yes - we welcome the upgrade. But, even with this upgrade and traffic flow plan, the trucks will continue to hate the windy and slow route. It is very short sighted and lacking a long term strategic plan to handle the actual traffic flow of future needs. I did attend the public consultation at the Aston Hills shopping centre last week and thank the Council for the opportunity. What is really needed is a well planned four lane ring road to handle the heavy trucks and traffic flow and to service the Mount Barker area with good feeder roads ringing the region. One can only hope!</p>	<p><i>Thank you for your feedback regarding the Paech Road upgrade.</i></p> <p><i>The first stage of the project extends to Potts Road to ensure safe and convenient access for pedestrians, cyclists, and traffic from the nearby residential developments.</i></p> <p><i>Regarding the section of Paech Road from Potts Road to Wellington Road, we will consider it in future works program. Speed limits on roads are set based on different warrants mentioned in the Speed Limit Guidelines and are subject to approvals from the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). At this stage, a speed limit reduction has not been considered for this section of Paech Road. However, when it is due for renewal, we will investigate options to improve safety which may include widening wherever possible and reducing the speed limit to 60 km/h (subject to required approvals by Elected Members and DIT).</i></p> <p><i>It's worth noting that Heysen Boulevard to the east is now complete from Paech Road to Springs Road, and the uncompleted section to the west between Paech Road and the Bluestone development is currently being considered by the Adore developers. The design of Heysen Boulevard is suitable for the anticipated traffic volume of 10,000 vehicles per day according to our transport strategy.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore, Wellington Road is under the care and control of DIT. Subject of ongoing discussions between the Council and DIT includes implementing some form of deterrent entry for heavy vehicles from Wellington Road into Paech Road.</i></p> <p><i>Lastly, the roundabout at Emerald Way and Hartman Road is set to undergo corrective measures on the NW corner by the adjacent developer.</i></p>
	<p>I own a property at Sandalwood Court, Mount Barker (previously x Paech Rd) and have a fence line which backs directly onto Paech Rd. I am hoping to gather more information regarding the proposed plans for the "shoulder" that is directly outside our property. My main reasons for enquiry are due to our bedrooms, including my daughters being positioned directly on that fence line and I am wanting to ensure the road will not be encroaching significantly closer to our property and also that no future plans will be made to put public transport stops outside our fence due to privacy concerns and noise pollution as our house sits in a raised position on this fence line being an original build from 1950.</p> <p>I have attached a picture of the plan with the location in discussion highlighted blue for your reference. Any further information regarding this section and what may be done to it would be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Besides these uncertainties, the rest of the design looks good and will be a welcome addition to the area.</p>	<p><i>Emailed response to the resident -</i></p> <p><i>The current width of Paech Road behind your fence line is approx. 6 metres wide and we are proposing it to be widened to 8.6m wide with 3.3m lanes and 1m shoulder. I've attached a cross section below with the red line showing where the current road ends.</i></p> <p><i>What it means for your property is that the road is going to be 1.3m closer than it currently is, roughly at this location.</i></p> <p><i>The shared path is proposed to go on the opposite side to the road, so besides the road widening there is no other proposed changes affecting that location.</i></p> <p><i>Public transport planning is subject to the state department (DIT), however there has been no future plans that (we're aware) of putting a busstop in the near vicinity of the location. The current proposed bus stop location is between Sims Road and Heysen Boulevard.</i></p> <p><i>I hope this addresses your concerns. If you need further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.</i></p>

Theme	Comment	Response
	<p>The Association appreciates the opportunity to respond to the draft designs of the Paech Road upgrade. We are most supportive of an upgrade of this major connector road. It cannot come soon enough.</p> <p>Our members are concerned about any tree loss. We note on the plans that there is only one dead tree to be removed. This is pleasing. There is a further comment that no 'high quality vegetation' will be removed. We question what 'high quality' means? How is this measured? We note two narrow sections of the road where any widening is impossible without removing some trees. Does this mean that once the upgrade begins you will come to these 'pinch points', have someone assess that the tree's health is 'not of high-quality vegetation' and they will then be destroyed? We would like greater clarity about this matter and a commitment that trees will not be destroyed with this upgrade. We are aware of your investigation into the use of 'tree-sensitive' road pavement design at such 'pinch points' and see this as a most desirable development for the whole District.</p> <p>1. The pedestrian/cycling crossings along Paech Road have varying descriptors: ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hartman Road, Heysen Boulevard precinct: pedestrian refuge within solid median to DIT standard detail • At the 1125 mark: New pedestrian crossing and path connection. Will this be to DIT standard detail? • At the 1400 mark there is no definition of the crossing. Will this be to DIT standard detail? <p>At the Heysen Boulevard roundabout there are four crossings which are in the immediate vicinity of the roundabout. As this will be an extremely busy roundabout we question the safety of people crossing here. Is this the usual location for a pedestrian/cycling crossing near a roundabout? We note the planned future pedestrian crossing adjacent the eastern side of the Adore Estate development opposite the School.</p> <p>2. At the 1050 mark you have the shared path reduced to 1.5 metres and precariously close to the road. We think this is unsafe and feel an alternative route to the opposite side of the tree should be developed. We appreciate avoiding the removal of trees but to put people's lives at risk is also not appropriate. Can an alternative route for this section of path be considered? Alternatively, a fence or barrier should be erected at this point if the path cannot be changed.</p> <p>3. Will the properties along Paech Road with driveway access be required to have internal turning bays so they do not have to reverse out onto Paech Road?</p> <p>4. We are pleased to see the shared use path along the complete length of road from Emerald Way up to and including Glenlea Boulevard. Surely with all of the development on the northern side of Paech Road, up to Potts Road, a shared path is warranted? We would like to have this pathway extended up to Springvale Estate, with a crossing over Potts Road, via Glenlea Estate to avoid the intersection. We note that the intersection design is still being investigated and we strongly urge that you consider pedestrian and cycling access around this intersection and into Springvale Estate.</p> <p>5. As Brooks Road is currently an unused road, what are the plans for this other than keeping it closed off from Paech Road access? Could it become a walking/cycling trail to link the estates? It is currently blocked off and appears to be an unused roadway, so we question why it is added to the draft design.</p> <p>6. What vegetation will you be planting along the shared paths to beautify the road and soften the edges? We ask that Council be cognisant of the important revegetation work that has previously been carried out on nearby roads, particularly Yungkunga and Harper Roads, and the potential adverse impact further housing developments and road widening activities will have on the wildlife and biodiversity in those areas.</p> <p>7. We understand from members that attended the consultation session at Aston Hills, that this is a 5 – 10 year plan. We are concerned that the lack of an adequate shared use path from Aston Hills to a connected path into the town centre is creating unsafe and hazardous conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. If this is a 5-to-10-year plan, we strongly recommend that you prepare a staged implementation and focus on this section in the first and immediate stage. We would like to see something for pedestrian and cyclists built here in 2024. We hope you consider our ideas and questions and look forward to seeing the next iteration of your plans.</p>	<p>Thank you for your input.</p> <p>We have carefully designed the road alignment and widening to minimize tree removal, except for one dead tree. "High-quality vegetation" refers to healthy vegetation with minimal wounds and diseases. We have made slight adjustments to the road alignment to accommodate widening while preserving existing trees. Our consultants have reviewed the road widths and geometry, and no tree removals are necessary for the required widening. Tree-sensitive pavement will be installed wherever we are widening near a tree.</p> <p>All pedestrian refuges will be built to the same standard. The conceptual roundabout at Heysen Boulevard is just a preliminary idea. We are exploring different options such as traffic lights for the intersection, keeping pedestrian safety in mind. Roundabouts typically include pedestrian refuges in the median, but we will further investigate the intersection layout and pedestrian crossing requirements.</p> <p>At the 1050 mark, there is a narrow point in the shared path due to a tree, which is currently only a concept. The path will be located behind the kerb, and unfortunately, due to existing road reserve constraints and the presence of trees, there is no alternative location for the path. A risk assessment will determine if a fence is needed in that location.</p> <p>The four properties as part of their development approval are required to have turnaround bays in their properties..</p> <p>Pedestrians are expected to use the internal path network to access Glenlea and Springvale.</p> <p>There are no current plans for Brooks Road to be a cycling or walking trail, but it is a future possibility if there is demand.</p> <p>An internal landscape plan will be prepared after finalising the concept design. It will include planting native shrubs and vegetation.</p> <p>We will investigate the feasibility of implementing some pedestrian infrastructure before the road upgrade.</p>
	<p>We have reviewed the Draft Concept Design and are very pleased to see a proposed 2.5m wide path along most of the eastern side and the much-needed crossing of Hartmann Road near Sims Road, providing east-west access for path users which is currently very hazardous. It is also good to see that several refuge crossings have been proposed along Paech Road. We support the proposed "meandering" and occasional narrowing of the path to avoid tree removal. It is crucial that all the proposed paths and crossings be established as soon as possible – whilst the road is being constructed – and not left until land is subdivided. This will ensure safety and connectivity for path users particularly in the areas north of Heysen Boulevard which are currently very hazardous. We have several proposals to further enhance safety and amenity for path users:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing refuge crossing on the south side of the Emerald Way roundabout needs to be modified to make it longer, as it is currently somewhat short. • All refuge crossings (including at all four legs of the proposed roundabout) should be minimum 2.5m long and 2.5m wide to enable families to cross together. Sufficient width should be provided to enable a minimum 2.5m by 2.5m refuge at the future crossing at the Adore Estate proposed road. • An extra crossing is needed to enable people to walk or wheel across Paech Road from Spinebill Street and Heron Grove. This will also serve people heading north from Springbrook Drive. • The proposed crossing at Glenlea Boulevard (north) should be a refuge crossing instead of a two-lane crossing, so people can cross one lane at a time instead of having to dash across two lanes of traffic. • The proposed path on the western side needs to extend all the way to Potts Road and there also needs to be a crossing of Paech Road at the Potts/Yungkunga/Paech intersection. Provide links to this path from Paperbark Court and Hickory Circuit. • Consider opening Brooks Road to be accessible to pedestrians and cyclists. More details on email. 	<p>We will investigate the feasibility of implementing some pedestrian infrastructure before the road upgrade.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the refuge crossing on Emerald Way presents a fixed constraint due to the roundabout geometry. Altering the refuge would require changes to the curb widths and radius, impacting the roundabout design, which is currently beyond the scope of the project. However, will be review it at the detailed design stage.</p> <p>Your suggestion regarding a 2.5m x 2.5m width for the refuge has been duly noted. Where sufficient space is available, such as at the Adore entry, 2.5m can be considered. Further along Paech Road, 2.5m can be considered where there is sufficient space within the established road corridor.</p> <p>We will investigate additional crossing locations and incorporate them into the concept plan. An additional refuge will be considered near the creek crossing. There is a refuge proposed at Springbrook Drive intersection less than 150m away, so a refuge cannot be justified at the requested Glenlea location.</p> <p>We will explore the feasibility of extending the path to Potts Road, but there are numerous constraints to consider.</p> <p>A crossing at Yungkunga Road will be considered in conjunction with the intersection treatment, which has yet to be resolved.</p>

ITEM 12.3 – PAECH ROAD UPGRADE – DESIGN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ATTACHMENT 2 – UPDATED FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN

**PROVIDED AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENT
ON COUNCIL’S WEBSITE**

Please click here to be taken to the Attachment

<https://www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au/council/meetings/full-council>

12.4	REPORT TITLE:	KANMANTOO TOWNSHIP PLAN
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/10033
	ATTACHMENTS:	1 – DOC/24/33961 – KANMANTOO TOWNSHIP PLAN (FINAL) FOR COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT 2 – DOC/24/1516 – SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (SCPA) TABLE
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Steven Conn, Senior Strategic Planner, Planning and Community
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Community Plan 2020-2035:

Community Wellbeing – CW Objective 4.3, Undertake town planning, infrastructure provision and asset management to facilitate healthy lifestyles and safety.

Annual Business Plan:

Development and Council endorsement of a Kanmantoo Township Plan is listed as a key objective and performance measure of the Annual Business Plan 2023-2024.

Purpose:

To seek endorsement of the final township plan for Kanmantoo.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. In November 2023, Council endorsed staff to undertake a period of community engagement on the draft Kanmantoo Township Plan.
2. In summary, the engagement saw:
 - close to 300 views of the YourSAy page
 - 30 completed surveys
 - 5 individual written submissions
 - approximately 50 attendees providing direct contribution to the township planning process at the drop in session held on Saturday 2 December 2023.
3. Staff collated and reviewed all feedback and amended the plan where appropriate. Much of the feedback sought a desire to improve accessibility in and around the town. Additionally, other feedback sought improved activation of community spaces, greater highlighting of heritage spaces, and

Council's assistance in the economic growth of the town while ensuring that amenity impacts are protected.

Recommendation:

That Council:

- 1. Note the community feedback received and the summary of consultation contained within Attachment 2, and;**
 - 2. Endorse the Kanmantoo Township Plan contained in Attachment 1.**
-

Background:

1. On 6 November 2023, Council endorsed community engagement on the draft Kanmantoo Township Plan.
2. A 28 day period of period of community engagement was conducted from Wednesday 15 November 2023 to Wednesday 13 December 2023.

Discussion:

3. Engagement activities included:
 - a. presenting to the Kanmantoo Callington Community Consultative Committee (K4C)
 - b. meeting with the Kanmantoo Grounds Committee Inc. and other community and industry groups
 - c. publicising the draft township plan and related events through social media posts (Facebook), Council's website and email
 - d. YourSAy page, including survey, email and phone options to contact the project officer and upload submissions
 - e. community consultation day/ drop in session at Hutton Reserve on Saturday 2 December 2024.
4. To summarise the level of engagement, administration received:
 - close to 300 views of the YourSAy page
 - 30 completed surveys
 - 5 individual written submissions
 - approximately 50 attendees providing direct contribution to the township planning process at the drop in session held on Saturday 2 December 2023.
5. **Attachment 2** contains a summary of engagement received, responses and proposed amendments.
6. To summarise the community engagement outlined in **Attachment 2**, while there was a range of opinions among the concerns identified for the town and the priorities of actions, the feedback gathered identified the following as the most important issues for the future of the town:

- Improved accessibility through the town, particularly along Mine Road as a way of connecting the northern and southern ends of town.
 - Broader connectivity with nearby townships, with Kanmantoo recognised as having a particular dependence on other towns for a number of services and facilities, in particular noting the real relationship between Kanmantoo and Callington.
 - Keeness to celebrate the history and heritage through the town, which several residents saw as having the potential to raise the profile and general economic prosperity of the town.
 - Main street improvements, through entrance signage, lighting, possible use for community purposes (e.g. community garden), and greater general activation and provision of a community gathering space.
 - Consideration of industry impacts on the residential amenity through the town.
 - Diversity of recreation and general use options, particularly for younger residents.
 - Accessibility and stormwater infrastructure improvements through the northwestern part of town (identified as comprising Young Road, Kent Road, Atkinson Road, Cook Street, Bartholomew Road, Renfrey Road and Baverstock Court).
 - Improved use and function community land, with much acknowledgement of the under utilised BMX track at the southern end of town and an openness to investigation of alternate uses
7. The plan has now been revised and amended to better reflect and address the issues raised by the community. The final plan is contained in **Attachment 1**.
8. Implementation of the Plan is envisaged to occur over a 20 year period with staging and timing subject to available future funding via Council and community initiatives, grants and asset renewal programs. Some priorities are highlighted within the Plan as being low, medium and high priorities for the town. Council will balance the needs of the town against other needs across the District as implementation unfolds.
9. As is the case with all other endorsed township plans, the Plan and implementation status spreadsheet will be available on Council's website. Progress on the implementation of the actions in the Plan is reported twice per year and also made available for viewing on Council's website.
10. Each year Council will review each of the township plans and budget accordingly. There is no commitment to the actions at this stage.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Available on Council's website and Facebook page.
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Policy:

Community engagement was undertaken in line with Council's public consultation policy.

Long Term Financial Plan:

There is capacity in each year of Council's Long Term Financial Plan for new initiatives that could include the actions listed in the Plan. At the point that costings are more developed, capital initiatives can be included in later iterations of the Long Term Financial Plan if required.

Budget:

The proposals in the draft Plan have the potential to impact on subsequent budgets, with these subject to Council decisions in the Annual Business Plan and overall district wide priorities.

Statutory/Legal:

Nil

Staff Resource Requirements:

This Plan has been prepared with existing staff resources. Future initiatives arising from the Plan will be resourced according to Council priorities and budget processes.

Environmental:

The Plan proposes initiatives that will have a positive impact on the natural and built environment in Kanmantoo. Actions on sustainability and the environment will see continued support for community groups undertaking environmental initiatives such as the stabilisation of the creek line and regular consideration of environmental and amenity impacts that can result from interface between industries in the vicinity and the residences within the township.

Social:

The Plan proposes initiatives that will have a positive impact on the health, wellbeing and social inclusion of community members in Kanmantoo. The Plan aligns with Council's Community Development Lead Strategy, which seeks to support the community to develop its own resources and capacity and supports the establishment of a residents' association should there be a push from the community in this regard.

Risk Assessment:

The Plan is not expected to have significant risks associated with its content. There may be risks associated with specific projects which will be assessed at the time of project scope, detailed design and implementation.

If there are substantial delays in the staged implementation of the Plan, there may be an impact on Council's reputation.

Asset Management:

Proposals and specific projects contained within the Plan may have an impact on infrastructure and asset management. These will be addressed at the time of project scope, detailed design and implementation. Many of the projects are captured as part of Council's asset renewal and maintenance programming.

Conclusion:

Council conducted community engagement on the draft Township Plan exploring ways to further Kanmantoo over the next 20 years. The Plan has been amended in light of community feedback, and is recommended here to Council for endorsement.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	6 November 2023	HPRM Reference	DOC/23/116990
Title	Draft Kanmantoo Township Plan (For Consultation)		
Purpose	To provide Council with a draft of the Kanmantoo Township Plan and seek endorsement for the plan to be undergo a period of public and stakeholder consultation.		

Attachment 1 to Item 12.4



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Kanmantoo

Township Plan

APRIL 2024



Acknowledgement of Country

Council would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the lands of the township of Kanmantoo. We respect the First Nations people and their spiritual relationship with their country and their cultural and heritage beliefs.

Image credit: David Booth, mural in Miels Park, Littlehampton

Front cover image: Main Street, Kanmantoo



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01 PURPOSE

The Kanmantoo Township Plan (the Plan) will guide the future of Kanmantoo over the next 20 years. It is intended to assist the Mount Barker District Council in the planning, coordination and delivery of projects and services for the township. It will also inform initiatives of external agencies such as community groups, private individuals, government agencies and the business sector who play a pivotal role in the future of Kanmantoo. The Plan will:

- Provide a long term vision for the township of Kanmantoo
- Identify opportunities to facilitate economic prosperity
- Respond to the changing diverse needs of the community
- Describe priorities and opportunities for improving infrastructure, the public realm and open space.

Local, environmental, demographic, social and economic factors have been considered in the preparation of this plan.



Background & How to Read the Plan

Through November and December 2023, Council ran community consultation on a draft township plan for Kanmantoo. The feedback received was reviewed and largely informed the preparation of this township plan.

Background

On 6 November 2023, Council endorsed the Kanmantoo Township Plan to proceed as a draft for public consultation. The draft township plan was then taken to the community for a 28 day consultation period running from Wednesday 15 November to Wednesday 13 December 2023.

The purpose of the draft township plan was to stimulate discussion and present issues and potential actions to be implemented across Kanmantoo. The consultation subsequently elicited feedback on the proposed priorities and key directions set by the draft plan and remained open for further issues to be raised by the community.

As part of the consultation phase, postcards were distributed to all post boxes in the township, a YourSAy page was opened with option to complete a survey or provide open feedback and a drop in open day held on Saturday 2 December 2023. There was active participation throughout the consultation period, which included:

- close to 300 views of the YourSAy page
- 30 completed surveys
- 5 written submissions
- approximately 50 attendees providing direct contribution to the township planning process during the drop in session.

Council staff engaged individually with community members and organisations during the consultation period. A detailed report on the summary of consultation was presented to Council on 2 April 2024. To view this report, go to: www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au and open the 2 April Council agenda.

How to read this Plan

This Plan has been broken up into two sections.

The first section provides an introduction and includes information about Kanmantoo. It will also outline the key themes of the Plan and guiding principles.

The second part of the Plan takes a more in-depth look at each of the key themes. This section is under the heading of Explore the Plan. Also included in this section is the implementation plan, which sets out priorities for each specific action.

This report is structured as follows:

01. INTRODUCTION

Introduces the Plan and provides a summary of the Plan, its presentation and guiding principles.

02. CONTEXT

Provides a background to Kanmantoo, including the issues and opportunities that influence the Plan.

03. PLAN THEMES AND PRINCIPLES

Provides an overview of the eight key themes and the guiding principles which underpin the Plan.

04. EXPLORE THE PLAN

Provides an in-depth look at the Plan, looking into each of the identified themes in detail.

05. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Lists all actions to be implemented as part of the Plan, with priorities/ time frames to be determined following further engagement.

03 THE PLAN

1 Enhance town entrances

- Update and improve the township entrances at the northern and southern ends of the Old Princes Highway.
- Improving entrances will aim to provide a sense of place as well increase civic pride.

2 Improve pedestrian and cycling links throughout the town

- Identify common routes for pedestrians and cyclists and look to make improvements to enable safe and convenient access to key destination points (e.g. bus stops and public reserves).

3 Recreation and community facilities

- Review facilities available at Hutton Reserve to establish if there is a need for renewal, increased capacity or redesign that caters to different user groups.
- Reinforce Hutton Reserve as the primary reserve for Kanmantoo.
- Look to develop an informal recreation trail to provide a pleasant pathway following the creek line and connecting the southern end of the main street with the Town Hall.
- Investigate alternative options for use of the space at Lot 134 Mine Road, currently accommodating a BMX bike track.

4 Enhance and protect heritage

- Advocate and support the continued protection and use of heritage places and the Kanmantoo Historic Area.
- Celebrate the cultural and historic links of the town through public art/ signage of significant features.
- Further highlight the Town Hall, with improved access from the main street, updated signage and more practical facilities to increase useage and possibly allow for tourism or commercial activation.





5 Main Street

- Promote the development and use of a range of small scale shops, offices, businesses, health and community facilities that provide daily services and support walkable neighbourhoods, in line with the expectations of the Local Activity Centre zone.
- Work with various stakeholders to improve employment opportunities with current and future businesses through knowledge of grants and resources.

6 Hazard reduction and environmental rehabilitation

- Review flood hazard mapping across Kanmantoo and Callington.
- Undertake revegetation and stabilisation works (where possible) along degraded sections of the creek line.
- Environmentally appropriate species planting along prime walking and access routes.

7 Investigate waste and recycled water

- Undertake investigations for the transition of waste water services from on site septic to a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS).
- Seek opportunities with prospective customers on the sale of recycled water on a commercial basis.

8 Community resilience and support

- Council to continue to engage with Neutrog, Hillgrove Resources and Hanson (Kanmantoo Bluestone) to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes for the economy, environment and community.
- Show support for mining related tourism opportunities through the Kanmantoo Callington Community Consultative Committee (K4C) and Hillgrove Resources.
- Ensure proximate industries remain cognisant of amenity and general community concerns.

04 SUMMARY

The Kanmantoo Township Plan looks to set a vision for improvements to the township over the short, medium and long term. The final plan has identified three top priorities for the township over the next five years to celebrate the heritage and culture of the area, improve township entrances and undertake a review of flood mapping across the township.

The vision

Kanmantoo has an exciting future over the next 20 years with new investment in mining and mineral processing having the potential to drive economic growth in the short to medium term.

Over the longer term (greater than 20 years), alternative sectors such as general industry, agriculture and tourism (heritage, mining and environmental) will gain prominence.

The heritage and cultural identity of Kanmantoo is of significant importance and should be highlighted and retained in conjunction with the continued involvement of its active community.

Implementation and priorities

Implementation of the Plan is to be prioritised by high to low and ongoing priorities. The intended timeframe and priority for each proposed action listed in the implementation plan is to be determined following further engagement with the community.

Key themes

The themes have been developed to address key opportunities that the Plan seeks to address.

The themes include:

1. Heritage, character and identity
2. Connected communities
3. Access and movement, and infrastructure
4. Open space and community facilities
5. Economic development, growth and tourism
6. The Main Street
7. Sustainability and the environment
8. Infrastructure

Each theme has guiding principles which inform the intended actions and their priorities.

05 CONTEXT



Focus Area

The focus area for the plan is the township of Kanmantoo, however, it is acknowledged that much of the area’s economic activity occurs within the rural surrounds of Kanmantoo.

Council is aware of the strong cultural, social and heritage links between Kanmantoo and Callington and shall continue to foster this relationship where possible.

Community consultation

The draft township plan underwent a period of community consultation from 15 November to 13 December 2023.

Further details on this can be found on page 7 and in the summary of consultation report presented to Council on 2 April 2024 and available at www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au.

05 CONTEXT CONTINUED



European Settlement

Kanmantoo is one of the State's most significant copper mining towns.

Copper traces were discovered in the district by Joseph Lean on land belonging to the South Australian Company with mining beginning at the Paringa Mine in 1846

Subsequently the township of Kanmantoo was laid out by the South Australian Company in 1849. Since then Kanmantoo has continued to have significant links with mining and farming in the local area.

Demographics

The census resident population of Kanmantoo township in 2021 was 511 persons. This represents 1.3% of the population of the whole of the Mount Barker district (39,217). The population has been very stable over the years, with a listed population of 503 in 2011 and 512 in 2016.

In the 2021 census, children aged 0-14 years made up 25.4% of the population, adults aged 30-54 years made up 40.7%, and people aged 60 years and over made up 12.2%.

Family households made up 71.2% of all occupied dwellings, with an average of 2.8 persons per household. The breakdown of age groups indicates that the local population is largely made up of families.

Overall residential growth in Kanmantoo is limited by the availability of existing allotments within the township and additional constraints such as a lack of Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) or mains sewer, meaning that each property is required to manage domestic waste water on private allotments.



Economy and tourism

Kanmantoo is a small rural township with a post office/ general store and cafe servicing its resident population and those in the surrounding rural areas.

The Kanmantoo Copper Mine has been a significant employer in the district. In 2019, Hillgrove commenced winding down production after announcing it would turn the pit into a pumped hydro facility. However, by 2021, Hillgrove announced there were further mining opportunities and the mine would expand.

Kanmantoo Bacon & Quality Meats is a long running local business that has been operating from the town for in excess of 42 years.

Other industries within the area include the Kanmantoo Bluestone Quarry and the Neutrog fertiliser and composting plant.

Overnight visitation to the town has been constrained due to a lack of tourist accommodation facilities.

Physical environment

Kanmantoo is located in the Bremer Valley region approximately 13 kilometres to the east of Mount Barker. The township is situated on a valley plain between undulating ridge lines to the north, east and west. The Kanmantoo mine is located on McFarlane Hill to the south west of the town.

The landscape has been largely cleared of original native vegetation for mining, smelting (fuel) and farming activities. Some areas of remnant Peppermint Box Grass Woodlands and Irongrass Natural Temperate Grasslands remain within areas surrounding Kanmantoo.

The Old Princes Highway runs through the township, providing access to Dawesley (10 kilometres) to the north, and Callington (6 kilometres) to the south. The interstate rail line is located approximately 3 kilometres to the southwest of the township, with the closest station at Murray Bridge, which provides occasional transport options between Adelaide and Melbourne.

06 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PLAN

The following guiding principles have been used, in line with the eight key themes, to guide the preparation of this plan.

The guiding principles are:

1. Protect and enhance cultural heritage and identity of the Kanmantoo Township.
2. Ensure that Kanmantoo continues to grow as a connected and inclusive community
3. Actively promote the ease of connectivity of the Kanmantoo Township within the greater region.
4. Strategically and timely upgrade the existing open space where necessary. Promote diversity in open space opportunities and community facilities for all age groups.
5. Foster opportunity for increased investment within the township.
6. Re-vegetation of degraded landscapes.
7. Improve infrastructure provisions within identified and well-used locations. Ensure the renewal / upgrade of assets aligns with Council's Asset Management Plans.
8. Improve the main street to improve its visual appearance and its function as a commercial precinct and a safe and inclusive public realm.

The icons on the page over represent the key themes of the plan. You can explore each theme on the following pages. The creation of the themes was guided through discussions with both external community groups and government agencies.

Stakeholder input

Council acknowledges the master plan prepared by the 'Kanmantoo Callington Community Consultative Committee' (K4C). Council also acknowledge the ongoing work and openness that Hillgrove Resources and K4C have shown in relation to their work with the community.

Many of the desired outcomes listed in the K4C master plan are shared by this draft Plan and there is no conflict or misalignment between the documents, as was shown through Council's successful development of its township plan for Callington in 2020.

The K4C was established as a requirement of the Hillgrove Resources mining approval, with its master plan subsequently developed jointly by K4C and Hillgrove Resources. As given in the master plan and supported by Council, K4C will engage and participate with Council on township and regional development strategic planning processes.



HERITAGE, CHARACTER AND
IDENTITY
(See page 18)



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
(See page 20)



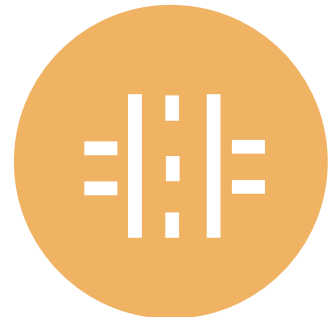
ACCESS AND MOVEMENT
(See page 22)



OPEN SPACE AND
COMMUNITY FACILITIES
(See page 26)



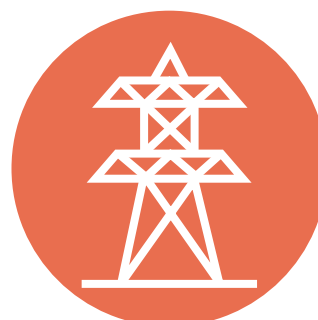
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
GROWTH AND TOURISM
(See page 28)



THE MAIN STREET
(See page 30)



SUSTAINABILITY AND
ENVIRONMENT
(See page 32)



INFRASTRUCTURE
(See page 34)



Explore the Plan



07 HERITAGE, CHARACTER & IDENTITY



The earliest records of European settlement are of Scottish squatters and pastoralists in 1839 who were living in and around the area. In 1845 the Mount Barker Mineral Survey was lodged by the South Australian Company and Joint Applicants (McFarlane, Baker, Dutton, Hagen, Hart, Montefiore and Collyer). This survey divided the survey area into shares between each party. Mining commenced in the area around 1846 with mixed results.

While people would have been living around the mines, the township of Kanmantoo was not surveyed until 1849, with an initial release of 38 blocks on 27 July. Kanmantoo South, located on the southern edge of Kanmantoo along Mine Road, was later surveyed.

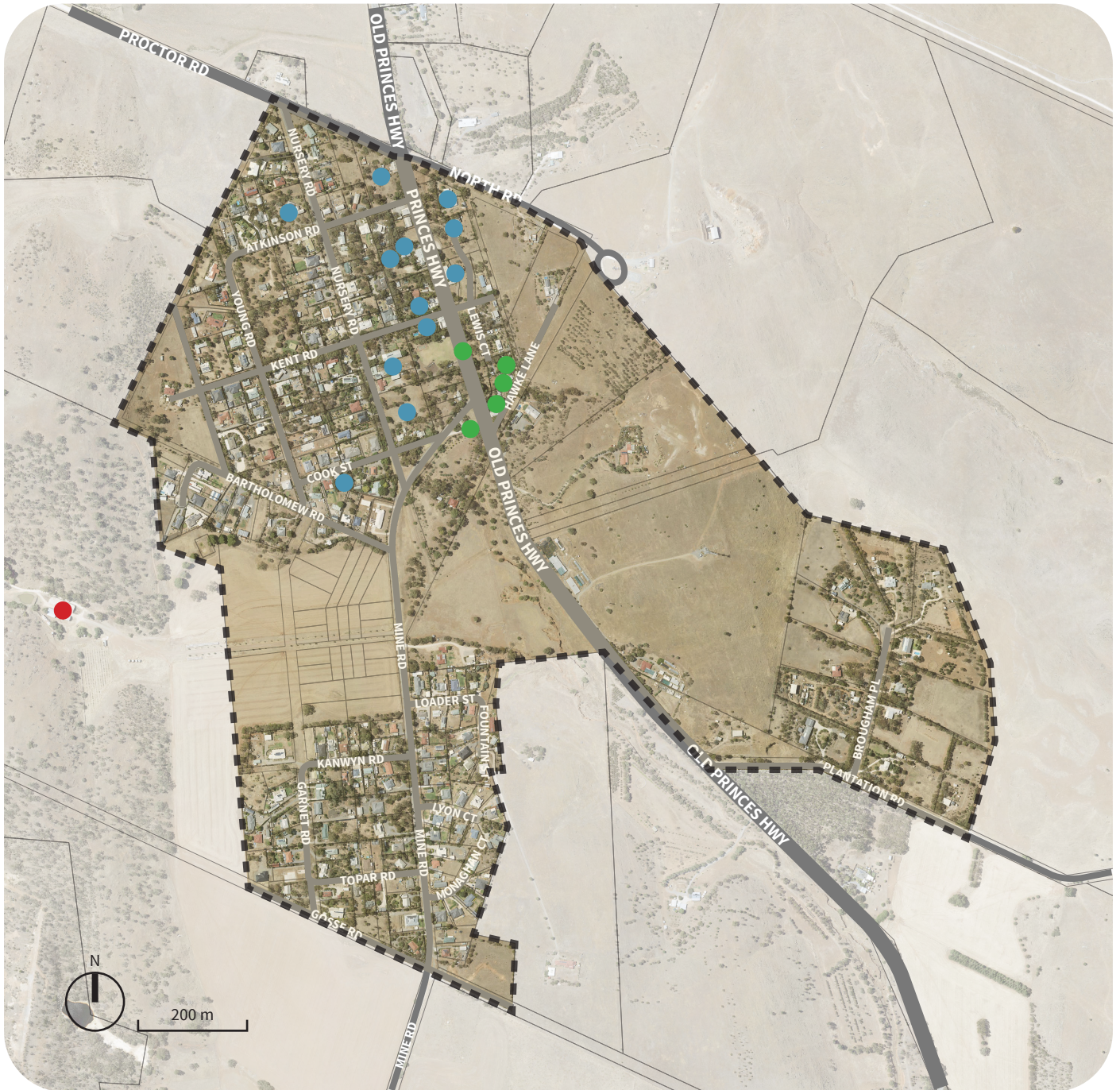
There is one State Heritage Listed item in Kanmantoo, being located at 25-30 Vineyard Road, on the western outskirts of Kanmantoo, this being the Kanmantoo homestead and winery complex (inclusive of house, outbuildings, David Unaipon's cottage and stone winery buildings). The homestead and winery complex are closely associated with the development of the Kanmantoo area, the viticultural development of the State with pioneer pastoralist Charles Burney Young and David Unaipon, who once occupied the previously mentioned stone cottage.

In 2004 the *DC Mount Barker District Wide Heritage Survey* was followed by the *District Wide Plan Amendment Report*, which sought the protection of historic character through establishing the Kanmantoo Historic Conservation Area within the Development Plan and which has since been carried over as an overlay in the Planning and Design Code. Within the township there are the following heritage items:

- One (1) State Heritage Place;
- Twelve (12) Local Heritage Places; and
- Five (5) Representative Buildings.

Actions

1. Ensure ongoing protection and enhancement of heritage places.
2. Celebrate the heritage and culture of the area through initiatives such as interpretive signage, public art installations and the materials chosen for public realm improvements. This should look to highlight events and/ or people of significance (including but not limited to the mining history to the town and the town's connection to David Unaipon) and include, when appropriate, collaboration with traditional owners in such acknowledgments and installations
3. Ensure future residential development occurs within the existing town boundary.



- X Specific proposal
- X General strategy
- Focus area
- Representative Building
- Local Heritage Place
- State Heritage Place



Kanmantoo Town Hall



Local Heritage Item, Old Princes Highway



Anzac memorial, Lewis Court

08 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



A connected and inclusive community is a critical and necessary feature of rural towns such as Kanmantoo.

Community groups and local sporting clubs play an important role in creating a connected district. They provide opportunities for social interaction and assist in creating a support network that serves as an important check and balance for parts of the community. Providing physical spaces and facilities where people can come together is important for continuing to build community well-being.

Improved intra-town transport options and availability of in-home services will also assist to facilitate improved community wellbeing. Enabling younger members of the community to be active and engaged is also important. It is important to recognise the changing way in which younger generations are choosing to be active. This was quite visible during the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw a trend towards passive recreation and informal exercising.

Continuing to provide opportunities for informal recreation activities is important to ensure people remain engaged and active.

Actions

4. Continue the implementation of Council's Community Development Lead Strategy so that groups such as the Kanmantoo Callington Community Consultative Committee (K4C) and the Kanmantoo Grounds Committee are supported through a range of resources such as training and volunteering opportunities.
5. Support the community in establishing a residents' association, should there be a desire from the community for the creation of such a group, to assist in coordination of works and activities through the town.
6. Continue to operate the Hills Community Transport (HCT) service, ensuring demand is monitored and service is adapted as needed.



Town Hall, Kanmantoo

09 ACCESS AND MOVEMENT



Kanmantoo's Main Street is located along the Old Princes Highway, which is under the care and control of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT). The Old Princes Highway connects to Callington to the south and Dawesley to the north. This road experiences a two-way average of 1,100 vehicles per day, 100 of which are commercial vehicles (Source: DIT 2018).

A 60 kilometre per hour speed limit applies along the Main Street (Old Princes Highway), with 50 kilometres per hour applying to all other streets within the township including Mine Road. To the east of the township is an active rail corridor, which accommodates an interstate freight rail line. While the rail corridor is active, there is no active passenger railway station in Kanmantoo.

Pedestrian movement

Outside of the Main Street, pedestrian movement is largely informal in Kanmantoo, with limited sealed footpaths. The Main Street contains the only paved footpath, with side streets utilising the roadside verge areas for pedestrian movement. In key locations, it is considered that footpath infrastructure is in need of improvement, acknowledging its limitations for older residents, persons with a disability, and local families and youth within the community. The key location for review is Mine Road, leading from the Main Street to the Bike Park on Mine Road, in addition to a walking trail running parallel to the Old Princes Highway and partly following the creek line. This presents a real opportunity to connect the northern and southern ends of the town and provide a formal connection between all reserve spaces (the Town Hall, Hutton Reserve and the BMX track) and to the Main Street.

Cycling

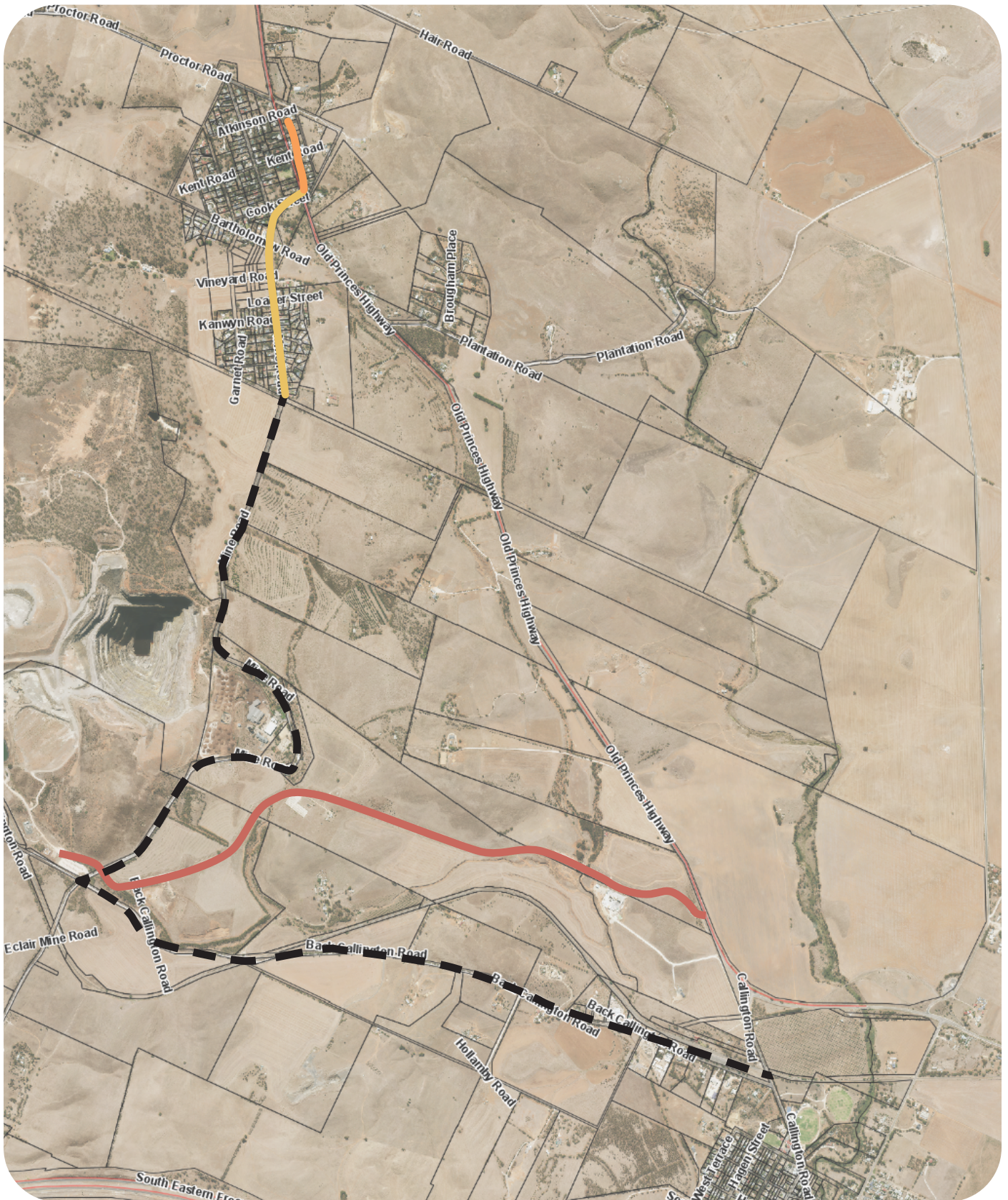
Apart from the Bike Park, cycling facilities are limited. Within the township, there is an opportunity to provide dedicated cycling routes/ paths in order to promote continued cycling activity for locals, particularly youth. Community consultation has raised on several occasions that residents, particularly youth, cycle between Kanmantoo and Callington on a fairly regular basis and would be supportive of any opportunity to increase formalisation and safety of such a route.

Public transport

Kanmantoo is serviced by infrequent public transport connections between Mount Barker and Murray Bridge. Hills Community Transport offer information and bookings to assist community members with local travel. Currently this service operates in a limited capacity. Kanmantoo would benefit from the provision of improved public transport links with shops and services in Nairne, Mount Barker and Adelaide.

Actions

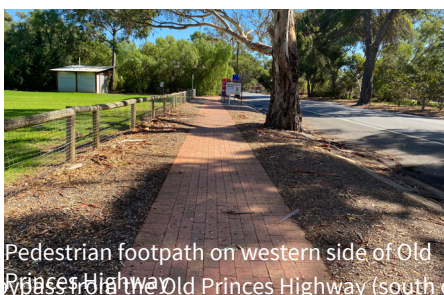
7. Advocate for improved public transport services and associated infrastructure for the township
8. In line with Council's footpath program, complete sealed footpath connection from the northern end to the southern end of the town, linking the existing path along the Main Street to the property at 47 Mine Road (Lot 134), including improvements to the Mine Road/ Cook Street bus stop. **A**
9. Review access and connections as part of Council's new footpaths strategy to provide all weather access along the extent of Kent Road, Atkinson Road and Young Road. **B**
10. Investigate a cycling and walking trail between Kanmantoo and Callington away from the Old Princes Highway. **C**
11. Investigate opportunities to minimise the impacts from truck movements from nearby industrial land uses (i.e. Hanson, Hillgrove and Neutrog) through proper and open responses to complaints received in relation to trucks traveling through the town and in use of private roads that act to bypass the township.



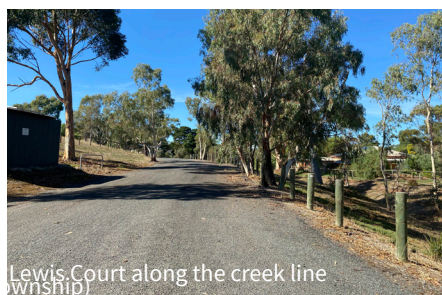
- Indicative truck route from Hillgrove Mine to the Old Princes Highway (bypass the town)
- Mine Road improvements / north-south pedestrian linkage
- Cycling and pedestrian link to Callington
- Informal recreational trail



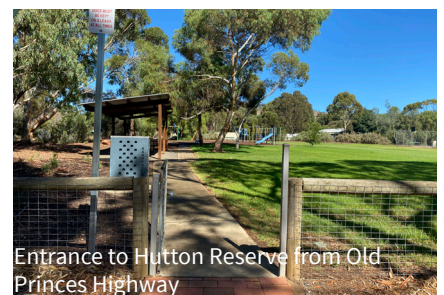
- X Specific proposal
- X General strategy
- Focus area
- Connection from northern to southern ends of the town
- Informal recreation trail (walking / interpretive trail)



Pedestrian footpath on western side of Old Princes Highway (south of Old Princes Highway)



Lewis Court along the creek line (south of Old Princes Highway)



Entrance to Hutton Reserve from Old Princes Highway



Town entrance from the Old Princes Highway (north of township)

10 OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES



Public reserves in Kanmantoo are limited to Hutton Reserve, much of the space that runs along the creek line adjacent the Main Street and the BMX bike track at the southern end of the township. Larger ovals and organised recreational facilities are available in Callington.

Key open space areas are listed as Hutton Reserve, the Mine Road Reserve (i.e. BMX track/ bike park) and the Kanmantoo Hall and adjacent war memorial. There is an informal walking route used by locals along the creek line/ drainage reserve, which runs parallel to the Old Princes Highway for most of the length of the Main Street.

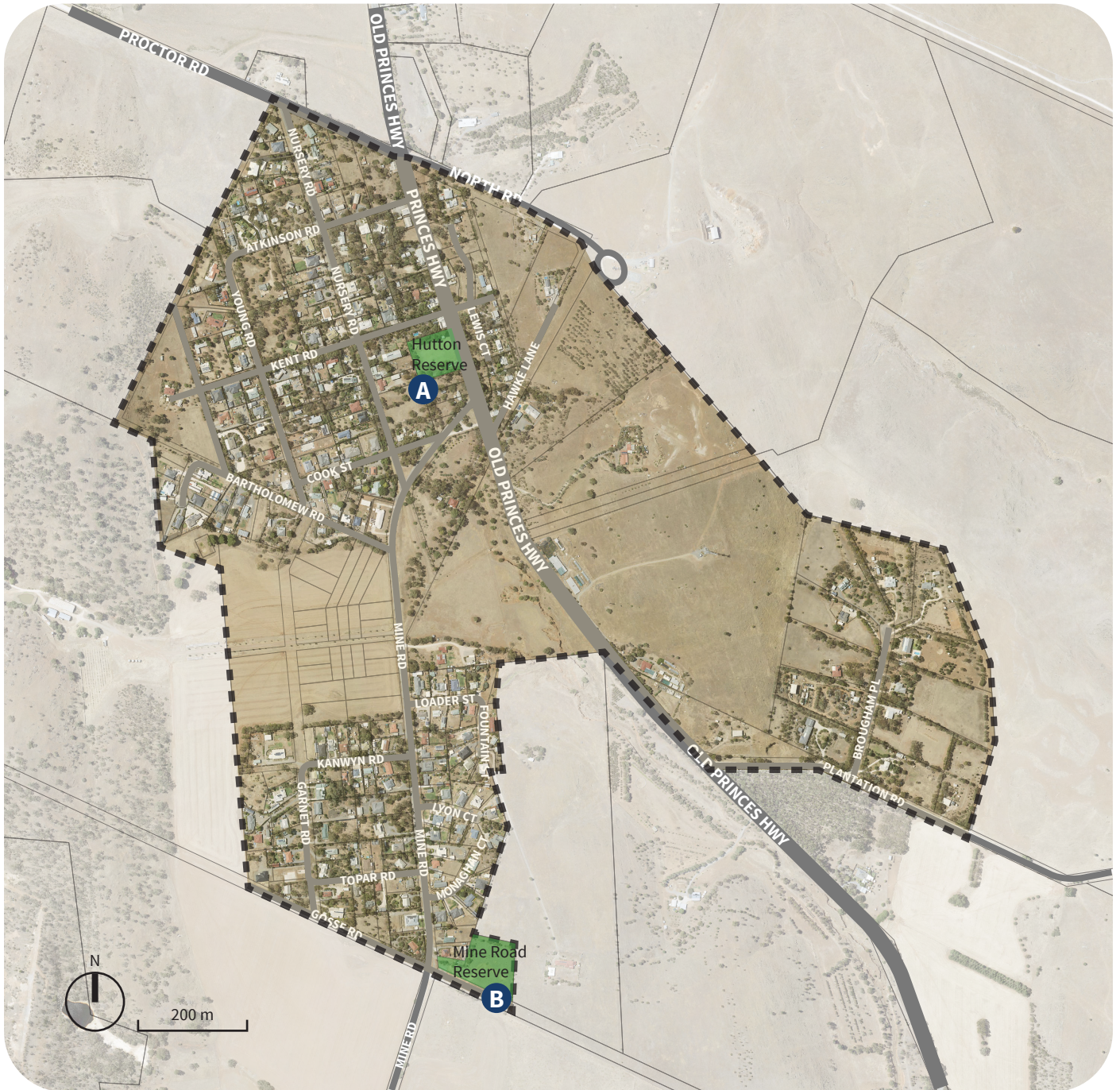
This Plan recognises that there is the potential to improve existing open spaces for the purposes of increased useability and safety. This could be done with the installation of footpaths, park benches, way-finding signage and outdoor play equipment.

There is a focus on providing areas for young families to use and for walking trails and outdoor experiences, which are accessible to older persons and people with disabilities. The continued use of existing community and recreation based facilities is encouraged.

Connectivity to open space, especially between Hutton Reserve and Mine Road Reserve, could be improved through provision of walking and cycling paths that link the two.

Actions

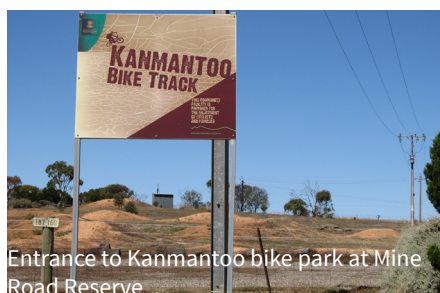
12. Through Council's existing 'Open Space and Trails Review and Update' (2023/24), ensure that Hutton Reserve is maintained as the town's primary reserve and consider additional open space/ trail facilities/ upgrades. **A**
13. Improve useage of the community bike track facility through possible alternate designs or land uses such as a nature reserve, off-leash dog park, private use or other. **B**
14. Work with the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to understand their long term needs with regard to access to the Town Hall and surrounding space for Anzac day and other occasions of community significance and in promoting the broader use of the Town Hall and surrounds through physical improvements such as toileting facilities, lighting, access, signage or other works.



- X Specific proposal
- X General strategy
- Focus area
- Key public open space



Shelter at Hutton Reserve



Entrance to Kanmantoo bike park at Mine Road Reserve



Kanmantoo bike park at Mine Road Reserve

11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH AND TOURISM



As a township, Kanmantoo was historically founded as a mining town that grew from the discovery of copper within the area. General farming activities have also been a constant economic driver for the town.

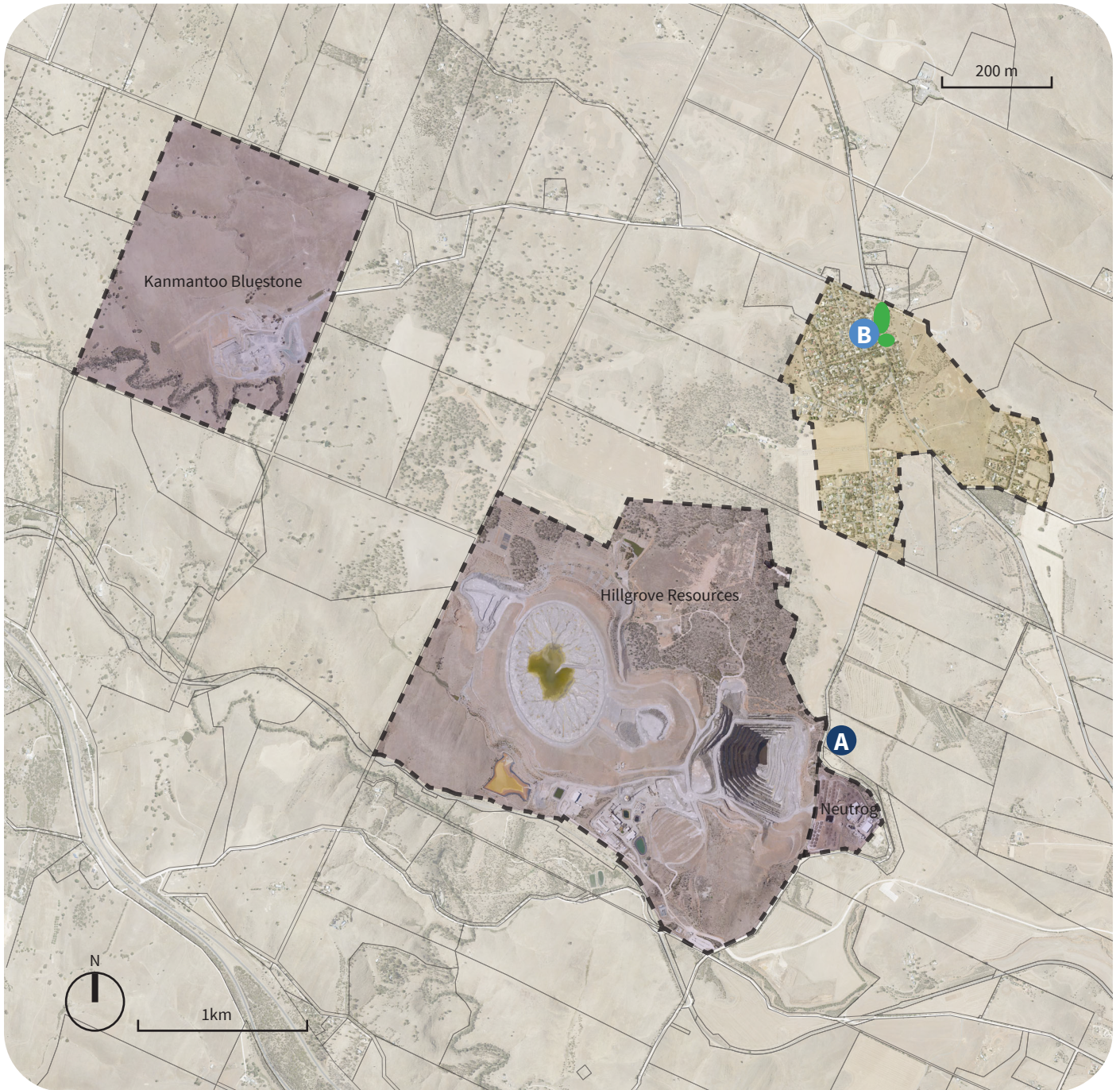
The nearby Hillgrove Resources Kanmantoo Copper Mine commenced open pit mining in December 2010 and moved to underground operations in May 2023. Adjacent to Hillgrove Resources is the Neutrog Biological Fertiliser plant. Both facilities sit approximately 1.5 kilometres from the southern edge of the Kanmantoo township and are clear drivers of economic development and employment for the area. Additionally, the Hanson Quarry, sited on Proctor Road, approximately 4 kilometres to the west of the town, produces raw stone via an open cut mine.

As with other rural townships, Kanmantoo has a number of different primary industries and industrial land uses within proximity of the township. Ensuring that residential land uses and primary production/ industrial land uses can coexist is important to ensuring the liveability and economic prosperity of the town.

It is imperative that a balance be achieved whereby the industrial land uses mentioned above can operate in a lawful and sustainable manner and not hinder the ability for commercial uses within the town to establish and prosper.

Actions

15. Partner with K4C to develop mining related tourism, taking advantage of equipment that Hillgrove Resources have such as walking trails, rehabilitation sites, historic buildings/ sites and/ or lookouts. **A**
16. Work with new and established local businesses to improve opportunities and knowledge of grants and resources by linking them in with Council's Economic Development team for tailored advice. **B**
17. Seek opportunities with prospective customers on the sale of recycled water on a commercial basis, achieving environmental, economic and social benefits to the community.



- Specific proposal
- General strategy
- Kanmantoo Township
- Key industrial areas
- Existing local businesses



Kanmantoo General Store

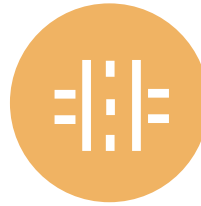


Kanmantoo Bluestone/ Hanson Quarry



Hillgrove Resources Mine

12 THE MAIN STREET



The Kanmantoo Main Street extends along the Old Princes Highway, from Proctor Road to the north to Cook Street to the south. This portion of the Old Princes Highway is characterised by a number of large eucalypts with some exotic plantings and overhead powerlines for most of its length. The eastern side of the Main Street is largely open, with only one property directly fronting and gaining access from the highway (19 Old Princes Highway). The western side is predominantly residential in nature, with buildings fairly close to the street and low in scale. A red brick paved footpath along with a heritage bluestone guttering and kerb helps to identify the Main Street and runs along its western edge.

Council's Economic Development Strategy (2022-2027) identifies Main Street precincts and their growth and support for small and medium enterprises as being a key for economic prosperity within smaller townships.

The central portion of Kanmantoo's Main Street is in the Local Activity Centre zone (the section between Atkinson Street and Kent Road). There are, however only two commercial businesses that are presently in operation. Commercial development and uptake within the zone should be promoted, with the size of the commercial precinct large enough to cater for the township and with a relatively high level of through traffic. Council will continue to monitor the use of the Main Street to ensure that the current zoning is fit for purpose and is open to feedback on this topic.

The Main Street is covered by the Kanmantoo Historic Area Overlay, identified in the Planning and Design Code as including characteristics of an identifiable historic, economic and/ or social theme of recognised importance, and includes several local heritage places and representative buildings. Within the Main Street, signage outlining the historical significance of many of the existing buildings and former residents would assist in creating a greater sense of place and pride and could establish the town as one that has a level of tourism significance.

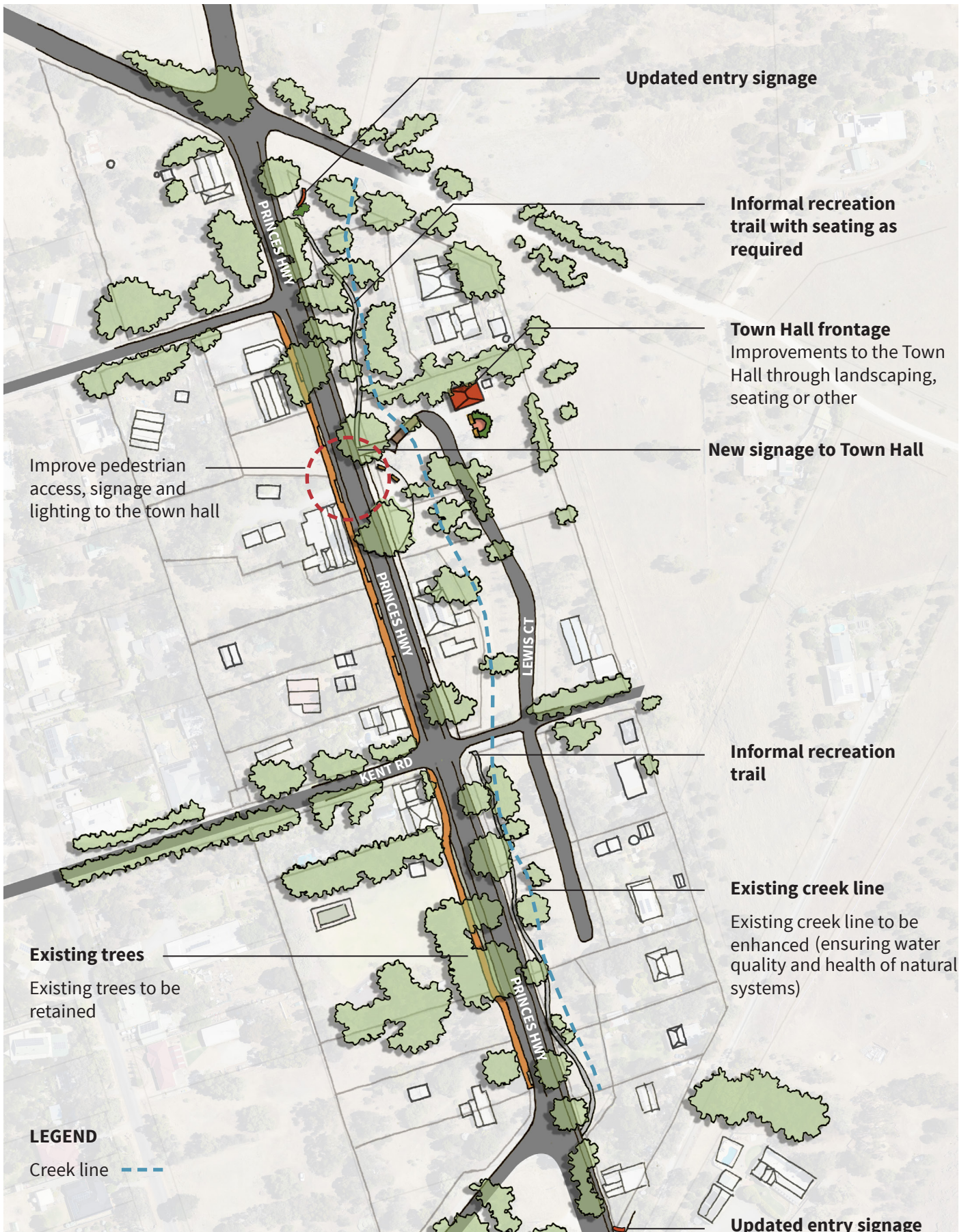
Due to the town's separation from the freeway, the Old Princes Highway takes a high level of traffic from proximate industrial uses. On this, the Main Street could benefit from an improved sense of arrival to calm traffic through appropriate street tree planting and greater Main Street activation, which could be through street furniture, pedestrian refuges or the like.

A creek, which drains to the Bremer River, runs just between this section of the Old Princes Highway and Lewis Court and has the potential to play a role in providing a space for recreation and amenity that could bring a higher level of use to the currently underutilised Kanmantoo Town Hall and connect to the town's prime recreational space at Hutton Reserve.

Actions

18. Improve the appearance of township entrances and approaches. Develop gateway treatments that reflect the local sense of place and act to calm traffic through the Main Street.
19. Support opportunities to increase activation and community use to the Main Street whether through private or commercial use, making sure to not detract from local heritage.
20. Informal recreation trail parallel to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements as per the concept plan.

Concept Plan



Updated entry signage

Informal recreation trail with seating as required

Town Hall frontage
Improvements to the Town Hall through landscaping, seating or other

New signage to Town Hall

Improve pedestrian access, signage and lighting to the town hall

Informal recreation trail

Existing creek line
Existing creek line to be enhanced (ensuring water quality and health of natural systems)

Existing trees
Existing trees to be retained

LEGEND
Creek line - - -

Updated entry signage

13 SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Prior to European settlement, there were significant areas of Peppermint Box woodlands, Open Tussock Grasslands (Iron grass) and Drooping Sheoak woodland. However, the landscape has been largely cleared of original native vegetation for mining, smelting (fuel) and farming activities.

Council's Biodiversity Plan 2020 outlines the extent of remaining vegetation. There are two nationally threatened ecological communities that remain in the Kanmantoo area, namely Irongrass (*Lomandra* species) Natural Temperate Grassland and Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) Grassy Woodland.

Most remnants of the Irongrass (*Lomandra effusa*) Open Tussock Grassland occur where underlying bedrock is exposed as outcropping stone and the soil profile is generally shallow. The presence of mature Irongrass tussocks generally indicates areas not previously disturbed by ploughing; such areas are important refuges for species sensitive to cultivation and fertilisers, such as orchids and soil-dwelling insects, spiders and reptiles (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2007).

Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) usually forms a distinct woodland community on rocky slopes in sandy loams, sandy clay-loams and clays. Peppermint Box Grassy Woodland has a sparse to dense tree over an open native grass and herb understorey with scattered shrubs. Many plants and animals of the ecological community are grassy habitat specialists or woodland-dependent species (Turner 2012).

Areas of these vegetation associations have been protected on the mining lease used by Hillgrove Resources. Additionally, Hillgrove Resources, as part of its mining lease, has collected local seed and extensively rehabilitated these areas.

Actions

21. Provide support for any community groups and/ or volunteers wishing to undertake environmental initiatives on public land such as re-vegetation, weeding and stabilisation/ erosion management on degraded landscapes in particular along the creek line. **A**
22. Revisit tree plantings along Mine Road to ensure appropriateness to the climate, giving consideration to aesthetics and management. **B**
23. Continue to work with Hillgrove Resources, Hanson and Neutrog to deliver environmental and amenity outcomes, and specifically as relate to interface issues such as dust suppression, odour, noise and vibration.



- X Specific proposal
- X General strategy
- Kanmantoo Township
- Watercourse
- Walking/interpretive trail



Existing creek along Lewis Court



Grassy woodland, Kanmantoo Reserve



Landcare Kanmantoo Callington

14 INFRASTRUCTURE



Water

Kanmantoo is serviced by an SA Water mains water supply but is not connected to any mains wastewater infrastructure.

Wastewater

Wastewater is managed within individual allotments by an appropriately sized on-site wastewater system. There is the potential to improve waste water management through the construction of a Community Waste Water Management System (CWMS) to service Kanmantoo though this would be a costly project and would most likely be driven by future growth.

Roads

Apart from the western side of the Main Street, streetscape infrastructure is limited within Kanmantoo with limited kerb and gutter or pedestrian footpaths through the town. Culverts and open swales are used in the town to manage stormwater. There could be a need to provide improved street infrastructure for better accessibility and stormwater management at strategic and well-used corridors such as the Old Princes Highway and Mine Road. There are opportunities to provide on street Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) on wider streets such as the Old Princes Highway and Mine Road.

Telecommunication Services

Kanmantoo is currently serviced by the National Broadband Network (NBN) and is connected to mobile telephone networks. Community consultation did raise coverage as an issue across the township.

Electricity Supply

Kanmantoo is connected to SA Power Networks (SAPN) infrastructure and there are no known supply issues or required upgrades.

Emergency Services

The Country Fire Service (CFS) in Callington is located approximately 5 kilometres southeast of the township on the Old Princes Highway. Council will continue to liaise with the CFS regarding implementation of relevant Bushfire Management Plans and their existing facilities.

Flood mitigation

The presence of watercourses that traverse through a number of properties in the town, following Kent Road, Young Road and the main street for a section, coupled with its relatively flat and low lying nature mean that it can be vulnerable to flooding. This has the potential to impact on life and property and impede access for some parts of the town.

The township is due for a review of flood mapping and for possible further mitigation works to support this. Noting the many similarities across Kanmantoo and Callington, it is felt that a combined review could be undertaken across both townships. Both towns were heavily impacted by flooding in 1992 and are in need of updated mapping to properly assess risks to people, property, infrastructure and the environment. Any recommended works that may come from this work and act to minimise those risks will be part of a separate action to Council.

Actions

24. Undertake a review and update to flood mapping and flood plain extents for the Kanmantoo and Callington townships.
25. Work with the Local Government Association Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) Management Committee to determine the priority of connection of Kanmantoo to a CWMS.
26. Council to advocate for improved telecommunications services.



Creekline along Lewis Court, Kanmanton

15 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Actions are prioritised from high to low and ongoing. High priority actions will be implemented first followed by medium then low.

Action number	Action	Priority
Heritage, character and identity		
1	Ensure ongoing protection and enhancement of heritage places.	Ongoing
2	Celebrate the heritage and culture of the area through initiatives such as interpretive signage, public art installations and the materials chosen for public realm improvements. This should look to highlight events and/ or people of significance (including but not limited to the mining history to the town and the town's connection to David Unaipon) and include, when appropriate, collaboration with traditional owners in such acknowledgments and installations.	High
3	Ensure future residential development occurs within the existing town boundary.	Ongoing
Connected communities		
4	Continue the implementation of Council's Community Development Lead Strategy so that groups such as K4C and the Kanmantoo Grounds Committee are supported through a range of resources such as training and volunteering opportunities.	Ongoing
5	Support the community in establishing and maintaining a residents' association, should there be a push for the creation of such a group, to assist in coordination of works and activities through the town.	Ongoing
6	Continue to operate the Hills Community Transport (HCT) service, ensuring demand is monitored and service is adapted as needed.	Ongoing
Access and movement		
7	Advocate for improved public transport services and associated infrastructure for the township.	Ongoing
8	In line with Council's footpath program, complete sealed footpath connection from the northern end to the southern end of the town, linking the existing path along the Main Street to the property at 47 Mine Road (Lot 134), including improvements to the Mine Road/ Cook Street bus stop.	Low
9	Review access and connections as part of Council's new footpaths strategy to provide all weather access along the extent of Kent Road, Atkinson Road and Young Road.	Low
10	Investigate a cycling and walking trail between Kanmantoo and Callington away from the Old Princes Highway.	Low
11	Investigate opportunities to minimise the impacts from truck movements from nearby industrial land uses (i.e. Hanson, Hillgrove and Neutrog) through proper and open responses to complaints received in relation to trucks travelling through the town and in use of private roads that act to bypass the township.	Low
Open space and community facilities		
12	Through Council's existing 'Open Space and Trails Review and Update' (2023/24), ensure that Hutton Reserve is maintained as the town's primary reserve and consider additional open space/ trail facilities/ upgrades.	Ongoing
13	Improve useage of the community bike track facility through possible alternate designs or land uses, such as a nature reserve, off-leash dog park, private use or other.	Medium

Action number	Action	Priority
14	Work with the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to understand their long term needs with regard to access to the Town Hall and surrounding space for Anzac day and other occasions of community significance and in promoting the broader use of the Town Hall and surrounds through physical improvements such as toileting facilities, lighting, access, signage or other works.	Medium
Economic development, growth and tourism		
15	Partner with K4C to develop mining related tourism, taking advantage of equipment that Hillgrove Resources have such as walking trails, rehabilitation sites, historic buildings/ sites and/ or lookouts.	Ongoing
16	Work with new and established local businesses to improve opportunities and knowledge of grants and resources by linking them in with Council's Economic Development team for tailored advice.	Ongoing
17	Seek opportunities with prospective customers on the sale of recycled water on a commercial basis, achieving environmental, economic and social benefits to the community.	Ongoing
The Main Street		
18	Improve the appearance of township entrances and approaches. Develop gateway treatments that reflect the local sense of place and act to calm traffic through the Main Street.	High
19	Support opportunities to increase activation and community use to the Main Street whether through private or commercial use, making sure to not detract from local heritage.	Medium
20	Informal recreation trail parallel to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements as per the concept plan.	Low
Sustainability and the environment		
21	Provide support for any community groups and/ or volunteers wishing to undertake environmental initiatives on public land such as re-vegetation, weeding and stabilisation/ erosion management on degraded landscapes in particular along the creek line.	Ongoing
22	Revisit tree plantings along Mine Road to ensure appropriateness to the climate, giving consideration to aesthetics and management.	Low
23	Continue to work with Hillgrove Resources, Hanson and Neutrog to deliver environmental and amenity outcomes, and specifically as relate to interface issues such as dust suppression, odour, noise and vibration.	Ongoing
Infrastructure		
24	Undertake a review and update to flood mapping plans and flood plain extents for the Kanmantoo and Callington townships.	High
25	Work with the LGA CWMS Management Committee to determine the priority of connection of Kanmantoo to a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS).	Low
26	Council to advocate for improved telecommunications services.	Ongoing



Kanmantoo Township Plan – Summary of Consultation and Proposed Amendments (SCPA) Table

(This feedback is based on the 30 online survey contributions, 5 email submissions, approximately 50 comments received during the drop in session and numerous meetings held with community members and other interested groups from July to December 2023)

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
<p>Heritage, character and identity</p>	<p>1. Financial assistance for upkeep of State heritage listed buildings.</p>	<p>State Heritage SA currently offers financial assistance for State Heritage listed buildings, see: Department for Environment and Water - Heritage Grants.</p> <p>Council also offers financial assistance for Local Heritage Places see: Heritage Incentive Scheme Mount Barker District Council</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>2. Heritage celebration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Connection to David Unaipon should be celebrated, along with other heritage items. b. Hutton Reserve should be renamed in honour of David Unaipon, possibly with a statue or plaque. c. Historical work for a heritage trail around the town with QR markers at different sites (this is done through the main street of Macclesfield). d. Better signage and celebration of history. e. History markers or a heritage trail and nature trail to highlight historic and natural attractions in the town. f. Ensure that development in the Kanmantoo Historic Conservation Area is sympathetic to the visual and cultural character of this area. Council has a duty of care when granting development approvals through this space. 	<p>Noted and response as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Action 2 to be amended to include reference to events and people of significance more broadly. b. Noted, no current plan to change name of Hutton Reserve. c. Noted, Council is able to support community / heritage groups to undertake this work and see broadened action 2 to capture this. d. Noted and included in plan. e. Noted, see point c above. f. Noted, Council assess Development Applications in line with relevant zoning and overlays as per action 1, reiterated below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensure ongoing protection and enhancement of heritage places. 	<p>No change proposed to action 1.</p> <p>Action 2 amended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Celebrate the heritage and culture of the area through initiatives such as interpretive signage, public art installations and the materials chosen for public realm improvements. Where appropriate, collaborate with traditional owners in such acknowledgements and installations.
	<p>3. Identity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Entry statements/ township identity. b. Art history and sculpture installation. c. Brand the town to create a clear identity, i.e. not a generic town. d. Allow the community to enhance and grow its own identity. e. Rustic charm that can be enhanced through use of historic street lights and a paved footpath down Mine Road, similar to Nairne. f. Connection to environment and heritage important is important for the community and could improve tourism and social connection. g. Art projects through entry statements to increase driver awareness and create a character and identity, possibly through use of local artists. 	<p>Noted and see amended draft action 16, which covers appearance, activation and development of recreational trail (given over).</p>	<p>See amended draft action 16, to read as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Improve the appearance of township entrances and approaches. Develop gateway treatments that reflect the local sense of place and act to calm traffic through the Main Street. o Support opportunities to increase activation and community use to the Main Street whether through private or commercial use, making sure to not detract from local heritage. o Informal recreation trail parallel to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements as per the concept plan.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. Signage is currently inconsistent and unattractive. i. Signage and beautification has a role to play in building a township identity and improving the livelihood and wellbeing of the town, i.e. it is not just about providing physical connectivity. j. Sculpture using local stone to represent (1) Peramangk, (2) colonial history and (3) multicultural history – define and represent the community as one from Indigenous to multicultural in the context of landscape. 		
	<p>4. Comments on development and growth of the town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. More house block development for Kanmantoo. b. Stop expansion of the township. Land should not be carved up and rezoned 	<p>See draft action 3, “Ensure future residential development occurs within the existing town boundary”.</p> <p>The township plan does not envisage any investigation to the township boundaries. There are a number of allotments between Kanmantoo north and Kanmantoo south (roughly between Bartholomew Road and Kanwyn Road), which are already divided and within the Neighbourhood zone, and which can accommodate future growth subject to provision of access, servicing and development approval.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
<p>Connected communities</p>	<p>5. K4C and its Master Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. K4C’s Master Plan must be used and referenced to some extent. b. Some mention of the K4C Master Plan not being representative. c. Desire to implement some of the projects listed in the K4C Master Plan, e.g. a lookout over the mine 	<p>See draft action 4, “Continue the implementation of Council’s Community Development Lead Strategy so that groups such as K4C and the Kanmantoo Grounds Committee are supported through a range of resources such as training and volunteering opportunities”.</p> <p>And draft action 13, “Partner with K4C to develop mining related tourism, taking advantage of equipment that Hillgrove Resources have such as walking trails, rehabilitation sites, historic buildings/ sites and/ or lookouts”.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the work undertaken by Hillgrove and ‘Kanmantoo Callington Community Consultative Committee’ (K4C) and the positive outcomes encouraged by the Master Plan. The K4C Master Plan and Council’s township plan are separate documents with different remits.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>6. Residents’ association:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Help to set up a residents’ association. b. Grounds Committee to be incorporated into a progress committee to include broader community concerns, not just those of the hall and surrounds. 	<p>See draft action 5, “Support the community in establishing and maintain a residents’ association, should there be a push for the creation of such a group, to assist in coordination of works and activities through the town”.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>7. Build a strong community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Engage with the community. b. Ensure there is true engagement on all aspects of development in the public space. c. For a small town, it is fairly disconnected with no real focal point. 	<p>Community engagement on the Township Plan was undertaken in accordance with Council’s Public Consultation Policy and Council is committed to continued engagement with the community.</p> <p>Point (c) is addressed through improvements to physical elements in the town (e.g. footpath to Mine Road and works to the Town Hall) and the identity of the town (as per actions 1, 2 and 16).</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<p>8. Increased level of public transport is necessary (e.g. bus link to Murray Bridge).</p>	<p>See draft action 6, “To continue to operate the Hills Community Transport (HCT) service, ensuring demand is monitored and service is adapted as needed”.</p> <p>Council’s Transport Lead Strategy lays the foundation for the transport planning necessary to support the objectives of the Community Plan 2020-2035. This lead strategy describes six core themes to underpin Council’s vision for transport, one of which is public transport. The objective of this lead strategy is to ensure that the district’s transport infrastructure planning aligns with the growth in the district ... and promotes the use of public transport. The combined suite of themed action plans and the related summary of actions then forms the Integrated Transport Plan. The Public Transport Action Plan will call for additional services throughout the district.</p> <p>The new action (as given over) on public transport will enable Council to advocate for improved services to the town in addition to any works that may arise from the Transport Lead Strategy.</p>	<p>No change proposed to draft action 6.</p> <p>Proposed new action as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocate for improved public transport services and associated infrastructure for the township.
	<p>9. Traffic calming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Traffic calming, which could be combined with an art project, to slow traffic as it enters the town, with noise and vibration especially felt at intersection of Proctor Road and the Old Princes Highway. b. Trucks speed down Proctor Road. 	<p>Traffic calming and a sense of arrival are objectives of the concept plan, outlined in draft action 16 (noting amendment to wording proposed and given over).</p> <p>Proctor Road is sealed to a distance of approx. 400m beyond the township boundary to remove any dust impact on the town and minimise noise and vibration impacts.</p> <p>Correspondence from Hanson confirmed that it has a number of internal documents, management plans, policies, procedures and a comprehensive Logistics Safety Manual. All of its trucks have GPS tracking, dash cams, fatigue and vehicle telematics safety systems.</p> <p>Hanson encourages residents (and other road users) to make contact, either directly, online or through its customer service centre if there is an issue with any truck so that it can be investigated. Each individual complaint is investigated and recorded in its Integrated Risk Information System.</p>	<p>No direct change proposed (note minor change proposed to action 16 as outlined below under the theme of The Main Street and reiterated below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve the appearance of township entrances and approaches. Develop gateway treatments that reflect the local sense of place and act to calm traffic through the Main Street. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High priority. ii. Support opportunities to increase activation and community use to the Main Street whether through private or commercial use, making sure to not detract from local heritage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medium priority. iii. Informal recreation trail parallel to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements as per the concept plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Low priority.
	<p>10. Pedestrian accessibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. People want footpaths. b. Push and pram access is needed along Mine Road, which is used by many people and is the only road that connects the northern and southern ends of the town. 	<p>Addressed through amended action 7, “In line with Council’s footpath program, complete sealed footpath connection from the northern end to the southern end of the town, linking the existing path along the Main Street to the property at 47 Mine Road (Lot 134), including improvements to the Mine Road/ Cook Street bus stop”.</p> <p>There was clear desire to see a sealed path along the full extent of Mine Road, which connects the northern and southern ends of the town and</p>	<p>See amended action 7 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In line with Council’s footpath program, complete sealed footpath connection from the northern end to the southern end of the town, linking the existing path along the Main Street to the property at 47 Mine

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Walkability and pedestrian connection between Kanmantoo north and Kanmantoo south suggested along Mine Road. d. Footpath along Mine Road for improved access between Kanmantoo north and Kanmantoo south mentioned several times. e. Better lighting and paved footpaths along Mine Road would be great. f. Most families are in Kanmantoo south, where improved access (footpaths) and facilities are required. Many young children travel this route. g. Public walking trails and bike trails as there are safety issues with travelling on the road and this also presents an opportunity to improve amenity. 	<p>improves safety and activation to the BMX track and in general for families and younger persons.</p>	<p>Road (Lot 134), including improvements to the Mine Road/ Cook Street bus stop.</p>
	<p>11. Safe recreational walking circuits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There are options within the township and on the perimeters to make use of unmade road reserves of between 2 to 3 kms, e.g. road reserve that runs behind the Town Hall (Copper Way) from Hawke Lane to North Road. b. Option to develop a number of unmade road reserves within the town and on its perimeter, some of which are being encroached by overflow activities of adjoining residential land holders (e.g. boat and caravan storage, fruit trees). c. Formal pedestrian connection to Brougham Place on the eastern side of the Old Princes Highway. 	<p>Formalising a sealed footpath along Mine Road will improve connections within the town while the informal recreation trail proposed parallel to the Main Street as per the concept plan will allow for an avenue of recreational and tourist value.</p> <p>The other paths mentioned (e.g. Copper Way) are used sporadically and infrequently and not to be formalised as part of this Township Plan.</p>	<p>No direct change proposed (note minor change proposed to action 16 as outlined below under the theme of The Main Street and reiterated below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve the appearance of township entrances and approaches. Develop gateway treatments that reflect the local sense of place and act to calm traffic through the Main Street. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o High priority. ii. Support opportunities to increase activation and community use to the Main Street whether through private or commercial use, making sure to not detract from local heritage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Medium priority. iii. Informal recreation trail parallel to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements as per the concept plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Low priority.
	<p>12. Mine Road/ Cook Street is not sealed, attracts anti-social driving and dust. Request for it to be bitumenised or turned into a park. The corner of Mine Road and the Old Princes Highway is unattractive and uninviting.</p>	<p>Amended action 7 will see a sealed footpath connection for the length of Mine Road, within the extent of the township boundary. It is noted that a short section of Mine Road will remain unformalised as the road reserve encroaches into 36 Princes Highway (Lot 42) as it turns the corner from Mine Road to the Old Princes Highway.</p>	<p>See amended action 7 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In line with Council's footpath program, complete sealed footpath connection from the northern end to the southern end of the town, linking the existing path along the Main Street to the property at 47 Mine Road (Lot 134), including improvements to the Mine Road/ Cook Street bus stop.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<p>13. Lack of footpaths and rural feel through the town is nice.</p>	<p>The majority of streets through the town have no pathways, kerbs or formalised footpaths, which is not to change. There is a sealed path for the extent of the Main Street and the desire to see improvements to Mine Road.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>14. Safety/ accessibility through area loosely termed 'Kanmanto west' (Cook Street/ Young Road/ Atkinson Road/ Kent Road/ Renfrey Road/ Baverstock Court/ Nursery Road/ Bartholomew Road)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There are approximately 47 dwellings that use the Cook Street access (one way in/ one way out only). b. Young Road and Kent Road do not provide through access. c. Intersection at Young Road and Bartholomew Road is quite dangerous in terms of visibility. d. Poor visibility at intersections through here, i.e. trees need to be trimmed (trees and foliage are seen to be encroaching along Kent Road). e. Should not be difficult to open up for greater access. f. Signage/ safety at the end of Young Road (in relation to speed of cars using this road), with no speed bumps. g. Cook Street is too narrow and should be improved to allow proper dual width access for its extent. h. Access is an emergency/ safety issue (a fire or fallen tree can mean that many properties are restricted in how they can get in or out). i. Children regularly use these roads for play. j. Poor intersection at corner of Proctor Road and Nursery Road. k. Consideration should be given to extending all of these roads through to Mine Road (where applicable). 	<p>The level of vehicular accessibility through this space is fit for purpose for a town of this size. Issues around overgrown vegetation are to be addressed by lodging a CRM with Council.</p> <p>With the number of comments received around access through this space, there is benefit in looking to improvements to pedestrian accessibility to ensure all-weather access over Kent Road, Atkinson Road and Young Road. This will have an amenity and safety benefit (primarily in relation to CPTED principles).</p>	<p>See new draft action as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Review access and connections as part of Council's new footpaths strategy to provide all-weather access along extent of Kent Road, Atkinson Road and Young Road.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<p>15. Road maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Widen the sealed section of Mine Road. b. Sight lines – Lots of blind, overgrown and tight corners. c. Potholes to be fixed, especially on the opposite of Old Princes Highway. 	<p>Discussion with Council’s civil team has confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Council has no plans to widen Mine Road, which is of standard dimensions b. Trimming of vegetation that is affecting sight lines around intersections is managed through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Vegetation on private land is generally addressed through a CRM, following initial contact with the land owner. ii. Overgrown or hazardous vegetation on public land is controlled through Council’s Natural Assets team via general maintenance or a CRM. c. The Old Princes Highway is maintained by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) for a distance of 3m off the edge of the sealed section of the road. 	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>16. Cycling infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cycling link to Callington mentioned several times. b. Cycling infrastructure required, possibly through to Callington and Nairne, with mention also made of links to Dawesley, Brukunga, Woodside, Mount Barker and the Heysen Trail. c. Proctor Road and Sawpit Gully Road to act as connectors to Dawesley and Brukunga for cyclists and walkers. d. Bitumen bike path could be a boon for the town with cycling tourism. e. Consider walking and cycling paths at local and State policy level for integration with broader plans. 	<p>See draft action 8, “Investigate a cycling and walking trail between Kanmantoo and Callington away from the Old Princes Highway”.</p> <p>Intra-town links and standards of cycling paths / trails are addressed in the current Trails Plan and will be picked up in the update of the Open Space Strategy for broader consideration across the district.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>17. Traffic volume a big issue as is the number of large trucks moving through the town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Neutrog strongly supports draft action 9 and encourages Council to establish a working group consisting of representatives from Council, Hillgrove Resources, Neutrog and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) to investigate an alternative route for heavy vehicles that bypasses the town. b. Neutrog would encourage Council to include an indicative illustration of a potential alternative heavy vehicle route within the township plan. This will assist to focus further investigations into the suitability of an alternative heavy vehicle access route to industries. c. Heavy vehicle bypass to the township. 	<p>See amended draft action 9 (given over), which incorporates a slight amendment to the previous draft action to allow for alternate responses that address the issue of truck movements through the town.</p> <p>Council is aware of the private road that is used to accommodate much of the truck traffic from Hillgrove and Neutrog, traversing from adjacent the mine off Mine Road and extending to the Old Princes Highway, and the benefits that it has to the township in terms of considerably reducing truck movements and the impacts that flow from this. An indicative illustration of this route is to be included in the final township plan to assist in focusing further investigations.</p> <p>While there are a number of unmade road reserves that form a link between the Hanson and Hillgrove sites, and which would effectively bypass Hanson truck movements from the town, this is not to be taken further due to the considerable cost involved. This route traverses over fairly steep terrain and with low traffic load. Council is satisfied, following discussion with Hanson that it is vigilant and open in responding to any complaints that may be received on trucks at speed through the town.</p>	<p>Minor change proposed to the Access and Movement theme to include indicative truck route from Hillgrove to the Old Princes Highway, effectively bypassing the town.</p> <p>Subsequent minor change to the text of draft action 9 to highlight the use of this ‘road’ through private land and the benefits that it brings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Investigate opportunities to minimise the impacts from truck movements from nearby industrial land uses (i.e. Hanson, Hillgrove and Neutrog) through proper and open responses to complaints received in relation to trucks travelling through the town and in use of private roads that act to bypass the township.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Fewer trucks using Mine Road of late has been noticeable and appreciated. e. Hanson advised that there are approximately 50 truck movements per week on Proctor Road and has remained open with the community on minimising speed, noise and anti-social driving in proximity of the town. f. Use of unmade road reserves for better heavy vehicle movement away from residences. g. Alternative route connecting Hanson’s Quarry to Hillgrove using undeveloped road corridors and to remove trucks from the town. h. Use of unmade road reserves and existing roads to take truck traffic out of the town, e.g. connecting Hanson Quarry and other industries to Hillgrove’s access road to divert heavy traffic from passing through the town. 		
	<p>18. Suggestion of 50 km/ hr speed limit for heavy vehicles through the township.</p>	<p>50 km/ hr is the default speed limit for all towns and cities and is the speed limit through all of Kanmantoo excepting the stretch of the Old Princes Highway that passes through the town. The 50 km/ hr speed limit extends through the whole township, including Mine Road to approximately 200m to the south of the BMX track on the southern limit of the town.</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) ‘Speed Limit Guideline for South Australia’ lists certain criteria for setting speed limits, with this section of the Old Princes Highway to be a 60 km/ hr zone. Once beyond the outskirts of the town, the speed limit increases to 80 km/ hr and then to 100 km/ hr beyond that.</p> <p>Amenity impacts from truck movements through the town are addressed through amended draft action 9.</p>	<p>No change proposed with regard to speed limits.</p> <p>Amended draft action 9 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Investigate opportunities to minimise the impacts from truck movements from nearby industrial land uses (i.e. Hanson, Hillgrove and Neutrog) through proper and open responses to complaints received in relation to trucks travelling through the town and in use of private roads that act to bypass the township.
	<p>19. Access to the freeway, which could be formalised.</p>	<p>The Department of Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) control freeway access. Formal freeway interchange is available at Callington, in reasonable proximity to Kanmantoo. This is not to be investigated further.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
<p>Open space and community facilities</p>	<p>20. Hutton Reserve is well used and could be improved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Second barbecue. b. Second shelter. c. More play options for other age groups, possibly through an upgrade or renewal to the basketball court space, which could also incorporate a soccer goal or something similar to broaden its use. d. Irrigation to the park. e. Better quality dog poo bags (i.e. as per Murray Bridge Council). 	<p>See draft action 10, “Through Council’s ‘Open Space and Trails Review and Update’ (2023/24), ensure that Hutton Reserve is maintained as the town’s primary reserve and consider additional open space/ trail facilities/ upgrades”.</p> <p>Council’s Infrastructure and Assets teams liaised with several members of the Kanmantoo community on design options in late 2023 on a playground renewal project budgeted as part of Council’s Annual Business Plan FY23/24.</p> <p>Hutton Reserve is a Council recognised ‘dog on-leash’ space, with signage erected to this effect. Council is aware of dogs being run off leash on occasion and is monitoring the situation. The popularity of a dog off-leash space has been recognised.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. There needs to be a bin next to the toilet. g. Proper basketball nets. h. Full sized tennis court. i. Netball facilities. j. Pump track. k. More swings and other play options. l. Play equipment for older children. m. Exercise equipment in the park. n. Nature play or more interactive options at Hutton Reserve would be great. o. Gymnasium or other indoor play facility would be great (e.g. tennis court). p. Dog off-leash play should be reintroduced to Hutton Reserve. q. General sentiment that there are insufficient facilities in the townships of Kanmantoo and Callington – most residents were accepting of travelling to Callington for facilities but to travel beyond that was seen as a real inconvenience. r. Play/ recreation options are limited in times of extreme weather (heat or rain). 		
	<p>21. Bird poo from corellas is unsightly and unpleasant and damages the footpath and Hutton Reserve.</p>	<p>This is noted but was not seen as a significant issue. General maintenance/ management issues such as this can be elevated through a Customer Request Management (CRM) lodged with Council.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>22. Rain water tanks to maximise catchment on structures on Hutton Reserve and the Town Hall, which could be used to offset water required for landscaped areas.</p>	<p>Construction elements are considered at the design and procurement stage. Sustainability initiatives are to be considered as part of asset upgrades through Council's Environment Strategy.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>23. Safety, with the fence at Hutton Reserve considered too low for children with special needs or dogs off leash. Playground should be fenced from dogs in the park.</p>	<p>Hutton Reserve is fenced around its perimeter with a closeable gate to the frontage to the Old Princes Highway. The fence to the Main Street is approx. 1m high and considered to reasonably satisfy safety concerns. Recreation and play options (e.g. barbecue and playground) are also set in approx. 40m from the frontage to avoid a high level of use in proximity to the Main Street.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>24. Greater range of recreation facilities required, e.g. off-leash dog park, skate park, football oval.</p>	<p>There is a limited number of facilities within the township. Hutton Reserve is the primary reserve, as reflected in action 10. The BMX track at 47 Mine Road (Lot 134) is owned by Council, designated as a community facility and currently quite under utilised. An alternate use to the BMX track at the southern end of the township is a clear opportunity in this regard and is proposed to be investigated further through action 11.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	25. Teenagers do not have sufficient and appropriate facilities.	See above and being addressed through Council’s Child and Youth Strategy and Action Plan.	No change proposed.
	26. Facilities at Callington are greater in terms of quality and the variety of uses catered for.	The connection to Callington was clearly seen. This can be partly encouraged through draft action 8 which reads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate a cycling and walking trail between Kanmantoo and Callington away from the Old Princes Highway. 	No change proposed.
	27. BMX track comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bike track at the southern end of Kanmantoo is rarely used and could be sold or redesigned for a different use, with the potential for this to become the primary open space for Kanmantoo south. b. Bike track at southern end of town is rarely used. c. At minimum, upgrade or better design is needed. d. Could be handed to Landcare Group or used as a reserve space. e. Sight lines further to the south, beyond Gosse Road intersection, are poor and dangerous. f. Accessibility for young children in Kanmantoo south due to trucks, traffic, B-doubles, lack of paths. g. Poorly designed and is not suitable for all age groups and abilities (e.g. jumps do not have properly formed lips and are unsafe). h. Needs better maintenance or a more professional design. i. Engage the community and youth to create a dynamic space that is exciting and challenging. j. Could be re-used or re-designed as a skate park or scooter park. k. Dog park would be best use of this space. l. Could be used as a free camping area m. Some responses seeking retention of this space as a BMX track but with an improved design. n. There was general support for an off leash dog park somewhere in the township, with the BMX track being the most likely space to accommodate this. o. Dual purpose design for dog play and child play. p. More trees and shade, seating and picnic areas. q. Noted that Hutton Reserve used to be an off-leash dog park. r. Availability of water to ensure that the space is sustained as an attractive and useable space. 	While there many responses on different ways that the space known as the ‘Kanmantoo Bike Track Facility’, there was clear consensus that this space is rarely used and poorly designed and maintained, and with some excitement around an improved use of this space – as per draft action 11. The YourSAy survey saw an off-leash dog park and a nature reserve as the most popular options. From conversations held at the drop-in session on 02.12.2023, an off-leash dog park appeared to be the most sought after additional use for the town. <p>Action 11 is drafted as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve useage of the community bike track facility through possible alternate designs or land uses, such as a nature reserve, off-leash dog park, private use or similar. Activation and safe access to this space will also be improved through sealed footpaths extending to the southern end of the township through draft action 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In line with Council’s footpath program, complete sealed footpath connection from the northern end to the southern end of the town, linking the existing path along the Main Street to the property at 47 Mine Road (Lot 134), including improvements to the Mine Road/ Cook Street bus stop. 	No change proposed to action 11. See amended draft action 7, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In line with Council’s footpath program, complete sealed footpath connection from the northern end to the southern end of the town, linking the existing path along the Main Street to the property at 47 Mine Road (Lot 134), including improvements to the Mine Road/ Cook Street bus stop.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<p>28. Council needs to allow dogs off lead or have a fenced area for dogs to run off lead. A good portion of the population of the town have dogs and it is necessary to have a place to run dogs without having to leave the town.</p>	<p>This was heard several times and is noted. A number of people were supportive of the BMX track being redesigned and reused as an off-leash dog park.</p>	<p>No change proposed</p>
	<p>29. Community meeting space.</p>	<p>Partly addressed through current draft action 12, “Work with the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to understand their long term needs with regard to community space and to ensure ongoing access to the Anzac memorial”.</p> <p>It is proposed to amend draft action 12 to broaden its applicability to cover physical improvements to the Town Hall.</p>	<p>Amendment to action 12 to read as,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to understand their long term needs with regard to access to the Town Hall and surrounding space for Anzac day and other occasions of community significance and in promoting the broader use of the Town Hall and surrounds through physical improvements such as toileting facilities, lighting, access, signage or other works.
	<p>30. Community acknowledges that the Town Hall is rarely used or hired and needs improvement, e.g. a storage shed, kitchen and toilet.</p>	<p>See above.</p>	<p>See amended action 12, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to understand their long term needs with regard to access to the Town Hall and surrounding space for Anzac day and other occasions of community significance and in promoting the broader use of the Town Hall and surrounds through physical improvements such as toileting facilities, lighting, access, signage or other works.
	<p>31. Desire for the Town Hall to be the primary community gathering space.</p>	<p>The Town Hall is a fairly small internal space and does not lend itself to large gatherings but it does present well, is quite accessible and is a listed ‘Community Hall’. There is a good space around the Town Hall, where the Anzac memorial is sited, which can cater for larger groups and which Council has left open for broader use through amended action 12.</p> <p>Also note action 5, which provides an option for formalising a residents’ association, which could be for the Kanmantoo Grounds Committee or another group, to better allow for two-way communication between the Council and the community.</p>	<p>See amended action 12, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work with the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to understand their long term needs with regard to access to the Town Hall and surrounding space for Anzac day and other occasions of community significance and in promoting the broader use of the Town Hall and surrounds through physical improvements such as toileting facilities, lighting, access, signage or other works.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	32. Improvements to the Town Hall to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make it more prominent. b. Improve the lighting to the Town Hall and the Main Street more broadly. c. Kitchen renovations. d. Improved acoustics. e. Clean up to the surrounding area. f. New toilets that are more user friendly. g. Ramp that is wheelchair accessible. 	See above.	See above.
Economic development, growth and tourism	33. Support local expertise and business through “local first” and utilising the expertise available within the area through promoting local economic and business growth.	See draft action 14, “Work with new and established local businesses to improve opportunities and knowledge of grants and resources by linking them in with Council’s Economic Development team for tailored advice”. Council’s Economic Development Officer met with residents in November 2023 to discuss access to grants and other economic development opportunities and remains open to further discussion on this.	No change proposed.
	34. To make mention of Kanmantoo Bacon as a well-known and long running local business.	Change to text in ‘Economy and tourism’ section of the text of the township plan as given in the column over.	Change to text in section 05 ‘Context’ of the township plan, under Economy and Tourism as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Kanmantoo Bacon and Quality Meats is a long running local business that has been operating from the town for in excess of 42 years.
	35. Support for the general store, which is the centre of the community.	Council is supportive of businesses in a general sense but does not seek to promote individual commercial operations.	No change proposed.
	36. Potential for Council to buy vacant block at 12 Old Princes Highway and develop it for commercial and community purposes.	This is a private allotment in the Local Activity Centre zone and remains open to the market for purchase and development.	No change proposed.
	37. The township plan does not sufficiently incentivise investment in small business.	Action 14 allows for regular liaison between Council and businesses and ways in which operations can be improved or enhanced.	No change proposed.
	38. Progress association supporting sustainable development and growth of the area. Promote diverse business and innovation.	This is largely addressed through draft actions 5 and 14, seeking to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assist in the development of a residents’ association. o Enable connections with Council’s Economic Development Team for assistance with grants and other resources. 	No change proposed.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<p>39. Protection of industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Neutrog acknowledges that the township plan recognises the economic importance of the facility and other industries and the need for existing industrial activities to coexist with nearby residential and commercial land uses. b. It is suggested that a new action be included that seeks to ensure that appropriate separation distances are either maintained or established around existing industrial land uses. It is anticipated that such an action could be delivered by way of a Code Amendment initiated by Council. The policies within the previous Mount Barker Council Development Plan could be revisited, in particular the establishment of a 500m buffer around the previous Industry (Kanmantoo) Zone, in which dwellings were non-complying. Potential amendments to the Planning and Design Code to introduce a similar exclusion area for dwellings and other sensitive receivers should be investigated. 	<p>The text in section 11 ‘Economic development, growth and tourism’ talks to achieving a balance between the industrial land uses in proximity of the town being able to operate in a lawful and sustainable manner without hindering the ability of commercial uses to establish and prosper.</p> <p>Council’s previous Development Plan did include an overlay to the effect described, given as the Kanmantoo Buffer Policy Area 1, which is not reflected in the current planning system, as managed through the Planning and Design Code and the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i>.</p> <p>If Neutrog wishes to investigate this further, it may lodge a privately funded Code Amendment, submitted through Plan SA and determined by the Minister for Planning.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>40. Recycled water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hanson is currently investigating long term water resource opportunities at the quarry and would be interested in keeping dialogue open with Council on sourcing grey water. b. There may be an opportunity to utilise wastewater from Alano treatment plant. c. Use of recycled wastewater is a real economic opportunity for the town noting proximate nature to pipeline/ purple pipe. d. Welcome for a conversation with regard to the permissible uses of recycled water for agricultural purposes. 	<p>See draft action 15, “Seek opportunities with prospective customers on the sale of recycled water on a commercial basis, achieving environmental, economic and social benefits to the community”.</p> <p>Council’s Manager, Wastewater Business Development and Customer Relations has met with Hanson on possibly progressing and remains open to further discussions with other potential customers.</p> <p>Provision of recycled water would also have the added benefit of reducing truck movements through the town as Hanson, as an example, currently trucks water into its site to smooth its internal roads and address dust.</p> <p>And amended draft action 9 given above.</p>	<p>No change proposed to draft action 15.</p> <p>See amended action 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Investigate opportunities to minimise the impacts from truck movements from nearby industrial land uses (i.e. Hanson, Hillgrove and Neutrog) through proper and open responses to complaints received in relation to trucks travelling through the town and in use of private roads that act to bypass the township.
<p>The Main Street</p>	<p>41. Entry statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sense of arrival. b. Entry and exit town identity statements. c. Design elements (e.g. protuberances such as native trees) to create a sense of arrival and naturally slow traffic. 	<p>Entry statements are currently incorporated into the concept plan within draft action 16, “Undertake improvements to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements”.</p> <p>It is proposed to amend action 16 to separate a number of the different elements that could be encompassed within this action as there is clearly a difference in the perceived priority of some of the works. The theme of ‘The Main Street’ primarily encompasses the feel upon arrival through entry signage, landscaping and presentation, and activation. Current draft action 16 is to be split into three as given on the column over.</p>	<p>Amendment to action 16 as given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Improve the appearance of township entrances and approaches. Develop gateway treatments that reflect the local sense of place and act to calm traffic through the Main Street. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o High priority. o Support opportunities to increase activation and community use to the Main Street whether through private or commercial use, making sure to not detract from local heritage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Medium priority.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Informal recreation trail parallel to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements as per the concept plan. ○ Low priority.
	<p>42. Informal recreation trail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support for the trail shown in the concept plan referenced by action 16 subject to assurances that anti-social activity is managed and consideration is given to trucks driving down the town. b. Concept plan is unlikely to improve activation of the Main Street. c. Support for enhancing the drainage reserve with seating and landscaping. d. Develop the creek line along the Main Street to highlight cultural history and identity of the town. 	<p>The informal recreation trail, with seating as required, is outlined in amended action 16 (given over). The trail will provide an amenity, and a level of tourism, benefit but was not a pressing issue for most residents and should follow from improvements to the Town Hall, entry statements and other items listed in this action.</p>	<p>See amended action 16 (iii), given as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Informal recreation trail parallel to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements as per the concept plan. ○ Low priority.
	<p>43. Plantings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Colourful plantings along the Main Street and Mine Road would improve the feel and appearance. b. Unifying characteristics, e.g. continuous tree planting of same species as with Nairne and Gawler Street, Mount Barker. 	<p>Noted and for consideration in future works. The Main Street presently has a fairly open feel with several large gum trees framing the entrance. Plantings that give a pleasant feel to the street, while also being appropriate to the environment, are to form part of the Main Street improvements captured by action 16.</p> <p>The Main Street and Mine Road are the main thoroughfares through the town. The appropriateness of plantings along Mine Road are addressed through existing draft action 18, "Revisit tree plantings along Mine Road to ensure appropriateness to the climate, giving consideration to aesthetics and management".</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>44. More regular maintenance required along the creek as it runs parallel to the Main Street.</p>	<p>Captured within action 16, as amended (see over), which mentions retention of existing trees and enhancement to creek line.</p>	<p>See amended action 16 (iii), given as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Informal recreation trail parallel to the Main Street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements as per the concept plan.
	<p>45. Activation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Greater activation to the Main Street through simple measures such as bench seats, an information booth or the like. b. Consider point of difference for destination travellers, e.g. public toilets with easy parking and access, an EV charging station, accessibility and inclusion features. c. The curved stone wall in front of the Town Hall could be used for community use, not just car 	<p>The Local Activity Centre Zone extends along both sides of the Old Princes Highway and promotes commercial uses that provide services to the community, i.e. policy mechanism is in place. Activation along here is constrained by the small number of premises and predominantly large setbacks from the road.</p> <p>Amended actions 16 (ii) and 12 address activation of the Main Street and the Town Hall.</p>	<p>Primarily addressed through amended action 16 (ii), reiterated as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Support opportunities to increase activation and community use to the Main Street whether through private or commercial use, making sure to not detract from local heritage.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<p>parking. A community garden or market would be a good use of this space. Potential to seal and utilise this space for food trucks, coffee carts or other activation uses.</p> <p>d. Farmer’s market or community garden along the Main Street or at the Town Hall.</p> <p>e. Assistance to establish the Christmas carols as an annual gathering.</p> <p>f. More commercial shops or restaurants, café or pub to act as a community gathering point.</p> <p>g. Activate the northern/ eastern side of the Old Princes Highway.</p>		<p>Minor amendment to action 12, to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Work with the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to understand their long term needs with regard to access to the Town Hall and surrounding space for Anzac day and other occasions of community significance and in promoting the broader use of the Town Hall and surrounds through physical improvements such as toileting facilities, lighting, access, signage or other works. <p>Entry statements play a role in activation and are outlined in amended action 16 above.</p>
	<p>46. Town Hall improvements:</p> <p>a. There is a need to improve signage, fencing, access and entry to the Town Hall.</p> <p>b. A path leading to the Town Hall will lead to a greater level of useage and is supported.</p>	<p>Addressed through amended action 12 (given over), which seeks to enhance the useability of the Town Hall as a community facility including ongoing access to the Anzac memorial.</p>	<p>See amended action 12, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Work with the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to understand their long term needs with regard to access to the Town Hall and surrounding space for Anzac day and other occasions of community significance and in promoting the broader use of the Town Hall and surrounds through physical improvements such as toileting facilities, lighting, access, signage or other works.
<p>Sustainability and the environment</p>	<p>47. Landcare projects for volunteers.</p> <p>48. Biodiversity:</p> <p>a. Mention of maintaining the biodiversity of the Adelaide Hills seen through Kanmantoo and not seen elsewhere.</p> <p>b. Emphasis on dog and cat management and containment.</p> <p>c. Encourage the removal of listed and proclaimed weed species from road and street verges and to discourage the overspill of exotic plant species.</p> <p>d. Enhancement and restoration of local biodiversity.</p> <p>e. Protection and retention of trees where possible.</p> <p>f. Plan to replant and maintain greenness and shade in the town if and when trees are lost.</p> <p>g. Trees along Mine Road are not suitable for the area due to the low rainfall.</p> <p>h. Endemic plantings with regard to enhancing habitat for local fauna (primarily) and fire risk (secondary).</p>	<p>See draft action 17, “Provide support for any community groups and/ or volunteers wishing to undertake environmental initiatives on public land such as re-vegetation, weeding and stabilisation/ erosion management on degraded landscapes in particular along the creek line”.</p> <p>And see draft action 18, “Revisit tree plantings along Mine Road to ensure appropriateness to the climate, giving consideration to aesthetics and management”.</p> <p>For animal management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Issues with cats are addressed through a Customer Request Management (CRM) lodged with Council. o Aggressive dogs or dogs off leash in public spaces are also primarily addressed through a CRM. <p>Particular specifics on plant species will be determined as a project unfolds.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Suggestion for use of white cedar, jacaranda and kurrajong trees, Manchurian pears, crepe myrtle, hibiscus or wattles would be better suited to the area, in particular along Mine Road. 		
	<p>49. Dirt road maintenance, with dust from Hillgrove mine a big issue and lime gravel on the road.</p>	<p>See draft action 19, “Where appropriate, continue to work with Hillgrove Resources, Hanson and Neutrog to deliver environmental and amenity outcomes in terms of compliance, and specifically as relate to interface issues such as dust suppression, odour, noise and vibration”.</p> <p>Slight amendment to action 19 proposed to reference amenity issues and not draw to compliance, which is primarily under the purview of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) SA, Neutrog Engage EPA.</p>	<p>Amend action 19 to remove the word ‘compliance’ as requested and with minor related amendments to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue to work with Hillgrove Resources, Hanson and Neutrog to deliver environmental and amenity outcomes, and specifically as relate to interface issues such as dust suppression, odour, noise and vibration.
	<p>50. Dust from vehicles using North Road.</p>	<p>Discussion with Council’s civil team has confirmed that this road is graded on an as required basis via inspection twice per year.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>51. Pollutants from farmers.</p>	<p>This issue was raised without reference to a specific site or land use. Further advice on potential contamination or pollution issues are best addressed through contacting the EPA SA.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>52. Amenity impacts from Neutrog:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Odour impacts are significant and possibly a health and safety concern. b. Neutrog does not sufficiently engage with the community, unlike Hillgrove Resources and Hanson Quarry. c. Neutrog has a detrimental impact on the liveability and economic prosperity of the town. Neutrog’s emissions hinder the ability for commercial uses within the town to establish and prosper. Action is required on this issue. d. The piles of manure are inappropriate for proximity to residences and should be moved to an appropriate site for a special industry. e. Neutrog is the single biggest and longstanding issue for the town and should be relocated. f. Neutrog is incompatible with residential uses and should be 10km or more from the town. It impacts not just Kanmantoo but also Callington, Staunton and nearby properties. g. Review the Planning and Design Code provisions for the Strategic Employment (SE) Zone, which is over the land occupied by Hillgrove and Neutrog. h. Query on whether such uses are impact assessed or performance assessed. 	<p>This is addressed through draft action 19 above.</p> <p>Neutrog is an approved use in a Strategic Employment Zone and is not to be moved from the town through this township plan.</p> <p>A response was given on the query around assessment pathways for works over the Neutrog site through Council’s City Development team on 21.12.2023.</p>	<p>Note amendment to action 19 as reiterated below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue to work with Hillgrove Resources, Hanson and Neutrog to deliver environmental and amenity outcomes, and specifically as relate to interface issues such as dust suppression, odour, noise and vibration.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<p>53. Neutrog specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Neutrog requests that the word 'compliance' be removed from draft action 19 as this suggests that the industries referenced may not be operating in accordance with their approvals. As an alternative, it is suggested that this be reworded to: "Continue to work with Hillgrove Resources, Hanson and Neutrog to deliver environmental and amenity outcomes". b. Neutrog is a major employer within the district and provides an important contribution to the local economy. c. Neutrog is committed to working collaboratively with the Council, the community and other stakeholders to achieve a shared vision for Kanmantoo. d. Neutrog is investing heavily in a range of significant projects designed to upgrade and enhance its operations while also minimising impacts (e.g. a new research centre, an education centre and the establishment of an alternative access route for heavy vehicles to enable trucks to avoid the township of Kanmantoo). 	<p>Council acknowledges Neutrog's contribution to the local economy and is not seeking to relocate it or other industries.</p> <p>Council administration is supportive of amending current draft action 19 to remove the word 'compliance'.</p> <p>Investigations and possible establishment of an alternative truck route are covered by draft action 9.</p>	<p>See amendment to action 19 as given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue to work with Hillgrove Resources, Hanson and Neutrog to deliver environmental and amenity outcomes, and specifically as relate to interface issues such as dust suppression, odour, noise and vibration. <p>Minor amendment to content of action 9, as shown below, and inclusion of potential route away from the Main Street in concept form within the Township Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Investigate opportunities to minimise the impacts from truck movements from nearby industrial land uses (i.e. Hanson, Hillgrove and Neutrog) through proper and open responses to complaints received in relation to trucks travelling through the town and in use of private roads that act to bypass the township.
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>54. Flooding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Specifically along Kent Road. b. Kent Road regularly experiences localised flooding after rain at the point just before the intersection with the Old Princes Highway and where the large drains are. c. Flood review of stormwater infrastructure required. d. A pipe or culvert should be placed under Mine Road to avoid pooling of water on the eastern side of Mine Road. e. Something needs to be done about the water on Atkinson Road. It accumulates at the bottom near the easement. 	<p>See draft action 20, "Undertake a review and update to flood mapping plans and flood plain extents for the Kanmantoo and Callington townships".</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>
	<p>55. On-site wastewater management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All on-site waste water management. b. Some were satisfied with the use of 'home sewage treatment plants' (HSTP) and saw no need to go to CWMS. 	<p>See draft action 21, "Work with the LGA CWMS Management Committee to determine the priority of connection of Kanmantoo to a Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS)".</p> <p>This is not a priority for the town, which is not subject to any great development pressures, but worth keeping in the township plan to remain aware of movement on this.</p>	<p>No change proposed.</p>

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	56. Poor wifi connectivity and phone reception in the town. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. This impacts safety in an emergency, not just general liveability and convenience. b. Large parts of the town have limited or no mobile coverage. 	Council has been in discussions with a number of telecommunications providers to discuss improved servicing to a number of Council's townships and potentially creating a digital connectivity plan for Kanmantoo and other townships in the district. There is benefit in putting this directly into an action in the township plan as drafted in the column over.	Proposed to be more directly addressed through a new action in the Infrastructure theme, proposed as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Council to advocate for improved telecommunication services.
	57. Underground the powerlines.	Undergrounding of powerlines is undertaken by SAPN via a PLEC program. There are no current plans for undergrounding to occur in Kanmantoo.	No change proposed.
	58. Roadside mail delivery would be helpful.	Noted. This is, however outside the scope of the township plan.	No change proposed.
Other comments	59. General comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Generally supportive of the draft township plan and happy with life in the town. b. Supportive of general focus on heritage, environment and community connection. c. The area is changing and home to more young families. d. Tranquil, safe and friendly neighbourhood. e. Perfect location, 20 minutes to everywhere. 	Noted.	No change proposed
	60. Something needs to be done about the rats. Rats have exploded in population following introduction of the cat curfew.	This comment was not widely expressed. Specific queries on this issue can be addressed through a CRM lodged with Council or query with applicable land owner with regard to waste, hoarding or other that may lead to vermin.	No change proposed.
	61. Focus should be on Mount Barker.	Noted, each township in the District has its own plan.	No change proposed.
Survey summary	As part of the consultation process, Council staff established an online survey to assist in obtaining feedback and informing the preparation of the final township plan via YourSAy page. The main takeaways resulting from the survey are given below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 376 visits to the YourSAy page. - 30 completed surveys. - Priorities for the town given as (in order): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Improved pedestrian and cyclist movement within the township o Greater use of public spaces (Town Hall, Hutton Reserve, BMX track) o Greater business activity along the Main Street o Address amenity issues from nearby land uses. o Improve pedestrian and cyclist movements to nearby townships (especially Callington) o Environmental concerns (e.g. stabilisation along the creek line) 	NA	Incorporated into the township plan in terms of priorities.

Theme	Issue/ point raised	Council response	Proposed amendment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connection to mains sewer or Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) ○ Celebration of aspects of heritage and historical significance in the town. – Prime alternate uses of the BMX track at the southern end of the town given as (equally) a nature reserve and an off leash dog park (32.1% each). 		

12.5	REPORT TITLE:	RECYCLED WATER STRATEGY ADOPTION
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/36215
	ATTACHMENTS:	1. DOC/23/85279 – RECYCLED WATER STRATEGY PROPOSAL PAPER FOR IAWB – JULY 2023
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Michael Wundke, Manager Wastewater Business Development & Customer Relations
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Helen Edmonds, Head of Wastewater

Community Plan 2020-2035:**Community Wellbeing**

Goal 4 – Safety and Resilience

CW Objective 4.4 – Provide wastewater treatment services to deliver public health, environmental and economic outcomes and climate change adaptation solutions.

Ecological Sustainability

Goal 5 – Clean and abundant water

ES Objective 5.1 – Continue to build on Council’s reputation as a leader in wastewater management and promote water recycling and reuse

ES Objective 5.5 – Strengthen and promote the water recycling and reuse business of Council

Annual Business Plan:**Key Performance Measures**

- Opportunist expansion of the Mount Barker Recycled Water scheme undertaken efficiently

Key Annual Objectives

- Key initiatives undertaken as planned
- Increase customer and community awareness of the wastewater service and the benefits it provides to the district

Purpose:

To provide to Council the Recycled Water Strategy and Proposal Prioritisation pathway for adoption.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. Recycled Water Strategy was developed by KBR, March 2023.
2. A proposal paper was developed at the request of the Informal Advisory Wastewater Board (IAWB) on how the Wastewater Service proposes to implement the Recycled Water Strategy and was presented to the IAWB at the September 2023 meeting.
3. Adoption of the proposed prioritisation will enable the Wastewater Service to move forward with planning and budgeting.

Recommendation:**That Council:**

- 1. Adopt the Wastewater Service Recycled Water Strategy and proposed prioritisation pathway for implementation; and**
 - 2. Notes that the implementation of individual projects will be subject to annual business planning and budget approval.**
-

Background:

1. Council endorsed the Recycled Water – Direction & Interim Strategy at the council meeting held 2 August 2021.
2. The endorsed interim strategy identifies 7 key council objectives for the wastewater/recycled water service to meet.
3. To achieve the objectives the interim strategy outlines a direction to investigate supplying geographical areas including the supply along the routes which have been selected based on previous studies and information available.
4. The Wastewater Service submitted an updated Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in October 2023, outlining plans for the Springs Road WWTP.
5. Within the EIP, Wastewater Service have committed to building the Laratinga Water Recovery Plant (LWRP).
6. From initial discussions with the EPA the Wastewater Service will have a goal of achieving 100% beneficial use of treated wastewater within 10 years of LWRP commissioning, and minimising discharge into Mount Barker Creek as part of the licence for the LWRP.
7. The Wastewater Service engaged KBR in 2022 to develop a recycled water strategy.
8. This strategy was received by the Wastewater Service in March 2023.
9. At the IAWB Workshop on 28 June 2023, it was requested that the Wastewater Service develop a proposal paper for adoption of the recycled water strategy for IAWB to consider for recommendation to Council for adoption.
10. The Wastewater Service Adoption / Proposal Paper for Recycled Water prioritisation was shared with the IAWB at the September 2023 board meeting.

11. Due to third party interest and a pending submission of an Unsolicited Proposal by this party, recommendation by IAWB to the Chief Executive Officer for endorsement and adoption by council was postponed to allow this process to unfold.
12. The Unsolicited Proposal was received on 17 January 2024.
13. Council will be kept informed of decision making on acceptance, or not, of the unsolicited proposal through routine reporting and updates.
14. Once endorsed, the Recycled Water Strategy will be included in the next iterations of the Wastewater Service Long Term Financial Plan and Long Term Financial Model following adoption.

Discussion:

15. Four major schemes are highlighted in KBR's Recycled Water Strategy 2023 and were considered for implementation and subsequent prioritisation to achieve the recycled water target of 100% reuse by 2035.
16. Considerations for scheme development include in-district vs. out-of-district supply, community, environment, and economic outcomes, as well as indicative capital cost and NPV.
17. Proposed prioritisation for recycled water schemes was determined to be Nairne - Hay Valley Stages 1 and 2 and then the Callington Extension with the Mount Barker Township Scheme in development areas to continue alongside growth, providing community health and wellbeing advantages through irrigating parks, gardens, and recreational spaces.
18. Expansion of the scheme to older areas of Mount Barker will be considered on a case by case basis if there is customer interest in provision of recycled water at sufficient scale.
19. Council has secured 50% grant funding for Stage 1 of the Nairne - Hay Valley scheme through PIRSA and is in the Early Contractor Involvement stage of procurement, making it the top priority scheme for implementation. It will benefit a range of customers and is within the Mount Barker district.
20. Both the Nairne - Hay Valley and Callington schemes will lead to increased greenery near communities, offering aesthetic, bushfire mitigation, and urban cooling benefits. They also enhance primary production, local economy, water resource management, climate change resilience, and environmental outcomes through water reuse.
21. Implementation of the Recycled Water Strategy, once endorsed for adoption, will occur with or without the involvement of third parties.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Via Council informal briefing, agenda and minutes
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Policy:

- Commercial Policy
- Recycled Water Sale Policy: Non-Residential

Long Term Financial Plan:

Will be included in the next iterations of the Wastewater Service Long Term Financial Model and Long Term Financial Plan once adopted.

Budget:

Nairne - Hay Valley Stage 1 and expansion of the Mount Barker recycled water scheme are included in the 2023/2024 Wastewater Service budget. Future Recycled Water Strategy implementation projects will be included in future budgets.

Statutory/Legal:

N/A.

Staff Resource Requirements:

Any impact will be incorporated into staff work plans.

Environmental:

The endorsement of this Recycled Water Strategy is expected to have a positive impact on the environment. Laratinga Wetlands will be provided with environmental flows on an ongoing basis to promote wetland health.

Social:

The proposed proposal is anticipated to have a positive impact on the wider community including mental health and wellbeing and urban greening of public spaces like parks, gardens and sporting grounds. No person or group are expected to be negatively impacted.

Risk Assessment:

No risks identified.

Asset Management:

Once adopted there will be impact to recycled water assets.

Conclusion:

This report provides information to Council to endorse the path forward and prioritisation of the Recycled Water Strategy for implementation by the Wastewater Service.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council N/A

Meeting Date		CM Reference	DOC/
Title			
Purpose			



**MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

RECYCLED WATER STRATEGY ADOPTION PROPOSAL PAPER

To the

**INFORMAL WASTEWATER ADVISORY
BOARD**

21 August 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mount Barker district is one of Australia's fastest growing regions with the population forecast to reach 65,000 over the next 25 years. The Mount Barker District Council (MBDC) owned and operated Wastewater Service operates the largest council run wastewater scheme in South Australia and is facing the significant challenge of delivering the large-scale investment required to meet this rapid population growth and transitioning to a contemporary wastewater and recycled water system.

The Wastewater Service submitted its first Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) for the Springs Road WWTP to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in 2020, and provides annual updates on progress. Key requirements of the EPA for both current and future operations at this site are:

- Construction of the new Laratinga Water Recovery Plant (LWRP) to replace the existing Springs Road WWTP
- Achieve 100% beneficial use of treated wastewater within 10 years of the LWRP being commissioned (2035)
- Minimise discharge into the Mount Barker Creek to reduce further impact to the environment

In response to these ongoing challenges the Wastewater Service has developed a recycled water strategy and is now seeking endorsement of the proposed approach to implementation. This report provides a high-level comparison of potential recycled water scheme options, offering insights into their environmental, economic, and social benefits for the district and presents a preferred option for implementation of the recycled water strategy for implementation.

Four key schemes were considered in the Recycled Water Strategy, March 2023, developed by Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) and consolidating work previously undertaken through a number of other studies and investigations:

1. Mount Barker township
2. Callington Extension
3. Hay Valley (Stages 1 and 2)
4. Langhorne Creek

In addition other studies undertaken since 2011 have also been considered to ensure a holistic view of the current and ongoing recycled water situation has been taken in development of this proposal paper.

Analysis has been undertaken to assess the benefits and outcomes of each of the four key schemes, including potential for them to be owned and operated by a third party, the approximate capital cost, the need for recycled water storage to be provided if the demand is seasonal and the 40 year NPV as per the KBR Recycled Water Strategy 2023. The intent of this analysis is to provide a comparison of the schemes to support prioritization and therefore development of a proposal for adoption.

In the development of the preferred staging and proposal for adoption and implementation of the recycled water strategy the following considerations have been taken into account:

- In district vs out of district supply and benefits
- Community vs Environmental vs Economic outcomes
- Capital cost and NPV

Based on the analysis undertaken by the Wastewater Service in consultation with other teams within the MBDC, in particular the Planning and Community group, the following prioritization / proposal has been developed:

1. Nairne - Hay Valley Scheme - to provide recycled water to the region, benefiting various industries and promoting economic growth within the Mount Barker district.
2. Callington Extension - to supply recycled water to Colrae Farms and other customers, contributing to economic growth, water security and urban greening inside and adjacent to the Mount Barker district.
3. The Mount Barker Township - an ongoing project that focuses on expanding the existing recycled water irrigation network, benefiting public spaces, parks, and gardens, while also promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.
4. Other schemes, such as Langhorne Creek, but not as a priority unless a third party approaches the Wastewater Service with a proposal which benefits both them and the Wastewater Service, and by extension wastewater customers, the community and the environment.

A full business case, including cost benefit analysis, and associated prudential reports, will need to be developed for each of the schemes for approval by Council prior to implementation and to inform staging of the projects.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mount Barker district is one of Australia's fastest growing regions with the population forecast to reach 65,000 over the next 25 years. The Mount Barker District Council (MBDC) owned and operated Wastewater Service is facing the significant challenge of delivering the large-scale investment required to meet this rapid population growth and transitioning to a contemporary wastewater and recycled water system.

A key strategic objective of the MBDC is to maximise the productive reuse of water through the supply of recycled water to provide community benefits including reducing demand on the River Murray and ground water sources, creation of employment and a providing a fit for use lower cost alternative to potable water whilst minimising environmental impact.

Council's strategic objectives for the Wastewater Service, endorsed at the council meeting held 2 August 2021, are:

1. To maximise the productive use of recycled water
2. To use recycled water to facilitate the achievement of environmental, economic and social benefits to the community
3. To continue to provide adequate (quantity) and suitable (quality) recycled water for the Laratinga Wetlands
4. To continue to use recycled water to irrigate council parks and reserve
5. To minimise the disposal of recycled water from the Mount Barker wastewater treatment plant via the Mount Barker Creek
6. To continue to ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements
7. To seek to achieve a suitable return on investment, including through deriving revenue from the sale of recycled water to customers
8. To complete the timely update of the EPA approved Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) for the upgrading of the wastewater treatment plant and optimising recycled water use.

The Wastewater Service operates four wastewater treatment facilities that produce recycled water for beneficial reuse:

- Springs Road wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) (to be replaced by the Laratinga Water Recovery Plant (LWRP)), the focus of this paper, which is currently utilised for:
 - Irrigation of parks, gardens and sports facilities in Mount Barker;
 - Primary production including vineyards, sprouts and olives; and
 - Council and contractor dust suppression.
- Meadows WWTP produces recycled water which is supplied to properties in the Mawson Green and Saxon Hyde sub-divisions for non-potable use and also to the Meadows Oval for irrigation
- Echunga lagoon treated effluent is supplied to the nearby golf club for irrigation of the golf course during the summer months
- Macclesfield lagoon treated effluent is used to irrigate the adjoining vineyards.

2. BACKGROUND

Wastewater from Mount Barker, Littlehampton, Nairne and Brukunga is collected and treated at the Springs Road WWTP. Once treated the recycled water is then stored, distributed and sold to customers. The recycled water is, and has previously been, used for a variety of purposes including mining, primary production and irrigation of open space by Council, businesses, and schools within the district. Approximately 1.4GL of recycled water is currently produced each year and is available for beneficial reuse of which a minimum of 175 mega litres per year is required to be released as environmental flows to the Laratinga Wetlands to maintain wetland health.

One of the Strategic objectives for the Wastewater Service, as set out in the Wastewater Service Strategy, is proactive environmental leadership, with success measured as greener, cooler communities, waste reduction, increased by-product reuse and climate change resilience. The outcomes the Wastewater Service measure in regard to this objective are:

- Environmental Quality – protect, restore and enhance the quality of our environment to the satisfaction of our regulators, customers, community and stakeholders
- Climate change – provide wastewater and recycled water services that consider, adapt and respond to climate change
- Recycled water supply – maximise the volume of wastewater harvested and reuse for economic, environmental and community benefit.

To achieve this strategic goal one of the Wastewater Service ecological sustainability initiatives in the Wastewater Service Corporate Plan is provision and maximizing use of recycled water for use in irrigation for agriculture and viticulture, the resources industry, and maintenance of open spaces by:

- Business development and other activities to attract customers
- Opportunistic and planned expansion of the recycled water network
- Development and implementation of a recycled water strategy

Recycled water provides an important climate independent water supply for non-drinking purposes for the region improving the liveability of our townships by allowing for the upkeep of recreation areas through irrigation and providing fit for use water to support local food production, particularly during periods of drought. In addition economic growth will be stimulated through the broader Mount Barker District through the provision of recycled water to agricultural, horticultural and mining industries.

The opportunity to increase the supply of recycled water in the Mount Barker region has presented itself through:

- The growing population resulting in increased wastewater flows following rezoning of 1,310 ha of land around Mount Barker and Nairne as part of the 2010 Mount Barker Urban Growth Development Plan; and
- Increased regulatory requirements for improvement environmental outcomes under the EPA endorsed Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), last updated October 2022 (EIP).

Four key schemes were considered in the Recycled Water Strategy, March 2023, developed by KBR and consolidating work previously undertaken through a number of other studies and investigations:

1. Mount Barker township
2. Callington Extension
3. Hay Valley (Stages 1 and 2)
4. Langhorne Creek

Detail of each of these schemes, and also others considered is included in Section 3 below.

In addition other studies undertaken since 2011 have also been considered to ensure a holistic view of the current and ongoing recycled water situation has been taken in development of this proposal paper. Demand for recycled water in the area has been and is still driven by:

- Need to replace existing predominately surface and ground water sources which are experiencing decreasing yield, declining reliability and/or quality with a climate-independent source to maintain supply quantity and quality.
- Desire to sustainably add to the water resources in the region to support existing primary industry production and jobs, whilst enabling opportunity for increased investment, revenue and employment (Employment Generation through Recycled Water – PSI Delta (2016)(DOC/16/109367))

The Wastewater Service’s key drivers for recycled water scheme expansion align with national, state and local government strategies and policies, including:

- Grower and industry demand for additional water
- Regional economic development and employment
- Security of current primary production areas and desire for additional primary production areas
- Availability of sustainable and secure water supplies both potable and non-potable
- Climate change and likely adverse impacts
- Improvements in how water and water allocations are managed
- Environmental benefits and outcomes
- Community benefit from open space greening
- Bushfire mitigation through improved greenspace.

The below table highlights the projected total recycled water demand per annum of each of the four key schemes by 2035/36.

Table 1: Projected Annual Recycled Water Demand for each Scheme

Option	Maximum annual demand
Mount Barker township	273 ML
Hay Valley (Stages 1 and 2)	1,141 ML
Callington Extension	800 ML (2023) 1,200 ML (2035/36)
Langhorne Creek	1,895 ML

3. PROPOSALS CONSIDERED

Detailed below are the four schemes considered for implementation and subsequent prioritization to achieve the recycled water target of 100% reuse by 2035. Also detailed are other proposals which have been considered, and are still being considered as alternative or additional uses for recycled water in the Mount Barker district. All documents referenced can be supplied on request.

Mount Barker Township

Council is the main customer for the current Mount Barker township scheme with the expansion of this scheme proposed to occur opportunistically as developers and the Department of Infrastructure construct roads in the MDPA. As the scheme expands it is expected that the customer base will expand from council use for irrigation of parks, gardens, reserves and sports fields to also potentially also supply additional non-residential customers including the Aston Hills Golf Course, the Newnham Estate Farm Kitchen, and Department of Education schools.

This scheme has been assumed to occur no matter what decisions are made around progression and prioritisation of other schemes proposed. The construction of this scheme will occur through a mix of contributions to developers for installation of recycled water infrastructure within their developments during early construction phases and Wastewater Service managed projects to ensure the scheme can be reliably supplied with water of the required quality and quantity (volume and pressure). This scheme also includes the release of environmental flows to the Laratinga Wetland once the LWRP is commissioned and the Springs Road WWTP is decommissioned to maintain wetland health for this important community asset.

Greening of public spaces and maintenance of the Laratinga Wetland align to the Wastewater Service goals and objectives by contributing to community health (physical and mental) and wellbeing.

Callington Extension

This scheme proposes to extend the existing Callington recycled water scheme which supplies the Callington Oval and Callington Primary School to also supply a new native plant nursery (final location unknown), Premix Concrete and Colrae Farms. It should be noted that all these additional customers, with the exception of Colrae, lie within the Mount Barker District and Colrae partially within the district but also extending into the District Council of Murray Bridge.

Colrae Farms as part of their Recycled Water Utilisation Proposal presented to council in March 2020 indicated a strong interest in utilising the amounts of recycled water indicated in Table 1 to drought proof their farm and increase hay yield for use in the Adelaide Hills and surrounding areas. They are currently a major supplier to the majority of fodder stores and garden centres in the Adelaide Hills and other parts of Adelaide and also distribute around Australia, and also operate a seed production business which could potentially utilise recycled water for irrigation to “bulk up” high value seed crops out of season, an activity currently done on their behalf in the south east of South Australia and interstate.

By expanding their operation and improving productivity, Colrae would be able to employ more people, create an all year round business and create a major bushfire buffer north of Callington which would be aesthetically pleasing to look at.

This extension of the existing Callington recycled water scheme could be delivered within 12 months of a decision to proceed and would beneficially reuse around 25% of the water produced at the Springs Road site.

Hay Valley Stage 1 and 2

The Hay Valley Recycled Water Scheme Stage 1 involves construction of a water main from the Lower Dublin Road Recycled Water Treatment Facility along Bald Hills Road to the norther side of the Old Princes Highway. The project was endorsed by Council in December 2022 and has been tendered in conjunction with the trunk sewer projects to achieve economies of scale. The Early Contractor Involvement contract has been awarded and construction is expected to commence in late 2023. The project is 50% funded by a grant from the National Water Grid Authority (NWGA) via the State Government.

The full Hay Valley scheme, which lies completely within the Mount Barker district, would supply recycled water to a variety of customers including Thomas Foods International, Lot 100 and a range of vineyards and other primary producer growers. A key finding from a previous report on this scheme was that potential customers in the area directly attributed lack of water security as the leading reason they are delaying or deferring further investment to grow their businesses. The expected outcomes if this scheme is progresses are increased community prosperity and sustainability through increased production and job creation opportunities.

Langhorne Creek

The Langhorne Creek option assessed is based on an unsolicited proposal presented to Council by FABAL Operations Pty Ltd (FABAL) (FABAL Group Unsolicited Proposal, April 2021 (DOC/21/57863)) in April 2021 to supply recycled water to the wine production region of Langhorne Creek which lies fully outside the Mount Barker district. The route proposed would make this scheme an extension of the existing Callington recycled water pipeline and the indicated potential demand was based by FABAL on the capacity of this existing pipeline not an assessment of demand from potential customers or end users. There has been no contact from the FABAL group since April 2021.

Should this option be progressed as a priority for implementation by the Wastewater Service consultation with the end users would be required to better understand demand and how it could best be met.

OTHER PROPOSALS AND RELEVANT STUDIES

Detailed below are the other proposals which have been considered and / or are still being considered as alternative or additional uses for recycled water.

MBDC Long Term Wastewater Strategy, Regional Development Australia, July 2020 (DOC/21/164721)

Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island undertook an investigation into potential users of treated wastewater, considerations in determining appropriate treated wastewater pricing and key considerations for private sector involvement. The preliminary investigation resulted in the following recommendations from the RDA:

- Treated wastewater be priced at or below \$100/ML;
- Council to focus its initial resources on the Callington Region as the short-term solution, and the Langhorne Creek Region (driven by FABAL and private sector interest) as a long-term solution;
- Council to engage further with the larger water users from the Langhorne Creek Region to determine detailed wastewater demand appetite and financial capacity to deliver the Project;
- Council to engage further with the private sector to understand potential commercial structures, benefits delivered to Council and financial capacity to deliver the Project; and

- Council to commence high level discussions with relevant authorities to determine if an environmental release solution is practically possible and acceptable based on current legislation.

Mount Barker Irrigation Scheme Market Sounding, Hudson Howells, December 2018 (DOC/21/79001)

MBDC and SA Water worked together to investigate establishment of an irrigation precinct in the eastern Mount Lofty Ranges stretching from Mount Barker to Murray Bridge. The precinct would distribute recycled water from the Springs Road WWTP and untreated River Murray water from SA Water's Murray Bridge-Onkaparinga (MBO) Pipeline to contracted customers.

The scope of work performed by the consultants and addressed in the report included undertaking:

- A market sounding by engaging with businesses which had previously indicated demand for, or interest in, water from the Mount Barker Irrigation Scheme (Scheme) and to identify and engage with businesses which could be prospective customers of the Scheme.
- An economic analysis incorporating an economic impact assessment of the Scheme and a cost benefit analysis to underpin a business case.

Recommendations strongly recommended that a business case incorporating a financial analysis be prepared by MBDC, and that the business case should:

- Clearly articulate Council's objectives for the Scheme.
- Identify the range of business models considered (for example full ownership, joint venture, lease, divest).
- Identify the risks and returns associated with each business model considered.
- Determine the extent of any subsidy required to ensure the long term sustainability of the preferred business model.

No further work was undertaken after the report was delivered to develop a business case.

Callington to Murray Bridge Recycled Water Pipeline Feasibility Study – Beneficial Uses Investigation Report, KBR, July 2011 (DOC/13/030507)

Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR) was engaged by the Rural City of Murray Bridge (RCMB) to complete a feasibility study for a recycled water pipeline from Callington to Murray Bridge. The feasibility study was structured to firstly identify and quantify potential recycled water demands in the corridor between Callington and Murray Bridge and the associated benefits provided to the community. The second stage involved completion of the feasibility design to nominate a proposed pipeline route, pipeline diameter, required storage, pumping and treatment facilities and the provision of an operational methodology for the proposed scheme.

The report detailed the beneficial uses investigation carried out to determine the suitability and demand for recycled water from the Springs Road WWTP in and around the corridor from Callington to Murray Bridge. In addition to determining the suitability of the recycled water for various potential end users, quantitative and qualitative benefits to the region were identified to assist in completing a feasibility study for the proposed recycled water scheme required to supply these demands.

No further work was undertaken after the feasibility study was completed.

Bunyip Water (Formerly Gawler Water Reuse Scheme) Interest – Ongoing

MBDC was approached by the Randall Wine Group (Seppeltsfield) and Brian Carr (ex. Light Regional Council CEO) in June. In 2010 the Light Regional Council secured a \$10.7 million grant from the Australian Government through the Australian National Urban Water and Desalination Plan, and an \$11 million loan to fund the \$22m Gawler Water Reuse Scheme. The 7-year journey from feasibility

study to commissioning faltered at the 5-year mark when the initial Private Partner and neighbouring Councils withdrew due to inability to secure water customers. Shortly afterwards Bunyip Water was created with Seppeltsfield Wines as the Foundation Customer. The Gawler Water Reuse Scheme project was split into six large contracts and 100 smaller contracts, and it was commissioned on time and slightly under budget.

The design and project management of the development of the Gawler Reuse Water Scheme has been acknowledged with three national and international industry awards. Schemes of this type are a potential delivery and operational model which has been assessed as part of the scheme prioritisation and development of this proposal.

Randall Wine Group is currently looking to acquire land within the Mount Barker district with the aim to expand their current growing operation.

SA Water Adaptive Planning Work – Ongoing

SA Water, in conjunction with other key water organisations, developing an Adaptive Water Plan for the Greater Adelaide Region looking at water security for the next 50 years. One of the options proposed and under consideration amongst many others to address the forecast shortfall in available water in the region in the next 50 years is supply of high quality recycled water from the Mount Barker area into Mount Bold Reservoir for indirect potable reuse.

The SA Water Adaptive Plan is still work in progress and will not be published until later in 2023, and will be refined as additional information becomes available including the new Greater Adelaide Regional Plan once completed. This option, if adopted, would leave no recycled water available for use for any other purpose.

Another option also considered, and current identified as preferred in the draft Adaptive Plan, is the provision of all recycled water produced by the Wastewater Service for non-potable purposes in the Mount Barker district thereby relieving the demand for water from other sources in the region. This is the option likely to be included in the final Adaptive Plan and assumes the adoption and implementation of the proposed recycled water strategy and the proposal presented here.

Managed Aquifer Recharge & Recovery, MBDC, June 2015 (DOC/15/83063)

A feasibility study was carried out on the potential to inject treated stormwater into the aquifer at the LDRRWTF. The stage 1 desktop study was completed in 2014/15 with budget approval for Stage 2, to investigate further and development of a design for approval for a stormwater harvesting / managed aquifer recharge (MAR) scheme, to commence in 2015/2016. The project was put on hold due to the bore in question being located in an area to be impacted by a Department of Infrastructure Project.

Due to the locality and geology of the Mount Barker District, and information from other studies, this method would be challenging with limited suitable aquifers in the region and so has been discounted as an option within the district, it may however be feasible in other areas as an alternative to construction of recycled water storage.

Environmental Release, RDA, July 2020 (DOC/21/164721)

Through the work carried out by the RDA in development of the MBDC Long Term Wastewater Strategy preliminary discussions with multiple parties identified the potential for MBDC to release recycled water directly into the Murray-Darling Basin via a direct pipeline or the Bremer River.

The concept was that in return for the recycled water released into the Murray-Darling Basin a proportion of the water volume would be received as an entitlement. This water entitlement could then be traded, as per current entitlements, on the open market. A similar example is when existing

entitlement volumes are unused and returned to the Murray-Darling Basin, a 70% credit is provided to the user for future use.

The identified potential benefits include:

- Creation of a tradable asset which delivers a new long-term revenue stream to the Wastewater Service;
- Receipt of an appreciating asset which can be crystallised by the MBDC to fund other capital projects;
- Net reduction in water drawn from the Murray-Darling Basin;
- Ability for the MBDC to support the wider Mount Barker region through exclusive access to the entitlement.

This solution would be subject to rigorous environmental requirements and require relevant authority approvals. There is limited detail as to what these environmental approvals would be as this type of approach has not been tested within the current legislation. This option has not been considered further.

Greening for Bushfire Prevention

In early 2023 as part of the development of the Wastewater Service and Consolidated Council Annual Business Plans a proposal came from one of the elected members for recycled water to be used for greening of townships in the district for bushfire prevention. This would require creation of tanker filling stations and a contract with a third party to undertake tankering of recycled water from Mount Barker to the townships. This is forecast to be a relatively small volume of water when compared to other forecast demands and the provision of the required tanker filling station infrastructure can be accommodated within the Mount Barker scheme roll out, with the Infrastructure group in council to be responsible for the irrigation of the townships to achieve the desired community outcomes.

4. ANALYSIS

Analysis has been undertaken, and is summarised in Table 2 below, to assess the benefits and outcomes of each of the four key schemes, including potential for them to be owned and operated by a third party, the approximate capital cost, the need for recycled water storage to be provided if the demand is seasonal and the 40 year NPV as per the KBR Recycled Water Strategy (March 2023). The intent of this analysis is to provide a comparison of the schemes to support prioritisation and therefore development of a proposal for adoption.

Table 2: Scheme Key Indicator Analysis

	Mount Barker	Hay Valley	Callington	Langhorne Creek
Volume Approx. (ML)	273	1141	800	1895
In District	✓	✓	✓/x	x
Supports				
Primary Production	x	✓	✓	✓
Urban Greening	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open space irrigation	✓	x	✓	x
Outcomes				
Urban Cooling	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recreation	✓	x	✓	✓
Mental Health	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bushfire Prevention	✓	✓	✓	✓
Climate change mitigation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Opportunity for third party operator?	x	x	✓	✓
Cost Approx. (\$m)	38.8	39.5	28	29.4
Onsite Storage	✓	✓	✓	✓
40 year NPV	13.3	9.2	12.2	3.0

In the development of the preferred staging and proposal for adoption and implementation of the recycled water strategy the following considerations have been taken into account:

- In district vs out of district supply and benefits
- Community vs Environmental vs Economic outcomes
- Capital cost and NPV

Based on the analysis undertaken by the Wastewater Service in consultation with other teams within the MBDC, in particular the Planning and Community group, the following prioritisation / proposal has been developed:

1. Nairne - Hay Valley Scheme - to provide recycled water to the region, benefiting various industries and promoting economic growth within the Mount Barker district.
2. Callington Extension - to supply recycled water to Colrae Farms and other customers, contributing to economic growth, water security and urban greening inside and adjacent to the Mount Barker district.
3. The Mount Barker Township - an ongoing project that focuses on expanding the existing recycled water irrigation network, benefiting public spaces, parks, and gardens, while also promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.
4. Other schemes, such as Langhorne Creek, but not as a priority unless a third party approaches the Wastewater Service with a proposal which benefits both them and the Wastewater Service, and by extension wastewater customers, the community and the environment.

5. RECOMMENDATION AND TIMELINE

The following prioritisation of recycled water schemes is proposed for adoption and implementation:

1. Nairne - Hay Valley Scheme stages 1 and 2.
2. Callington Extension.

Both Nairne – Hay Valley and Callington address water security concerns raised by industry in the areas and support primary production, and so economic outcomes, predominantly within the Mount Barker district.

With 50% grant funding already secured and Early Contractor Involvement successfully awarded for the first stage of the Nairne Hay Valley project, this appears the logical highest priority scheme for implementation, impacts on a greater number and variety of customers than the Callington or Langhorne Creek schemes and is entirely within the Mount Barker district.

The Callington Expansion option has significant potential benefits, but only one confirmed customer. Considering its positive impact on primary production and the local economy, this proposal has been identified as the second highest priority.

Both Nairne-Hay Valley and Callington Expansion will result in increased greenbelt greening close to communities with associated aesthetic, bushfire mitigation and urban cooling impacts in addition to providing support for primary production and the resulting impact on the local economy through increase productivity, sales and job creation. In addition both schemes will also contribute to water resource management in the areas and increase climate change resilience, as well as improving environmental outcomes through beneficial reuse of water that would otherwise have been disposed of in the Mount Barker Creek.

In parallel with these larger schemes the Mount Barker Township scheme will continue to be rolled out in parallel with growth delivering community health and wellbeing outcomes through irrigation of parks, gardens and other open space used for recreation and urban cooling through greening of these same spaces.

Other schemes such as Langhorne Creek, are not of high priority unless a third party presents a proposal that mutually benefits both the Wastewater Service and the proposing party. Such proposals would need to align with the interests of the community and the environment.

The following timeline is proposed to be adopted for socialization, consultation and adoption of the recommended proposal.

	Description	Target date
1	RW Proposal development for IAWB	End July – Mid August 2023
2	Informal Wastewater Advisory Board workshop	Mid-August 2023
3	Refinement and finalization of this paper	Mid-August to Mid-September 2023
4	Informal Wastewater Advisory Board Approval – either in or out of session (TBC)	Mid – September 2023
5	Workshop with Council and Informal Wastewater Advisory Board	Mid - Late September 2023
6	Formal adoption of the recommended recycled water strategy implementation proposal by Council	October 2023
7	Inclusion of recycled water strategy implementation proposal in the Wastewater Service 40 Year Long Term Financial Model and Long Term Financial Plan	November / December 2023

12.6	REPORT TITLE:	ANCILLARY AND STUDENT ACCOMMODATION DEFINITION CODE AMENDMENT SUBMISSION
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/31328
	A TTACHMENTS:	1 - Draft Submission to State Planning Commission on the Ancillary and Student Accommodation Definition Code Amendment, DOC/24/31332
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Maddie Walker, Manager Community Planning and Wellbeing
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure

Community Plan 2020-2035:

Community Wellbeing – CW Goal 2 Health and social connection

Prioritise facilities, programs, planning and policy that supports our priority populations, for example families, our elders, young people and people with a disability.

Encourage and facilitate the provision of quality housing that has a lower footprint and is suitable for all stages of life.

Annual Business Plan:

Ensuring that urban development is delivered in a coordinated and sustainable manner while protecting the district's natural assets is a key consideration of the Annual Business Plan.

Purpose:

To seek endorsement of Council's submission to the State Planning Commission on the ancillary and student accommodation definition Code Amendment (the Amendment).

Summary – Key Issues:

1. Plan SA is currently undertaking consultation on an update to the State's bushfire hazard mapping and planning rules.
2. Council staff have reviewed the proposed update and have prepared a response for Council endorsement prior to submission.
3. Broadly, the submission is supportive of the Amendment and acknowledges the State Government's reforms to improve affordability and increase housing supply and diversity of stock.

Recommendation:**That Council:**

- 1. Endorse the draft submission to the State Planning Commission on updating the definitions of ‘ancillary accommodation’ and ‘student accommodation’ as shown in Attachment 1, and;**
 - 2. Authorise the CEO, or their delegate, to make any required further edits arising from the discussion at the council meeting and to finalise the submission.**
-

Background:

1. Plan SA commenced consultation on the Amendment on Thursday 29 February 2024 and closes on Monday 15 April 2024.
2. Council members were advised via memo on 15 March 2024 of the Amendment and provided an opportunity to submit comments and/or queries to Council staff prior to the Council meeting.
3. The Amendment has a stated objective to:
 - a. help provide a more diverse range of housing options in response to the State’s current housing crisis
 - b. allow more flexibility to provide smaller housing choices for the community
 - c. allow ancillary accommodation and student accommodation to be self-contained and rented to the broader market.
4. For a detailed overview of the background of the Amendment, the Amendment and the next steps in the process, see the Plan SA YourSAy page: [Updating the definitions of “ancillary accommodation” and “student accommodation” in the Planning and Design Code | YourSAy](#).

Discussion:

5. Consultation has been undertaken internally with impacted stakeholder council departments advising of the code amendment and providing an opportunity for feedback to be submitted.
6. Feedback received from internal staff has highlighted the fact that there are legislative provisions available to accommodate the Amendment. These provisions provide protection to Council and the community against the impacts to Rating, Wastewater and other service providers.
7. Council staff have prepared a submission to the Amendment which is contained in **Attachment 1**.

8. After consultation closes, the Commission responds to all submissions, where relevant, in the preparation of an engagement report. The engagement report will then be forwarded to the Minister for Planning, who then determines to adopt, alter and adopt or decline the Amendment.
9. The submission points to the Amendment responding to issues of affordability and housing diversity, and its alignment with the update to Council's Housing Strategy scheduled for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Available on Council's website.
----------------	---------------------------------

The State Planning Commission opened public consultation on this Draft Code Amendment on 29 February 2024 and is set to conclude on 15 April 2024, as detailed on Plan SA and related YourSAy page.

Policy:

N/A

Long Term Financial Plan:

N/A

Budget:

N/A

Statutory/Legal:

The Amendment proposes changes to the Planning and Design Code, which sits under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

Staff Resource Requirements:

Review and comment on the Code amendment has been managed with current staffing resources.

Environmental:

The amendment will not alter the current provisions to protect trees on private property.

Social:

The Amendment seeks to develop healthy neighbourhoods through provision of diverse housing options, community facilities and the like and aligns with State Planning Policy 6: Housing Supply and Diversity.

The guiding objectives of this policy is to create a planning system that enables “the sufficient and timely supply of land and a variety of housing choices at appropriate locations”, including a diverse range of housing types and tenures

such as ancillary dwellings. This broadly aligns with the Community Wellbeing objective 2.6 in Council's Community Plan, to "encourage and facilitate the provision of quality housing ... that is suitable for all stages of life".

Risk Assessment:

Council encounters a reputation risk in not giving full and proper consideration to issues of significance to its district and residents and in generally remaining aware of planning policy movements and updates initiated by the State Planning Commission.

Asset Management:

Any ancillary accommodation development will increase the load on septic tank and assets owned and operated by the Wastewater Service and can shorten the useful asset life if the design capacity is exceeded. This Amendment does not alter the permissibility of ancillary accommodation but is likely to make this development-type more attractive to proponents. The Wastewater Service may charge additional wastewater infrastructure fees and annual service charges if deemed appropriate.

Conclusion:

Council staff have prepared a submission on the ancillary and student accommodation definition Code Amendment and are seeking endorsement of the submission prior to lodgement with the State Planning Commission.



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Reference: DOC/24/31332

2 April 2024

Submission: Ancillary and Student Accommodation Definition Code Amendment
State Planning Commission
Department for Trade and Investment
GPO Box 1815, Adelaide SA 5001

planSAsubmissions@sa.gov.au

Dear Code Amendments Team, Planning and Land Use Services

RE: Ancillary and Student Accommodation Definition Code Amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Ancillary and Student Accommodation Definition Code Amendment (the Amendment).

Mount Barker is the fastest growing metropolitan Council in South Australia and has experienced sustained and significant rates of population growth. This growth has further highlighted a range of social and housing issues, many of which are associated with the housing affordability crisis.

The Amendment goes some way to recognising the current housing crisis being felt nationwide and the need for there to be a greater range of housing options to support both housing affordability and ageing in place, affirming that the Planning and Design Code should support self-contained ancillary accommodation.

There is a common sense pragmatism in permitting ancillary accommodation to be self-contained that is both more reflective of market desires and less open to interpretation for practitioners and others engaging with the development assessment process. On this, Council suggests going further with an amendment to the definition by removing the limitation on the number of bedrooms (or at minimum removing ambiguous terminology such as “rooms capable of being used as a bedroom”) and requirement to not have a separate connection to utilities and services.

Code policy should support an appropriate amenity for all those residing on the property. This could include controls on site coverage, private open space, additional car parking and sufficient space for clothes drying and refuse storage. It is felt that certainty around the floor area, through inclusion in the definition, would assist in giving advice and essentially ensure that the other aspects of the definition are satisfied as a matter of

course through limitation on scale. It should be clear as a matter of course that there is no more than one ancillary dwelling permissible per allotment.

In 2022, Council endorsed its Housing Strategy, which identified an undersupply of affordable rental properties through the district but primarily felt through Greater Mount Barker. This is matched by the 'Demand and supply by Local Government Area' reports published by the SA Housing Authority in 2013 and 2018, which showed a far lower proportion of private rentals that were affordable to low income households than that in Greater Adelaide.

The inclusion of a separation control (to 20m) for the rural zones (Rural and Productive Rural Landscape) will aid the protection of these areas for primary production purposes. Council agrees with the general compatibility of ancillary accommodation and neighbourhood and township zones and is conscious of avoiding unnecessary intrusion of residential uses into rural and primary production land. The 20m rule has several benefits in that it ensures that structures are clustered, native vegetation and asset protection zones are maintained and there are efficiencies in the connection to services.

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) has long recognised the importance of ancillary dwellings as part of the housing mix. There has been movement on this in all jurisdictions to expand the permissibility through shorter assessment pathways and flexibility on the occupancy, which removes the previous need for such structures to be inhabited by a dependent of the primary dwelling.

Summary

Council is supportive of a review into the policy around ancillary accommodation and is aware of the need for there to be a more diverse and affordable range of housing options across the State.

We would welcome further input into the ongoing development of such policies and are open to discussion as we update our Housing Strategy through the 2024-2025 financial year.

Yours sincerely

Phil Burton

GENERAL MANAGER – INFRASTRUCTURE

Direct No. 8393 6446

E-mail: pburton@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

12.7	REPORT TITLE:	DRAFT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-28
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/35199
	ATTACHMENTS:	1: DOC/24/35912 DRAFT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023 – 2028 2: DOC/24/35543 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN, COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Jamie Tann, Manager Health and Public Safety

Community Plan 2020-2035:

Community Wellbeing

CW 4.1 – Build a community and facilitate connection and partnerships with government and non-government organisations to achieve real and long-lasting improvements in safety and wellbeing.

CW 4.2 – Work with the community to help it understand and comply with relevant public safety regulations and by-laws.

Environmental Sustainability

ES 4.5 – Promote and celebrate native fauna and flora and engage the community in its protection.

Annual Business Plan:

N/A

Purpose:

To present to Council the draft Animal Management Plan 2023-2028 and to seek endorsement for releasing the plan for community and stakeholder consultation.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. Council has an obligation to review and update its Animal Management Plan every five years.
2. Council's current Animal Management Plan is due for review prior to its expiration.
3. The draft Animal Management Plan 2023-2028 comprises animal management objectives and strategies some of which are legislated and others have been developed from feedback obtained through the first phase of community engagement, input from Council Members and staff.

Recommendation:**That Council:**

- 1. Approve the draft Animal Management Plan 2023-2028 (Attachment 1) be released for community and key stakeholder consultation.**
-

Background:

1. All Councils are required to develop and maintain a plan of management relating to dogs and cats for their areas pursuant with Section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. These plans are referred to as Animal Management Plans. Animal Management Plans are reviewed every five years.
2. The draft Animal Management Plan (**refer Attachment 1**) contains detailed feedback obtained during the phase one community engagement process. A summary of the results of the community engagement is outlined within the report.

Discussion:

3. The steps for the reviewing of the Animal Management Plan are -:
 - Internal consultation with key stakeholders
 - Preparation of a draft Animal Management Plan
 - Acceptance of the draft Animal Management Plan by Elected Members
 - Public consultation on the draft Animal Management Plan
 - Adoption of the Animal Management Plan by Elected Members
 - Ratification of the Animal Management Plan by the Dog and Cat Management Board.
4. The initial community consultation consisted of a survey which asked specific questions about both dogs and cats. The questions were used to collect data about pet ownership, opinions relating to dog and cat management and also the community's expectations relating to Council's involvement in different animal management issues.
5. Some of the achievements of the outgoing Animal Management Plan include:
 - Endorsement and implementation of Council's Cat By-law
 - Respond to cat management issues that relate to all cat categories (owned, semi-owned and unowned)
 - Establishing stronger relationships with the RSPCA, AWL, local vets and the Dog and Cat Management Board
 - Facilitated affordable microchipping events for both dogs and cats
 - Participation in program for cat microchipping for low income families
 - Hosted Dog and Cat Management Board meeting on 20th of April 2021

6. As a result of the community feedback and the legislative requirements placed on Council the following actions are listed within the draft Animal Management Plan:
 - Facilitating affordable microchipping for cats
 - Ongoing community education in regard to responsible dog and cat ownership
 - Responding to dog attacks, wandering at large and barking complaints
 - Review existing parks and reserves in regard to dog controls (off leash / on leash / dogs prohibited)
 - Investigate all options in regard to an impound facility for dogs and cats
 - Investigate cat management issues that relate to domestic cats
 - Respond to issues that relate to semi-owned cats

7. Respondents were asked about what aspects of dog management should be a priority for the Plan. The responses were:
 High Priority Response
 - 72% Responding to dog attacks
 - 54% Educating responsible dog ownership
 - 52% Dogs wandering at large
 - 50% Compliance with leash requirements and effective control in off leash areas
 - 30% Barking dogs

8. Cat management issues were also part of the initial community survey with the following feedback received:
 - 90% of respondents are aware of Council’s Cat By-law
 - 73% supported the hands on approach in regard to cat management
 - 58% indicated they would support 24/7 confinement of cats in the upcoming by-law review

Community Engagement:

Decision to be made	This report seeks the endorsement of Council to release the Draft Animal Management Plan for community consultation for a period of 4 weeks.
Key factors to be considered in decision (dot points)	Types of issues likely to be of interest to the community include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of areas where dogs must be exercised on- leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas. • Investigation of impounding options for both dogs and cats. • Cat management and Council’s role.

Area of community influence	<p><u>Aspects that are fixed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal requirements under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995. • Council By-laws which relate to dogs and cats. <p><u>Key areas for community input:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge relating to dogs and cats (veterinarians). • Community expectations. • Information on impacts and acceptability of proposals.
Method of consultation, informing community & cost	A copy of the draft Animal Management Plan will be placed on Council's website and will be available at the Civic Centre. Adverts in local newspapers will be placed asking for feedback, there will also be Facebook posts.
Feedback to stakeholders/Council	Once endorsed by Council and the Dog and Cat Management Board the Animal Management Plan will be promoted on Council's website, Facebook and through its publications.
Timeframe for consultation	<p>This phase of community consultation will run for a period of four weeks.</p> <p>The community consultation will start on the 8th of April and conclude on the 3rd of May 2024.</p>
Community input (post consultation only)	N/A
Recommendations (post consultation only)	N/A

Policy:

N/A

Long Term Financial Plan:

N/A

Budget:

Many of the recommendations contained in the draft Animal Management Plan can be achieved within current staff allocations and current budget.

Additional budget will be needed which relates to the work needed for the review of dog on-leash, off-leash and dog prohibited areas and investigating impound options for dogs and cats.

Statutory/Legal:

Each Council, in accordance with Section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* (the Act) must prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within the Council area.

Staff Resource Requirements:

At this point in the development of the Animal Management Plan, no impact on existing workloads.

Environmental:

The management of dogs and cats in particular is an important part of the environmental obligations and responsibilities of Council. For example Council currently has a number of areas where dogs are required to be on leash. Some of these areas such as Laratinga wetland and Mount Barker Summit Reserve have significant conservation value and a balance needs to be struck between protecting these areas and reasonable access to the general public and their pets.

Social:

Dogs and cats play an important role in many people's lives. There are wellbeing benefits associated with either owning a pet or having access to a pet, however dogs and cats have the potential to impact the community and the environment.

The draft Animal Management Plan seeks to identify animal management issues and develop strategies and policies to manage these issues for community benefit.

Risk Assessment:

Extensive community consultation addresses the risk of not listening to and considering community expectations.

Asset Management:

A key action of the Plan is to review dog on leash, off leash and possible dog prohibited areas across all open space within the Council area. The review will include open space and trails that are part of recent development. This review will involve internal stakeholders and a level of community consultation.

Conclusion:

The Draft Animal Management Plan is presented for endorsement in order to proceed with the final phase of community consultation. A detailed report will be provided to Council once consultation has concluded.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	4 December 2017	CM Reference	DOC/17/115788
Title	ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-2022		
Purpose	To seek Council's endorsement of the draft Animal Management Plan 2018-2022 so it can be forwarded to the Dog and Cat Management Board for approval.		

Meeting Date	4 September 2017	CM Reference	DOC/17/81362
Title	DRAFT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-2022		
Purpose	To present to Council the draft Animal Management Plan 2018-2022 and to seek endorsement for releasing the plan for community and stakeholder consultation.		



**MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



2023 - 2028

Animal Management Plan

Acknowledgment Of Country

Council acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the lands of Mount Barker district. We respect the First Nations people and their spiritual relationship with their country and their cultural and heritage beliefs.



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Mayors Introduction



I'd like to take a moment to celebrate the extraordinary bond we share with our beloved pets. There is a certain joy that comes with being greeted by the wagging tails or the gentle purrs of our four legged friends. The unconditional loyalty and companionship pets bring is unmatched as they brighten our days.

It is this special connection that calls us to action. As responsible pet owners, it is our duty to ensure the safety and well-being of our pets. By taking a proactive approach to pet ownership, we can create and nurture an environment where our animals can thrive and interact in a safe and harmonious manner with other animals and the broader community.

Council is committed to supporting this cause by providing dog and cat management services that prioritise the safety of our community. We offer essential resources such as a local pound to reunite lost dogs with their owners, a cat by-law to reduce the number of stray cats in our district and a dedicated Public Safety team.

The following Dog and Cat Management Plan will serve as our guide for the next 5 years. It lays the foundation for coordinated efforts, informed decision and initiatives that cater to the diverse needs of our community. By working together, we can create an environment where pets and their owners live in a district that is a model for responsible pet ownership.

Mayor David Leach

AUSTRALIA'S pet population is estimated to be **28.7 million**^[1]

33% of Australian households have a cat

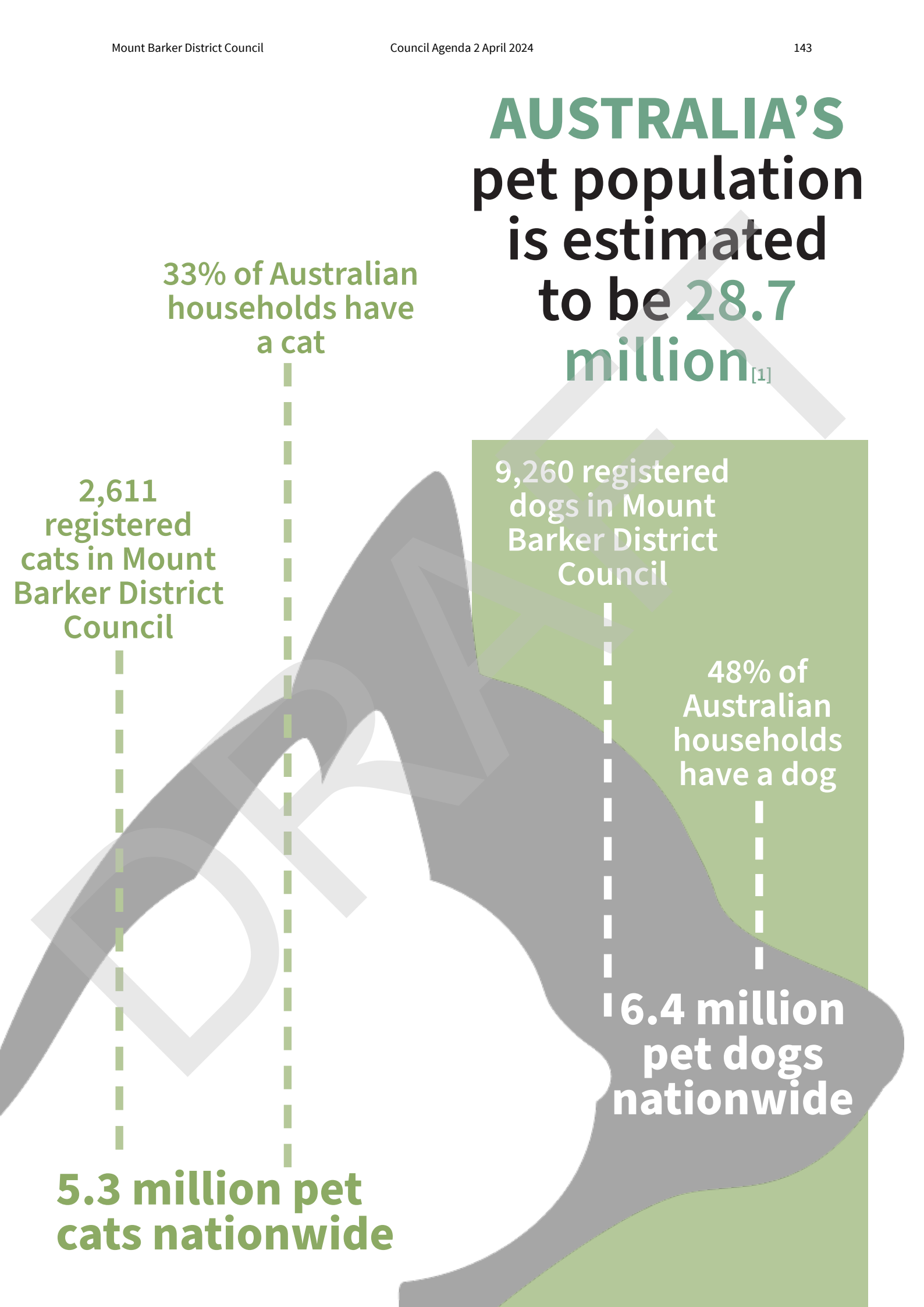
2,611 registered cats in Mount Barker District Council

9,260 registered dogs in Mount Barker District Council

48% of Australian households have a dog

6.4 million pet dogs nationwide

5.3 million pet cats nationwide



1. Introduction



1.1 Purpose Of This Plan

In South Australia, the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 (the Act) provides for the management of dogs and cats in the community. Mount Barker District Council is responsible for implementation of most of the requirements within the Act.

Section 26A of the Act requires all Councils to produce a Plan of Management relating to dogs and cats within their local area. The purpose of the Act is to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce the public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

This is the Mount Barker District Council's Animal Management Plan for the period of 2023 - 2028. This plan includes strategies to manage dogs and cats and explains how Council's responsibilities under the Act will be addressed.

What sets Mount Barker District Council apart from most other Councils is the rapid population growth. This creates many opportunities for the Council and residents, however it also presents some challenges. Being able to respond to the business as usual tasks such as dog attacks, nuisance cat behaviour and barking dogs is a priority.

1.2 Key Achievements

of the 2018 -2022 Animal Management Plan:



Endorsement and the implementation of the Cat By-Law



Performing regular reserve and park patrols to monitor dog related issues.



Playing an active role in cat management involving all cat categories (owned, unowned and semi-owned)



Undertaking patrols during bird breeding season in the Laratinga Wetland.



Leading the State in regard to a hands-on all cat category approach to cat management



Staff involvement in working groups and officer level networks.



Providing advice to other Councils in regard to cat management



Establishing stronger relationships with nearby Councils in relation to animal management.



Hosted the Dog and Cat Management Board meeting on 20 April 2021



Establishing stronger relationships with AWL, RSPCA, local veterinarians, Housing SA and the Dog and Cat Management Board



Staff presented Council's cat management approach to the Dog and Cat management Board 20 April 2021



Increased focus on education relating to dogs and cats – radio interviews, media releases Council website and social media



Facilitated numerous affordable microchipping events for both dogs and cats



In 2021 Council staff were filmed explaining cat management process, this was organized by the Dog and Cat management Board and was sent to all South Australian Councils



After Hours work relating to dogs is now conducted by a third party (Contract).



Health Benefits

Dogs and cats can help make us physically and mentally healthier. Just the presence of our pets can lift our spirits and help us relax.

Physical Health

Research has shown that owning a pet can have a number of physical health benefits:

- Increased cardiovascular health (lower blood pressure, lower triglycerides and in men, lower cholesterol)
- Increased physical activity. Dogs especially help us get out to enjoy the outdoors while getting some regular exercise for ourselves. They are great motivators and personal trainers, never wanting to miss a training session no matter the weather.
- Fewer visits to the doctor
- Growing up with a dog (and other pets to a lesser extent) during infancy may help to strengthen the immune system and may reduce the risk of allergies
- Children who have pets are less likely to miss days of school due to illness

The joy of having a pet isn't new to most Australians; we have one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world. In fact our pets are such positive influences on our lives that one study found that Australian ownership of cats and dogs saved approximately \$3.86 billion in health expenditure over one year.

Psychological Health

Research has shown that owning a pet can have a number of psychological benefits, they are:

- A study of school children showed that pet owners were more popular but also seemed more empathetic.
- Those who have pets including children or adolescents have been shown to have higher self-esteem. Teenagers who own pets tend to have a more positive outlook on life and report less loneliness, restlessness, despair and boredom.
- Pet owners report less depression and appear to cope with grief, stress and loss better than non-pet owners.
- Pets enhance social connectedness and social skills and they are great conversation starters!
- Pets are also great caregivers. They keep us company when we're sick or feeling down. They can make us feel safe while we're home alone and they keep an eye on the house while we're out.

The Pet Industry Association of Australia in 2018 determined that around 62% of households own a pet: 38% owning a dog and 29% owning a cat. During the COVID-19 pandemic, pet ownership in Australia increased, with almost 70 per cent of households now owning a pet (Animal Medicines Australia, 2021)



Overview of the Animal Management Service and Requirements

Dog and Cat Management Act 1995

The Act provides the foundation for Council's animal management service. Key features of the Council's responsibilities under the Act are that:

- Dogs must be registered and identified.
- Dogs are not allowed to wander at large, attack a person or animal, cause a nuisance or defecate in a public place unless the owner immediately removes the faeces and disposes of them in a lawful and suitable manner. Dogs are required to be leashed on streets and roads.
- Councils have the power to make a range of orders in relation to the keeping of dogs.
- Councils have the power to seize and detain dogs.

There are specific requirements in relation to the detention/removal of cats from remote or fragile areas and in relation to unidentified cats in other areas.

In 2018 the South Australian Government has made changes to the Act. These are outlined below:

Microchipping and De-sexing

As of 1 July 2018, all dogs, and cats are to be microchipped by 12 weeks of age.

All dogs and cats that are born after 1 July 2018 are to be de-sexed unless exemptions apply. These exemptions are specified within the Dog and Cat Management Act and also the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Dog and Cat Breeders

As of 1 July 2018, breeders and sellers who breed cats and/or dogs for sale must register with the Dog and Cat Management Board as a breeder.

Anyone who sells cats and dogs are required to provide certain information, this includes:

- breeder registration number
- the breeder's details
- details of microchipping, vaccinations, desexing and any medical conditions that are known to the seller at the point of sale
- details of any dog control order that has been placed on the dog

Any person who breeds or sells companion animals must also abide by the South Australian Standards and Guidelines for Breeding and Trading Companion Animals 2017.

Registration

On the 1st of July 2018 the Dogs and Cats Online (DACO) online portal for dog and cat registration commenced. DACO replaced individual Council registers. DACO is a centralized system and combines several other databases such as dog and cat registrations, microchip and breeder information.

The Board fully funds DACO through an increase in the percentage of the dog and cat registration fees remitted to the Board. For regional councils such as Mount Barker District Council the increase in the percentage of fees remitted to the Board has gone from 10 to 12%.

DACO is available to dog and cat owners 24/7 and owners have the responsibility to keep their details and those of their pets up to date.

Board staff assist Councils with any questions and address technical issues that relate to DACO and its application.

FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

The Act is currently undergoing a legislative review and this could bring about some significant changes to the Act and in particular cat management.

Council By-Laws

Mount Barker District Council has a number of By-laws which address a variety of different issues, there is a separate By-law for both dogs and for cats.

Dog By-law (Council By-law No 5):

- ▶ Provides a permit requirement for premises wishing to keep more than 1 dog in a small dwelling in townships, 2 dogs in a dwelling other than a small dwelling in townships, 3 dogs outside townships (other than working dogs), and 2 working dogs outside townships.
- ▶ Provides for dog exercise areas, dog on leash areas and dog prohibited areas. The parks and reserves in each category are listed in Appendix 2.
- ▶ Requires people to carry a bag or other suitable container for removing their dog's faeces from public spaces.
- ▶ Outlines enforcement orders of this By-law.

Cat By-law (Council By-law No 6):

On the 4th of March 2019 Council endorsed its Cat By-law (by-law 6). Council's cat by-law has the following key elements:

- ▶ All cats must be registered
- ▶ There is a limit to two cats per property
- ▶ Curfew for cats which is in place during the following times – 8pm to 7am
- ▶ Cats must not cause a nuisance

All of Council's by-laws are due to be reviewed during the life of this Animal Management Plan. It is anticipated that there will be some changes to both By-law 5 and 6 as a result of this review. Community consultation will play an important role in shaping the content of these important by-laws.

Other Relevant Legislation

- Local Government Act 1999
- Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016
- Animal Welfare Act 1985
- Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Impound Service

Dogs:

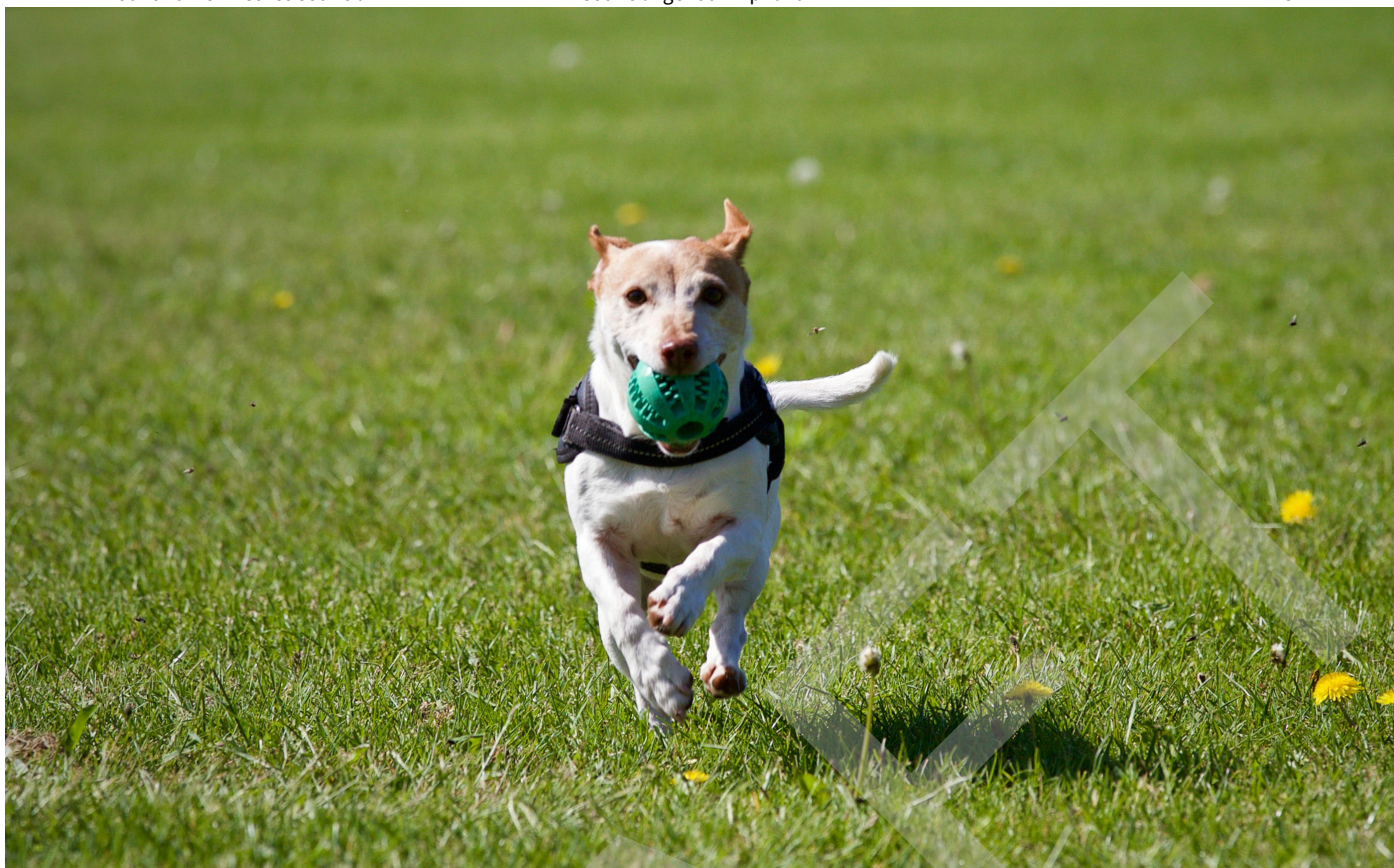
Any dog(s) that is impounded by Council either during business hours or after-hours are held at a local shelter. Every effort is taken to reunite the lost dog(s) with their owner prior to being impounded.

Dogs are held for the required 72 hours as set by the Act if they are unclaimed after this time then they are either rehomed by the local shelter or taken to other rehoming agencies to be rehomed.

Cats:

Any cat(s) that is impounded are taken to a facility that is specially set up for cats. Cats that are owned, in good health and suitable for rehoming are impounded for a period of 7 days. If the cat is unclaimed by this time they are taken to a rehoming agency.

Council's animal management team take every step to reunite lost dogs and cats with their owners during the time they are impounded.



Funding

All revenue that is received from dog and cat registrations and expiations are spent on companion animal management. Council has separate budget lines for both cat and dog management, this allows for greater transparency on the costs associated with managing both dogs and cats and the revenue generated.

Council's finances in relation to both dog and cat management are routinely audited by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Mount Barker District Council pays 12% of funds received from dog and cat registrations to the Dog and Cat Management Board.

Council Parks and Reserves - Leash and Access Requirements, Dog Park

A key action of the plan is to review the current on and off leash areas and to make a determination on what restrictions should be applied to the new parks and reserves that have been created within the Council area in recent years.

This review will focus on the following:

- Review of current restrictions in open spaces (as captured in Appendix 1) to determine whether these restrictions are suitable
- Review of open space within newly developed areas to make a call on what restrictions are needed
- Develop a consistent style of signage for open spaces that clearly informs dog owners of the restrictions that are in place
- A commitment to ongoing community awareness through social media etc

This review will involve extensive community consultation.



1.3 Stakeholders and Partners

Establishing and maintaining effective partnerships can improve outcomes in relation to animal management, animal welfare, pet owner education and also save cost.

The Dog and Cat Management Board

The functions of the Dog and Cat Management Board are to:

- Plan for, promote and provide advice about, the effective management of dogs and cats;
- Oversee the administration and enforcement of the provisions of [the] Act relating to dogs;
- Inquire into and consider all proposed by-laws referred to it under [the] Act, with a view to promoting the effective management of dogs and cats, and, to the extent that the Board considers it appropriate, the consistent application of by-laws throughout South Australia;
- Advise the Minister or the LGA, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Minister or the LGA, on the operation of [the] Act or issues directly relating to dog or cat management in South Australia;
- Undertake or facilitate research relating to dog or cat management;
- Undertake or facilitate educational programs relating to dog or cat management;
- Keep [the] Act under review and make recommendations to the Minister with respect to the Act and regulations made under the Act; and
- Carry out any other function assigned to the Board by the Minister or by or under [the] Act.

A proportion of the funds collected from the Council's animal registrations are paid to the Board.

The Board audits the Council's animal management service.

From 2018 the Board has been responsible for the new DACO registration system.

Neighbouring Councils

There is the potential to share information and resources with neighbouring Councils whether formally or informally.

Mount Barker District Council is a member of the Southern and Hills Local Government Association (S&HLGA), which is a regional association of Councils under Part 4 of the constitution of the Local Government Association of South Australia. Its member councils are Adelaide Hills Council, Alexandrina Council, Kangaroo Island Council, Mount Barker District Council, City of Victor Harbor, and the District Council of Yankalilla.

Animal Welfare and Rehoming Organisations

Animal rehoming organisations are a critical stakeholder for many Councils.

If a dog or cat has been found and they have not been claimed within the statutory timeframe (72 hours for a dog and 7 days for a cat*) then arrangements are made for them to be taken by a rehoming organisation and rehomed.

Very recently there have been significant capacity issues with some rehoming agencies which has impacted many Councils in South Australia, it has caused councils to adapt their process around the rehoming of dogs and cats.

*This is a requirement under council's cat by-law.



Microchip Implanters and Veterinarians

Approved microchip implanters (including veterinarians) are required to upload the details of the animals they microchip on to DACO. Veterinarians will also be required to upload the details of the animals they desex.

Local veterinary clinics are an important stakeholder for Council for a number of reasons:

- Dogs found wandering and roaming cats are frequently left at a vet and they in turn call Council to collect them.
- Providing emergency veterinary care to impounded cats and dogs
- Assessing the health and temperament of cats to determine their suitability for rehoming
- Providing information to dog and cat owners on responsible pet ownership

Veterinarians are usually an early point of contact for owners of puppies and kittens and could assist with making the Council’s education material available.

Some veterinary clinics run puppy pre-school classes which provide owners of puppies with information on raising dogs and early socialisation classes.

Emergency Services Organisations

Organisations such as the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) attend fires and provide help during declared and other emergencies and bushfire incidents. Pet owners should have a plan for how their pets will be managed in an emergency.

Recently Council staff have been sharing information with a number of different organisations in relation to cat management. Namely: the Threatened Species Recovery Hub and the Australian Institute of Animal Management.

2. Investigations





2.1 Animal Management Data

There is an upward trend in the registration of both dogs and cats in the Council area, this is to be expected due to the population growth experienced in the Council area.

The increase in cat related complaints is expected as this aligns with the implementation of the cat by-law and increased community awareness of the by-law and also council's role in cat management.



Customer Requests (CRMS)

The table below shows animal management related CRMs that relate to both dogs and cats.

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Registered Dogs	7,682	8,097	8,224	8,543	9,394
Dogs Wandering at Large	213	195	319	129	233
Barking Dog Complaints	68	59	76	79	112
Reported Dog Attacks	31	30	29	35	114
Dogs Impounded	119	82	73	30	38
Registered Cats	N/A	N/A	1,603	2,212	2,626
Cat Complaints	0	14	185	119	162

The Environment and Biodiversity

80% of the Council is situated within the South Australian Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management region, with the remainder in the Mount Lofty Ranges, which is a Commonwealth Biodiversity Hotspot.

Many walking trails in the district traverse zones of high biodiversity value. The implications of biodiversity and conservation values are:

- That the potential for cats and dogs to adversely affect biodiversity needs to be considered.

Council’s Cat By-law plays a pivotal role in cat management, particularly in mitigating the impact on native wildlife. We achieve this by promoting responsible ownership, implementing containment

measures, and raising awareness about the importance of preventing cats from roaming freely. These measures help to limit the impact that cats have on native animals.

Emergency Management

The entirety of the Mount Barker District Council area falls into the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District.

The implications of fire and other emergency risks are:

Pet Safety and Preparedness

Pet owners need to have a plan for how their pets will be managed in an emergency. This includes knowing where to take their pets, having essential supplies on hand, and ensuring pets are properly identified and transportable.

Shelter and Evacuation Planning

Managing pets in emergencies is an important issue and requires coordinated efforts. During the 2019 Cudlee Creek Bushfire, residents impacted by the bushfires sheltered at the Mount Barker Recreation Grounds, Anembo Park, and Mount Barker High School.

The provision of pet-friendly emergency sheltering and the development of comprehensive pet evacuation plans are crucial aspects of emergency preparedness that can lead to more effective responses, better outcomes for both people and animals, and a more resilient community in the face

3. Community and Stakeholder Feedback



In 2022 we surveyed the community to seek their opinion regarding dog and cat management in the council area. The survey was open for a period of thirty days and over 200 people completed the survey, the survey was done via an online form and was promoted on Councils website and also on the Council Facebook page.

Targeted stakeholder consultation to local vets and shelters was also undertaken as part of the consultation process.

Once reviewed the draft Animal Management plan will be made available for community consultation. After community consultation the Draft Animal Management Plan will be presented to Elected Members in an Information and Briefing Session before being endorsed by Council.

Other Comments with Regard to Mount Barker District Council’s Provision of Animal Management Services

Other issues raised include:

- Limit pet numbers to make sure pets are looked after properly due to the financial commitment required;
- Too many stray animals roaming the streets;
- Enforcement of laws against uncontrolled breeding;
- Implement 24/7 cat confinement;
- Council’s process for barking dogs is too slow and places the burden on the victim instead of the offenders; and
- Better enforcement of leash laws and owners disposing of dog feces.

Dog Management

The breakdown of dog owners to non-dog owners was 67/33 ie 67% of respondents are either a dog owner now or are intending on getting a dog in the next year or so.

Respondents were asked about what aspects of dog management should be priority for the Plan. The responses were:

High Priority Response

- 72%** Responding to dog attacks
- 54%** Educating responsible dog ownership
- 52%** Dogs wandering at large
- 50%** Compliance with leash requirements and effective control in off leash areas
- 30%** Barking dogs

Medium Priority Response

- 39%** Barking dogs
- 34%** Compliance with leash requirements and effective control in off leash areas
- 27%** Educating responsible dog ownership
- 18%** Responding to dog attacks
- 14%** Planning new dog parks
- 33%** Dogs wandering at large

Some of these issues are already being addressed as there is legislative requirements in place either in one of Council’s by-laws (limits to pet numbers) or the Dog and Cat Management Act (breeding requirements). Other issues will be addressed during the life of this plan.

4. Overview of our Plan



Overview

The everyday activities undertaken by Council's Authorised Officers in relation to dog and cat management are significant, especially with the population growth.

This plan has a strong focus on ensuring Council's ability to respond to population growth, fulfilling legislative requirements and responding to community expectations in relation to animal management.

The business as usual activities include:

- Educating the community about responsible dog and cat ownership
- Responding to barking dog complaints
- Reuniting lost cats and dogs with their owners
- Impounding of unclaimed dogs and cats
- Responding to Dog attacks
- Picking up dogs that are wandering at large
- Monitoring of reserves, parks and sporting fields in relation to dog management issues
- Facilitating dog and cat re-registration
- Responding to cat nuisance complaints
- Providing an after-hours service for the collection of lost dogs that are restrained.
- Ensuring dogs and cats are registered.

Additional actions that are within this Plan are:

- Reviewing all open spaces in relation to how dogs are exercised
- Investigate future impound options for Council
- Explore possible future dog parksour Plan

Population Growth and Urban Development

Mount Barker District Council is the fastest growing Council in South Australia and the 8th Fastest in Australia (by percentage). Every week 20 new residents move into the Council area, this equates to just over a 1,000 new residents per year. Mount Barker District Council will be welcoming enough school children to create a new classroom every 3 months for the next 13 years. Up to this point only 20.5% of the rezoned area has been developed. That leaves 79.2% left or another 987Ha left to be developed. This shows that growth will be a constant feature for Council for a number of years.

The implications of significant population growth that relate to animal management are:

- Continued growth in the number of dogs and cats in the Council area. This does mean an increase in funds from registration but this only happens when people are aware of registration requirements and chasing up dog and cat registrations can be resource intensive.
- There will be a greater need for ongoing community education because there will always be a high number of residents moving into the district each year.
- With the ongoing roll out of new public open space the way dogs are exercised in these spaces needs to be considered.
- To meet the additional demands of more dogs and cats staffing levels need to be monitored closely to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to this important function. Animal management officers undertake a range of tasks such as parking.



Animal Management Strategies

1: Microchipping

2: Desexing

3: Responsible Pet Ownership

Microchipping

From 1st July 2018 all dogs and cats are required to be microchipped.

Microchipping greatly assists the ability to return pets to their owners and helps Council staff to distinguish between owned and unowned animals.

Approved microchip implanters are required to upload the details of the animals they microchip onto DACO.

Ongoing community education will be required to educate the community to the rules around microchipping. Veterinarians will have an important role to play as they are an early point of contact for new pet owners.

Action	Performance Measure
Continue to provide affordable microchipping sessions for both dogs and cats in the Council area.	Facilitate affordable microchipping sessions for both dogs and cats on an annual basis.
Educate residents about the mandatory microchipping requirements and benefits.	Information to be provided on Council's website and social media.

Desexing

All dogs and cats born after the 1st July 2018 are required to be de-sexed by six months of age by and this needs to be done by a registered veterinary surgeon.

This recent state-wide requirement was introduced by the Dog and Cat Management Board to reduce the number of unwanted litters of puppies and kittens.

Desexing has many benefits, namely:

- It helps to reduce the number of unwanted and unowned animals
- De-sexing has the potential to reduce dog attacks and dogs wandering at large.
- The de-sexing of cats reduces undesirable behaviours, such as spraying, marking, fighting, and yowling.

Council is taking part in an initiative by the National De-sexing Network (NDN) where low income residents can apply for subsidized de-sexing of cats. There was a high uptake in 2022-23 which was the first year of the initiative and participation in this excellent program will continue for the life of the Plan.

Action	Performance Measure
*National Desexing Network (NDN) program which is aimed at low income families. *cats only.	Promote the program and monitor the effectiveness of the NDN program during the life of the plan. Commit to the NDN program throughout the life of the plan.
Educate residents about the mandatory de-sexing requirements that relate to dogs and cats.	Desexing of dogs and cats to be promoted via Council's Facebook page and website, this compliments the NDN program.

Responsible Pet Ownership

A key action of Council’s animal management service is the ongoing education of the community about responsible dog and cat ownership, over time this will raise awareness to animal management issues and will increase compliance with relevant legislation, Council by-laws with the end result being a safer community.

In cases, where a minor breach occurs, officers will issue a warning if necessary. In more serious cases and where there are repeated breaches for minor offences, enforcement action will be considered. Enforcement activity undertaken will be consistent with Council’s Enforcement Policy.

Council will continue to update the information provided on its website that relate to dogs and cats. Social media has proven to be an effective medium for educating our community about responsible dog and cat ownership, raising awareness and changing behaviours

Council also recognises the importance of working with other stakeholders such as qualified dog trainers, veterinarians, and animal organisations in educating current and prospective pet owners and the broader community on responsible pet ownership.

Action	Performance Measure
Ensure information on Council's website that relates to dogs and cats is easily accessible, easy to read and up to date.	Undertake a comprehensive review of all dog and cat related content on Council's website.
Regular Facebook posts that relate to dog and cat management.	Work with council's communication team to post regular Facebook posts that inform dog and cat owners of their responsibilities.





4.1 Dog Management



Nuisance Barking

All dogs bark, it is when barking occurs repeatedly and excessively causing a nuisance to others that a problem arises.

Excessive barking has several causes: separation anxiety, boredom, external stimuli, territorialism and communication. Barking can occur when the owners are not at home, they might not be aware that their dog(s) barking is causing an issue for their neighbours. With a high percentage of residents working in Adelaide this is an issue faced by Council's Authorised Officers.

Mount Barker District Council provides a range of information to assist dog owners to reduce the incidence of problem barking. Authorised Officers can also assist owners with suggestions on reducing a barking problem.

Council has standard operating procedures for dealing with barking dog complaints.

Most complaints are resolved in a few weeks. However, some complaints can be difficult to identify as a problem, diagnose and/or resolve. These difficult cases can take up extensive officer time.

Council will continue to monitor and update in best practice for dealing with excessive dog barking.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>
<p><i>Investigate barking dog complaints to ensure a positive outcome.</i></p>	<p><i>Reduction in the number of barking dog complaints each year over the life of the plan.</i></p> <p><i>Use social media to raise awareness of the impacts of nuisance barking and provide solutions to address this issue.</i></p>
<p><i>Improve the barking dog investigation process.</i></p>	<p><i>Review council's barking dog standard operating procedure, review the way front counter staff deal with initial complaints from the community.</i></p>

Dog Attacks and Dogs Wandering at Large

Each year dogs bite more than 100,000 Australians. Fortunately, the rate in any one Council is not high, however reducing risk and responding to attacks that do occur is a core animal management function. This includes dogs that attack, harass or otherwise endanger the health of a person or animal or bird owned by or in the charge of another person (whether or not actual injury is caused).

A high number of dogs are found to be wandering at large in the Council area each year. Wandering dogs are one of the risk factors for dog attacks, if they are contained on their property the likelihood of any behavior related dog issues such as dogs harassing or attacking is significantly reduced.

Key initiatives to reduce the incidence of dog attacks is to reduce the number of dogs wandering at large, secure fencing and gates at properties is an easy way to ensure that dogs are not going to escape their yards and wander at large.

Material is available on the Board’s website on the benefits of socialisation and training of dogs. Improved links to this material could be provided.

Mandatory desexing has the potential to reduce both dog attacks and also dogs wandering at large.

Action	Performance Measure
Minimise the incidence of dogs found to be wandering at large.	<p><i>Respond to dogs wandering at large in a timely manner to prevent issues escalating.</i></p> <p><i>Provide links on council's website and Facebook page to the Dog and Cat Management Board's material designed to reduce dog attacks.</i></p>
Minimise the risk of dog attacks to the community.	<p><i>Provide links on council's website and Facebook page to the Dog and Cat Management Board's material that are designed to reduce dog attacks.</i></p>



Council Parks, Reserves and Open Space

Council provides a range of public open space where dogs can be exercised on and off-leash. These areas include parks, reserves, and the linear walking trail network. Council also provides and maintains other supporting amenities such as dog bag dispensers and bins.

It is a statutory requirement under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 to have dogs under effective control when in a public place, this also respects the rights and safety of other users of these shared public spaces.

It is not appropriate to allow a dog to rush up to children, adults, and other animals in a public place unless you have permission for your dog to approach. Dog owners who cannot demonstrate effective control should keep their dogs on a leash.

There is more information about the existing dog off-leash, on-leash and dog prohibited areas in Appendix 1.

Given the rapid pace of urban development in Mount Barker, an audit of Council’s parks and reserves is required to ensure a comprehensive and accurate list of on and off leash areas that are available. Existing signage is likely to warrant a review with the view of rolling out a consistent message to dog owner and the community in general.

The process for determining on and off leash areas during the planning, development and handing over of new public open space also needs to be reviewed. This will be a significant action that needs to be resolved during the life of this plan.

As the population continues to grow there is a case for considering more off leash dog parks across the Council area and this important review will occur during the life of this Plan.

<i>Action</i>	<i>Performance Measure</i>
<p>Produce consistent design of signs and messaging on dog controls across the council area.</p> <p>The signage should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an easy and accessible format to read • Placement of signs should be in highly visible locations e.g. at entry/exit points of reserves and linear trails. 	<p>Investigation completed with alignment to council's Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>Recommendations to be provided for consideration along with a standard sign design.</p>
<p>To ensure that dog on and off leash requirements in our open spaces meet the needs of the community.</p>	<p>Undertake an audit of council's open spaces, reviewing the current dog off-leash and on leash requirements and making recommendations on what is needed for new reserves and parks.</p>
<p>Continue to explore potential locations for additional dog parks.</p>	<p>Review the case for more dog parks in the council area.</p>
<p>Enforce the requirements applying to dogs and council parks and reserves.</p>	<p>Continue to patrol council's parks and reserves to ensure dog owners are complying with the requirements applying to dogs.</p>



Impounding of Cats and Dogs

The existing pound service for dogs is provided by the Hahndorf Interim Animal Shelter. This current arrangement has worked well in the past as they have been active in re-homing any dogs that have not been claimed within the mandated 72 hour period. This facility may not have the capacity to be able to handle the expected growth in population.

Council is investigating impound options that will ensure that Council has the capacity to impound dogs and cats that need to be impounded. A live issue which is impacting many Councils is the capacity of the RSPCA and AWL to be able to rehome unwanted dogs and cats.

It is critical for Council’s impound service for both dogs and cats will need to be able to accommodate the increasing number of dogs and cats living in the district. The existing services that are currently in place may not be adequate or sustainable in the long term.

A review of Council’s short and long term needs for both dogs and cats is required.

This will be undertaken during the life of this Plan and if appropriate, a feasibility study will be undertaken.

Action	Performance Measure
Review council's dog and cat impound arrangements and requirements.	<i>Investigate the merit of building a dog and cat impound facility to be owned and operated by council.</i>
	<i>Explore possible shared pound arrangements with neighbouring councils.</i>



4.2 Cat Management



Cat Management

A major achievement of the previous Animal Management Plan was the endorsement and implementation of Council’s cat by-law (by-law 6).

Council’s Cat By-law and Cat Management Procedure address all three cat categories (owned, semi-owned and unowned cats). There are many benefits to this approach and this includes:

- Educates cat owners on their responsibilities
- Addresses nuisance cat behavior that impacts residents
- Greater awareness of cat management issues and their impacts
- Owned cats are safer at home
- Addresses impacts roaming cats have on native wildlife
- Welfare of all cats

2023 research by the Australian National University conducted for the Biodiversity Council, Invasive Species Council and Birdlife Australia found that roaming pet cats kill 546 million animals a year in Australia, 323 million of which are native animals.

The research also found that pet cats kill 6,000 to 11,000 native animals per square kilometre each year in urban areas.

Council’s cat by-law has a curfew that is in place from 8pm to 7am. The cat curfew achieves a number of things:

- reduces the impact that cats have on native wildlife

- Cats are safer at home at night
- Reduction in nuisance behaviour

The majority of cat management related work relates to semi-owned cats. These are cats that have some interaction with people, this could be regular feeding and the provision of water but generally when asked, residents say they do not own these cats. They also unfortunately impact nearby residents by entering their property, spraying, defecate in people’s yards and kill native wildlife.

The impending by-law review will be an opportunity to consult the community to see whether they are open to a shift from a cat curfew to the 24-7 confinement of cats, this would align with recent decisions by Alexandrina Council and Adelaide Hills Council.

Action	Performance Measure
Respond to cat management issues raised by our residents.	<i>Report annually to council on council's cat management activities.</i>
Consider the 24/7 containment of cats when the By-law review occurs in 2025.	<i>Complete By-law review in 2023-24.</i>
Encourage people to take full responsibility for semi-owned cats they are feeding including de-sexing, microchipping and responsible ownership of cats.	<i>Reduction in nuisance complaints that relate to semi-owned cats.</i>



6.5 Animal Management Officers



Animal Management Officers

Council’s dog and cat management service needs staff that are adequately trained to ensure that they provide a high level of customer service, they act in a professional manner when representing Council and that they are up to date with any legislation changes.

Mount Barker District Council supports the ongoing professional development of authorised officers. Not only does ongoing training ensure a high level of service is delivered but is also that means that authorised officers are making risk based decisions when handling dogs and potentially dangerous situations.

Action	Performance Measure
Ensure Authorised Persons acting under the Dog and Cat Management Act 1995 have the appropriate training.	<p><i>Staff to attend training relevant to Authorised Persons (e.g. animal handling, conflict resolution)</i></p> <p><i>Continue to work with the Dog and Cat Management Board on the delivery of a consistent training package for Council Authorised Officers.</i></p>

Appendix

1: On and off leash areas, and areas from which dogs are prohibited from entering in Mount Barker District Council Area

2: Feedback from the community

Dog Free Areas

<i>Town</i>	<i>Location</i>
Callington	Callington Recreational Grounds (playing surfaces)
Echunga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echunga Golf Course • Echunga Recreational Grounds (playing surfaces)
Hahndorf	Hahndorf Recreational Grounds (playing surfaces)
Harrogate	Harrogate Recreational Grounds (playing surfaces)
Littlehampton	Anembo Park (playing surfaces)
Macclesfield	Macclesfield Recreational Grounds (playing surfaces)
Meadows	Meadows Recreational Grounds (playing surfaces)
Nairne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nairne Golf Course • Nairne Recreational Grounds (playing surfaces)
Mount Barker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunn Park (playing surfaces) • Mt Barker Showgrounds (playing surfaces)

Dogs on Leash

<i>Town</i>	<i>Location</i>
Callington	Callington Recreational Grounds (oval surrounds between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm)
Echunga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echunga Cemetery • Echunga Recreational Grounds (oval surrounds)
Hahndorf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alec Johnson Park • Hahndorf Recreational Grounds (oval surrounds) • Pioneer Memorial Gardens
Harrogate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrogate Cemetery • Harrogate Recreational Grounds (oval surrounds)
Kanmantoo	Hutton Reserve
Littlehampton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anembo Park (oval surrounds) • Coppins Bush Reserve • Miel's Park • Turners Bush Reserve
Macclesfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Davenport Square (between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm) • Day Paddock Reserve • Macclesfield Cemetery • Macclesfield Recreational Grounds (oval surrounds)
Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadows Cemetery (2) • Meadows Recreational Grounds (oval surrounds)
Nairne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byethorne Park • Jeffrey Street Reserve • Nairne Recreational Grounds (oval surrounds) • Mick Murphy Park • Mt Barker Summit Reserve
Mount Barker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dunn Park (oval surrounds) • Keith Stephenson Park • Laratinga Wetlands • Mt Barker Cemetery • Mt Barker/Laratinga Linear Trail (excluding the section from Bollen Road to May Road) • Mt Barker Show Grounds (oval surrounds)
Prospect Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospect Hill Cemetery
Wistow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wistow Cemetery

Dogs off Leash

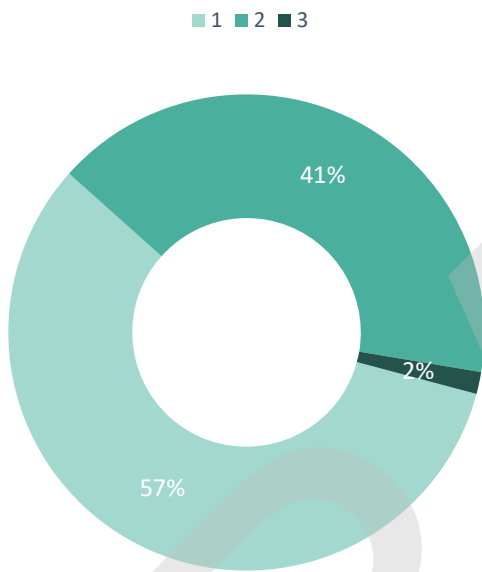
<i>Town</i>	<i>Location</i>
Brukung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brukung Hall Reserve • Brukung and District CFS Reserve (Whibley Reserve)
Callington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Callington Recreational Grounds (oval surrounds between the hours of 8:00am and 6:00pm) • Murray Street Reserve
Dawesley	Water Reserve (McIntyre Road)
Echunga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFS Reserve • RSL Gardens of Remembrance • Echunga Scout Club • Woodgate Reserve
Hahndorf	Hahndorf 'Old Quarry' (Blueberry Hill)
Kanmantoo	Drainage Reserve
Littlehampton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junction Road Reserve • Glebe Paddocks • Fulford Terrace Reserve • Miels Avenue Reserve • Andrewville Reserve • Spring Park Farm Estate Reserve
Macclesfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parklands Reserve • Davenport Square Reserve (between the hours of 6:00pm and 8:00am) • Stone Reserve
Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battunga Park • Mill Street Reserve
Mount Barker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain Glen Reserve (Big Green) • Mt Barker/Laratinga Linear Reserve (from May Road to Bollen Road) • Flaxley Road Reserve • Waterford Estate Reserves • Martindale Estate (Burnbank Way Reserves - South) • Martindale Estate (Bessie May park) • Martindale Estate (Alan Bell Reserve) • Yaktanga Way Reserve • Weld Park • Gallasch Reserve • Downing Street Reserve • Mt Barker Heights Reserve

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paterson Reserve • Zanker Drive Reserve • Donaghue Road Reserve • Alexander Drive Reserve • Albert Road Reserve • Seperation Avenue Reserve • Charles Street Reserve • Edward Street Reserve • Jubilee Crescent Reserve • Hawthorn Farm Reserve • Dumas Street Reserve • Mann Street Reserve • Dutton Road Reserve • Bernhardt Close Reserve • Manor Crescent Reserve
Nairne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathew Smillie Reserve • Market Place Reserve • Hay Crescent Reserve • North Road Reserve • Mathew Road Reserve • Webber Road Reserve • Parr Street Reserve
Prospect Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Hall and Associated Park • Morris Road Reserve • Summit Hill Reserve

Survey Responses

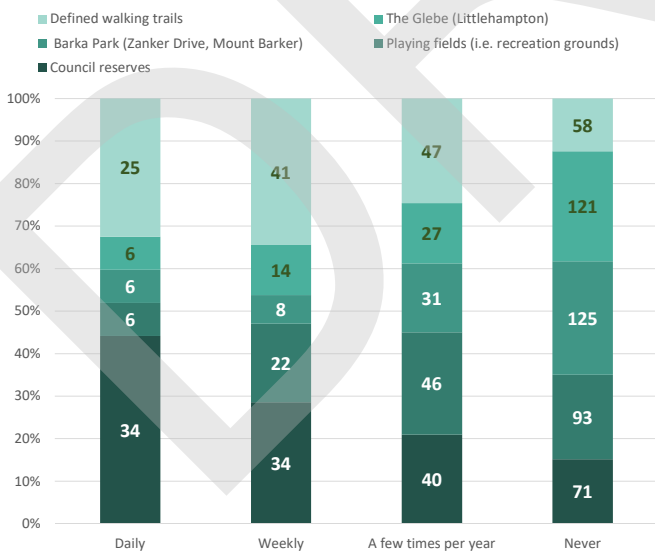
Over 200 people responded to the survey that was conducted in late 2022. The survey results have been compiled to display the results in an easy to read format. Explanations on the results are also provided.

Q3 (How many dogs live in the house where you reside?)



The split of single and multiple dogs at each property isn't a surprise, the limit to the number of dogs permitted in each household have been in place for a while so to adherence to this requirement is expected.

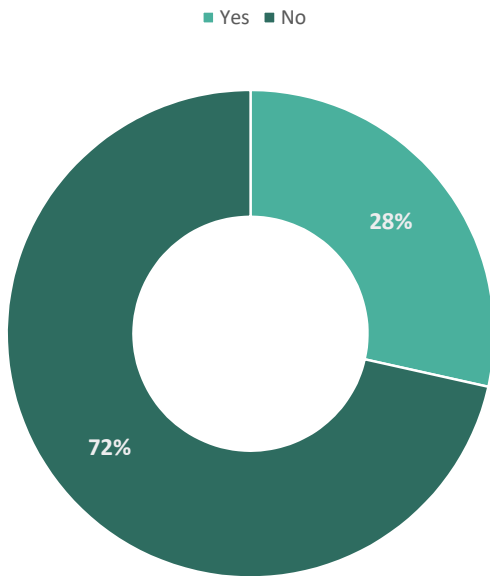
Q4 (What is your use of the following open spaces to exercise your dog(s)?)



The frequency and location of where dog owners exercise their dogs within the Council area provides some interesting information. This data shows the popularity of Council's extensive trail network and Council's many reserves as places to exercise their dog(s).

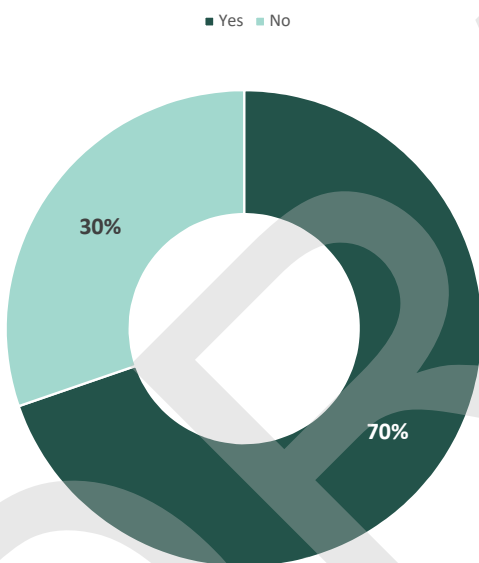
The exercising of dogs on playing fields is a concern as they are dog prohibited areas. This might demonstrate the need to investigate additional options where dog owners can exercise their dogs in these locations. It highlights the need for Council to educate the community on where people can exercise their dogs and the restrictions in place at these locations.

Q5 (Have you or a direct family member been attacked or harassed by a dog when you have been using a Council reserve or walking trail?)



28% of respondents indicated that they or a family member have been involved in a dog attack or harass situation. With the population of our Council increasing this highlights the importance of having the appropriate dog related restrictions in place in our reserves and parks.

Q6 (Has COVID-19 impacted the way you exercise your dog(s)?)

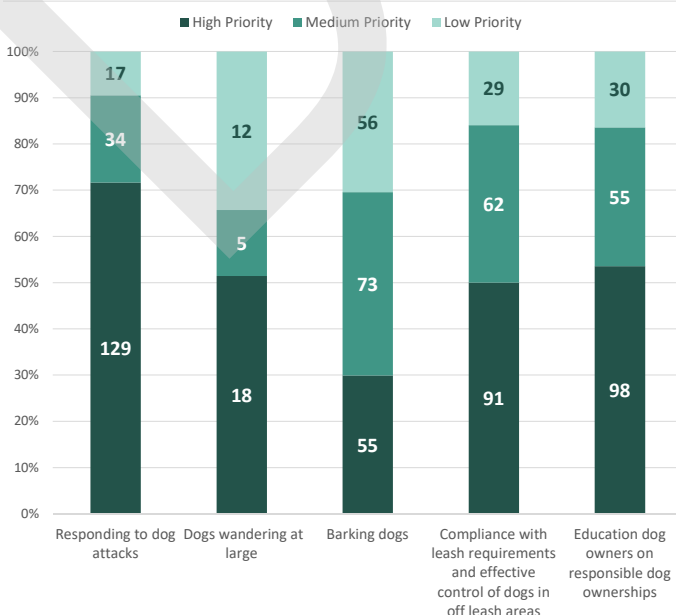


Interestingly COVID-19 had an impact on how dog owners exercised their dogs. This can be attributed to more flexible working arrangements meaning that if people are working from home they have the ability to walk their dog(s) more often.

Animal Medicines Australia 'Pets and the Pandemic' 2021 report found that the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have strengthened the relationship between people and their pets, 70% saying that owning a pet has improved their lives during the pandemic.

[AMAU005-PATP-Report21_v1.4_WEB.pdf](https://www.animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au/AMAU005-PATP-Report21_v1.4_WEB.pdf)
([animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au](https://www.animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au))

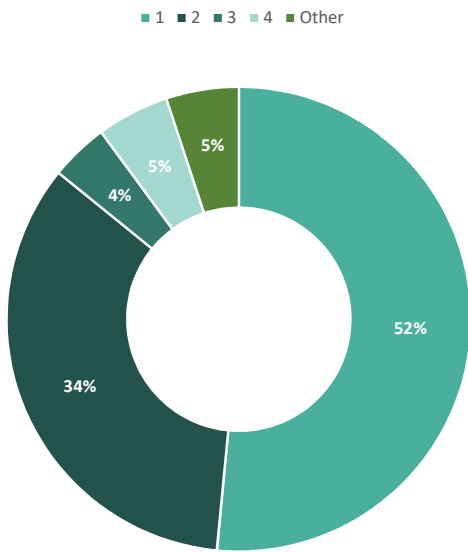
Q8 (Please rate the following topics in Council's Animal Management Plan.)



It isn't surprising to respondents placed dog management issues such as dog attacks, educating dog owners on their responsibilities and compliance with leash requirements as a high priority for Council.

This justifies the effort and resources that Council puts into responding to these issues when they arise.

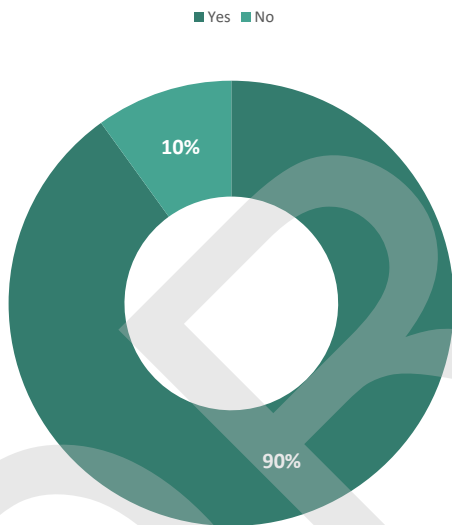
Q9 (How many cats live in the house where you reside?)



Anecdotally there are more households with multiple cats compared to households that have multiple dogs. The fact that restrictions on cat numbers has only been in place since late 2019 means that there would be a number of households that have over the two cat per household limit that is a requirement of the by-law.

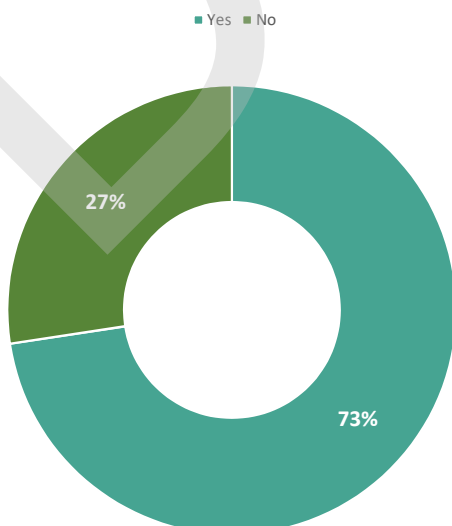
Over time it would be expected that the number of households with more than two cats will decrease.

Q10 (Are you aware that Council has a Cat By-law which addresses the following: nuisance, behaviour, cat curfew, limit of two cats per property?)



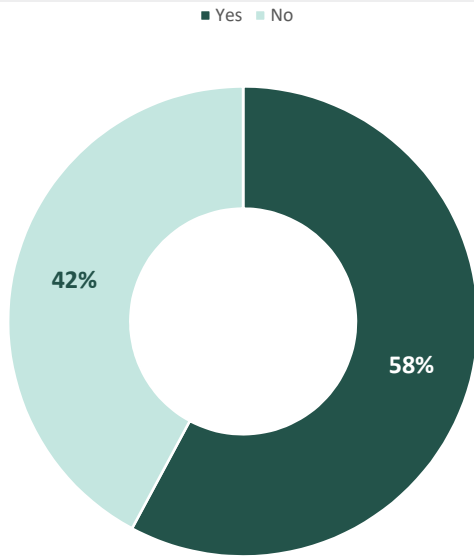
Council's Cat By-law has been heavily promoted since its creation in 2019 and the by-law has received considerable media interest in that time. It isn't a surprise that 90% of those that filled out the survey are aware of the by-law and the elements used to manage cats in the Council area.

Q12 (Are you supportive of Council's hands on approach in dealing with cat management issues?)



The response to this question demonstrates strong community support for Council's hands on approach in dealing with cat management. This demonstrates an awareness of cat management issues, the impacts and an appreciation for Council's role in resolving these issues in a timely manner.

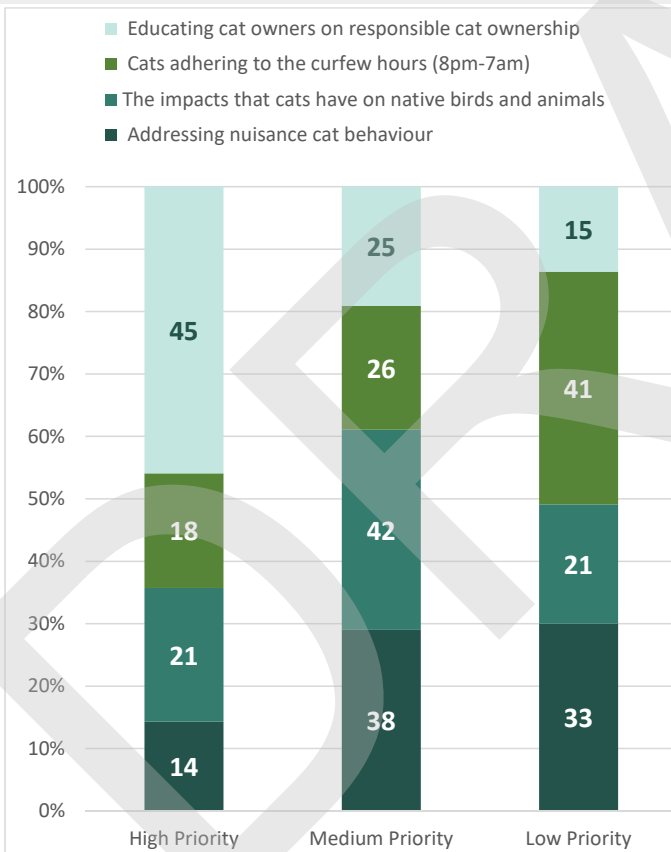
Q13 (Would you support the 24/7 confinement of cats when Council’s By-laws are reviewed in 2025?)



With nearby Councils Adelaide Hills and Alexandrina having 24/7 cat confinement in place as part of their cat by-law it was a good opportunity to check to see the level of interest in this management approach.

As mentioned in the Plan Councils by-laws are up for review in year one of the Plan, there will be extensive community consultation associated with the by-law review.

Q15 (Please rate the following topics in Council’s Animal Management Plan:)



Educating cat owners on their responsibilities as cat owners is seen as a high priority for 45% of respondents, this aligns with the education first approach that Council has undertaken since the creation of the Cat By-law.

Interestingly 41% of respondents placed responding to breaches of cat curfew as a low priority, with a third of respondents (33%) placing responding to cat nuisance behavior as a low priority.

These results however don’t align with the high level of support (73%) for Council’s hands on approach to dealing with cat management issues (question 12).

Your Feedback

An overwhelmingly positive number of responses were received from the survey and will play a vital role in shaping how Mount Barker District Council moves forward with animal management. Below are some key responses;

Q2 (Do you believe there are positive health and wellbeing outcomes from owning a dog and/or cat?)

“Yes - companionship and health benefits are clear, nothing destresses me more than seeing my pets.”

- Survey Respondent in Littlehampton

Q11 (Do you have any feedback about the Cat By-law?)

“I have cats in my yard at all hours of the night and I don’t know how to enforce the cat by-law.”

- Survey Respondent in Nairne

Q14 (Do you have any comments on the 24/7 confinement of cats?)

“Cat’s still roam and hunt during the day, so while the current by-law was a big step in addressing the problem, 24/7 confinement is the logical next step.”

- Survey Respondent in Mount Barker

Q14 (Do you have any comments on the 24/7 confinement of cats?)

“This is appropriate in large towns but in rural or semi rural areas this will lead to large increases in vermin.”

- Survey Respondent in Kanmantoo

Q2 (Do you believe there are positive health and wellbeing outcomes from owning a dog and/or cat?)

“Yes, although I personally don’t and wouldn’t own either.”

- Survey Respondent in Mount Barker

Q11 (Do you have any feedback about the Cat By-law?)

“How about limiting how many dogs you can have also!”

- Survey Respondent in Littlehampton

Q11 (Do you have any feedback about the Cat By-law?)

“It is an excellent initiative, but i feel more resourcing needs to be available to implement this across the district.”

- Survey Respondent in Mount Barker

Q14 (Do you have any comments on the 24/7 confinement of cats?)

“That’s fine but Council needs to put money into building and running a local cat shelter for the housing and rehoming of impounded cats.”

- Survey Respondent in Meadows

Q2 (Do you believe there are positive health and wellbeing outcomes from owning a dog and/or cat?)

“Depends on the dog, a barking dog does not have a positive impact on the wellbeing of neighbours!”

- Survey Respondent in Mount Barker

DRAFT



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Animal Management Plan

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

DOC/24/35543



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Document control

Date	Version	Status	Action	Responsibility
March 2024	1			Jamie Tann

INTRODUCTION

Our Mission

The Mount Barker District Council is committed to open, transparent and meaningful community engagement with its residents by providing opportunities for the community to access and participate in the many decision-making processes of Council. This commitment is demonstrated through the formulation of a Community Consultation Policy (DOC/20/45761) and the values outlined in Council’s Community Plan 2020-2035.

Involved – Decision-making processes are transparent and open to community scrutiny. Partnerships are valued and individuals and communities can be involved in influencing policies and local activities.

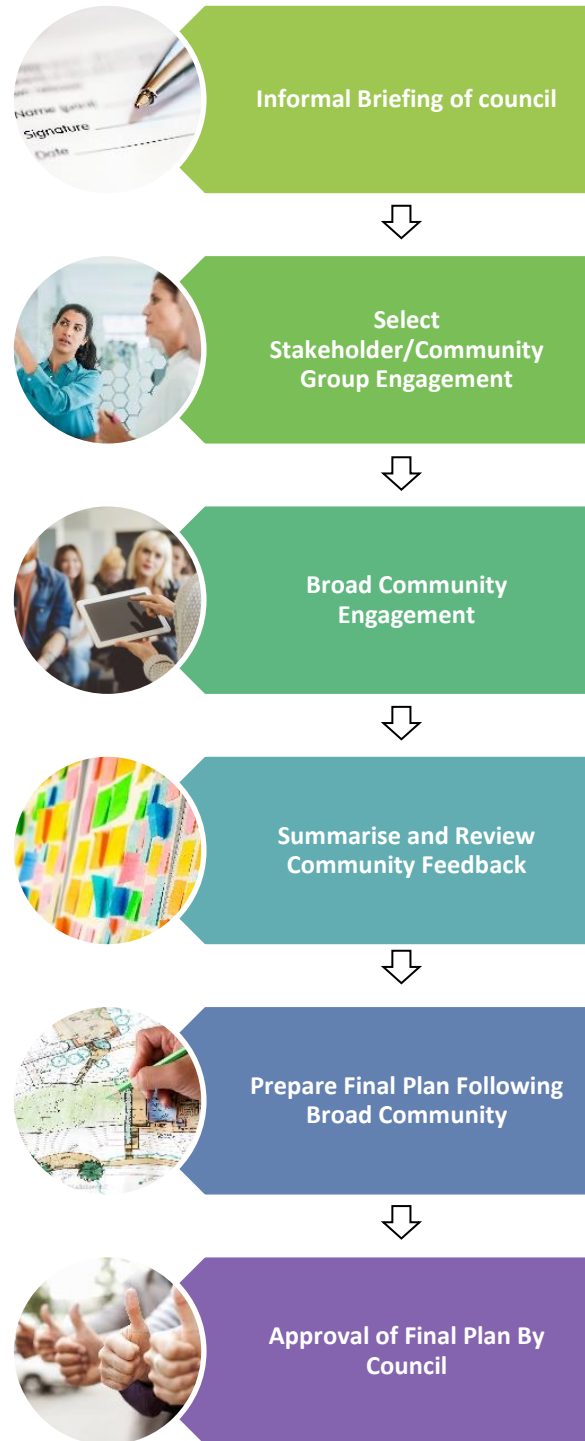
Effective community engagement not only provides Council with an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with the community, but also provides for sound investment in better decision making by ensuring decisions are informed by community needs and aspirations. When meaningfully undertaken, it contributes to building trust between the community and Council, raises the quality of project outcomes, strengthens representative democracy and builds community capacity.

What is Community Engagement?

Community engagement is a considered and transparent two-way information sharing process by which specifically identified community groups along with the broader community are provided with the opportunity to understand and provide input into the decision-making processes of Council. Community engagement works to strengthen the trust between the community and Council and provides an opportunity for Council to deliver projects which are well

informed and consistent with community sentiment and in turn vastly improve project outcomes.

Community Engagement Process



BACKGROUND AND PROJECT INFORMATION

All councils are required to develop and maintain a plan of management relating to dogs and cats for their areas pursuant with Section 26A of the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*. These plans are referred to as Animal Management Plans and their purpose is to:

- Encourage responsible dog and cat ownership;
- Reduce public and environmental nuisance caused by dogs and cats; and
- Promote the effective management of dogs and cats.

Animal Management Plans are reviewed every five years.

A review of the Animal Management Plan 2018-2022 was conducted following consultation with the community in 2022. A draft Animal Management Plan 2023 -2028 was subsequently prepared.

The draft Animal Management Plan outlines the business as usual activities that are undertaken regarding dog and cat management. The draft Plan also sets out specific projects that are to be implemented over the life of the Plan.

The draft Animal Management Plan in regard to community expectations will be presented to Council for consideration and to endorse community consultation.

Following a period of community consultation, the draft Plan will be edited as required based on feedback, before being presented to Council for endorsement.

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT

Council consulted the community in 2022, this was in the form of a survey which sought to obtain information about dog and cat management issues, community awareness and community expectation.

This feedback has influenced the content of the updated draft Animal Management Plan.

PURPOSE OF THE ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of this engagement is to consult the community and key stakeholders on Council's draft Animal Management Plan.

Engagement Objectives

The objectives for this engagement are to:

- Provide meaningful information in such a way that it is understandable by our community.

- Obtain public feedback on the draft Animal Management Plan.
- Instil confidence in our community of the role that Council's Public Safety Officer play regarding the management of dogs and cats in our Council area.

LEVEL OF INFLUENCE

This Plan has been developed in accordance with the internationally recognised International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) public participation spectrum. This articulates the varied levels of influence and associated commitments made during engagement with stakeholders. The spectrum identifies the following levels of engagement:

- **INFORM** level of engagement commits to providing information that helps stakeholders to understand the problem/issue, alternatives, opportunities or solutions. It commits to keeping stakeholders informed.
- **CONSULT** level of engagement builds on the inform level to also seek feedback on the problem/issue and may include looking at options, alternatives etc. It commits to keeping stakeholders informed and letting them know how their feedback was used.
- **INVOLVE** level of engagement builds further to work directly with stakeholders to ensure that their views are consistently understood and considered. It commits to ensure stakeholder views are reflected in project outcomes and letting them know how this impacted on decision making.
- **COLLABORATE** sees stakeholders as partners in developing solutions or alternatives and commits to using their input in project outcomes.
- **EMPOWER** commits to allowing the stakeholder to be the decision maker and that their decisions will be implemented.

It is recognised that different stakeholders will be engaged with at different levels at different stages of the project. Ensuring that stakeholders understand their level of influence is critical in managing expectations and undertaking engagement in accordance with the accepted principles. This process will predominantly use **inform** and **consult** levels of engagement.

SCOPE OF INFLUENCE

Aspects of the project that stakeholders and the community **can** influence are:

- Feedback on the draft Animal Management Plan which primarily relates to community expectations around Council's activities that relate to dog and cat management.

Aspects of the project that stakeholders and the community **cannot** influence are:

- Legislative requirements under the Dog and Cat management Act 1995 and Council's By-laws, namely By-law 5 Dogs and By-law 6 Cats.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk	Management Measure
Mistrust of Council through previous engagement leads to lack of participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide multiple access points for information, including going directly to key stakeholders where possible. • Ensure communications materials are clear. • Consistent messaging using the key messages. • Use graphic/visual presentation to simplify and support information wherever possible.
The community has engagement fatigue and does not participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a targeted engagement approach where appropriate, focusing on relevant community groups, and key stakeholders with influence in the community. • Understand what other engagement activities are occurring and seek opportunities to leverage these to avoid engagement fatigue. • Make it easier to engage by going out to the community rather than expecting them to come to us.
Community expectations or misconception on what they can influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use clear communications that accurately conveys what can the community can influence.

PROJECT ROLES / POINT OF CONTACT

Project Engagement Coordinator – Kylie Norris, Communications and Engagement Officer

Responsible for ensuring that actions in the engagement plan are undertaken and modifying the plan as required

Project Sponsor – Andrew Stuart, Chief Executive Officer

Responsible for timely provision of information to CGG, Council Members, local Members of Parliament, and Government Ministers.

Project Manager – Jamie Tann, Manger Health and Public Safety

Responsible for provision of information as contract progresses to Project Sponsor, Project Control Group, Project Communications Coordinator. First point of contact for community enquiries.

Project Communications Coordinator – Ian Hildebrand, Manager Communications and Engagement

Responsible for timely actioning of communications. First point of contact for media enquiries.

KEY MESSAGES

The following key messages will enable the use of a clear ‘narrative’ and provide an important guide to the style and tone of communication which will form the basis of written and verbal communication with stakeholders.

- That the Animal Management Plan is a legislative requirement for all Councils.
- The Animal Management Plan only relates to the management of dogs and cats and is for a five year period.
- Business as usual activities and one off projects are contained within the Plan.

CONSULTATION MATERIAL AND EVENTS

- Council website
- Your Say information page including draft Animal Management Plan
- Social Media posts

KEY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Engagement Activity	Date/s
Engagement period	8 April 2024 to 3 May 2024
Community Drop in session	Nil
Meetings with key stakeholders	During engagement period if requested
Adoption of concept design at Council meeting	June 2024

STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

The following stakeholder groups have been identified to be engaged during the consultation period, as they represent portions of the community who have an interest in the Animal Management Plan.

The table below lists the stakeholders along with their (known or anticipated) issues and concerns and the approach we will use to engage them.

Listed below are the common engagement elements that will go across most stakeholders:

- Easy to understand and access to information sources that clearly outlines what can be influenced
- Website – source of online engagement materials
- Your Say – source of online engagement materials and tools
- Social media, traditional media, community newsletters, posters and signage in the library and locations in townships e.g. post offices

Stakeholder	Issues/ Concerns	Engagement Approach	Level of Influence	Responsibility	Medium
General community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed levels of interest. • Interest in ensuring quality, fit for purpose engagement is undertaken. • A need for easy to understand and accessible information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to understand and access information sources to clearly tell the why/what and what can be influenced • Reach community where they are, when feedback is sought. • Keep regularly informed 	CONSULT	Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting/phone conversation as required
				Project Engagement Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Your Say • Social media, traditional media, District Matters, community newsletters, posters and signage
Council Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in representing and/or understanding the views of their constituents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information briefings • Endorse draft Animal Management Plan 	EMPOWER	Project Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information/Briefing Sessions • Council reports

Stakeholder	Issues/ Concerns	Engagement Approach	Level of Influence	Responsibility	Medium
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorse budget 	INFORM	Project Communications Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memos Website Your Say Social media, traditional media, District Matters, community newsletters, posters and signage
Dog and Cat Management Board (the Board)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding how Council responds to dog and cat management issues in the Council area Awareness of planned measures that will be employed over the life of the plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on the draft Animal management Plan, the Board also approve the Plan once endorsed by Council 	INFORM	Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Animal Management Plan will be sent to the Board as part of this consultation process
Corporate Governance Group (CGG) (internal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest in representing and/or understanding the views of their constituents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information briefings Receive draft Animal Management Plan 	INVOLVE	Project Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emails Information briefings

APPROVAL OF ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Recommendation to approve

Project name	Draft Animal Management Plan
Doc Reference	DOC/2
Recommending officer	Jamie Tann
Recommendation date	[Insert approval date]
Signature	

Approval

Project name	[Insert project name]
Doc Reference	[Insert HPRM ref]
Sponsor name	[Insert sponsor name]
Approval date	[Insert approval date]
Signature	[Sponsor signature]

12.8	REPORT TITLE:	COUNCIL MEMBERS TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL PLAN 2024
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/34150
	ATTACHMENTS:	1. DOC/24/34618 COUNCIL MEMBERS TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2024 ANNUAL PLAN
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Rebecca Jeisman, Civic Governance Officer
	<u>Sponsor</u>	Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Community Plan 2020-2035:

Leadership and Good Governance

LGG Strategy 1.2 Ensure the elected body has a comprehensive understanding of its roles and responsibilities and is supported to fulfil them effectively.

Annual Business Plan:

Leadership and Good Governance

Key Objective: Provide opportunities for Council members to develop their skills and knowledge

Purpose:

To provide Council Members with an Annual Plan of training and professional development to be conducted during 2024.

Summary – Key Issues:

- The Council Members' Training and Professional Development Policy outlines that a plan of training activities is to be prepared annually.
- The 2024 Annual Plan has been prepared in response to Council Member feedback and staff observations to ensure Council Members have the essential skills and knowledge to effectively perform their duties.
- The 2024 Annual Plan is now recommended for adoption.

Recommendation:

That Council adopt the Council Members' Training and Professional Development 2024 Annual Plan as contained in Attachment 1.

Background:

1. The Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2013 (the General Regulations), set out the legal requirements for training and development for council members.
2. Section 80A of the Act requires a Council to prepare and adopt a training and development policy for its council members as follows:
 - (1) *A council must prepare and adopt a training and development policy for its members.*
 - (2) *The policy—*
 - (a) *must be aimed at assisting members in the performance and discharge of their functions and duties; and*
 - (b) *must incorporate the prescribed mandatory requirements and comply with any other requirements prescribed by the regulations; and*
 - (c) *may specify other requirements relating to the conduct and completion of training and development by members.*
 - (2a) *A training and development policy of a council may make different provision according to different members of the council.*
3. Regulation 8AA of the General Regulations prescribes that a training policy must comply with *The LGA Training Standards for Council Members (Training Standards)*.
4. During December 2022, Council was resourced with background documents and engaged to contribute to setting the four year training and development suite of documents: Council Members' Training and Professional Development Policy, Procedure and Plan.
5. At its January 2023 meeting, Council adopted the Council Members' Training and Professional Development Policy, Procedure and Plan for the 2022 to 2026 term. These documents provide an overarching guide to meet the requirements of the Act, the General Regulations and the Training Standards.

6. The Council Member Training and Professional Development Policy outlines that a Training and Professional Development Plan (“the Annual Plan”) will be prepared annually and available to all Council Members.
7. In preparing the Annual Plan for 2024, Councillors were consulted via online survey during November 2023 (DOC/23/163979) and January 2024 (DOC/24/6406 and DOC/24/9309) to contribute learning gaps and training ideas. The survey was open for 10 weeks and yielded six responses. This feedback, along with identified priorities by staff to identify the needs of Council Members and other informal Council Member feedback, have formed the content of this Annual Plan.
8. A [confidential information memo](#) was distributed on 7 March 2024 containing the purpose and details of the Annual Plan. No comment or proposed amendments were received.

Discussion:

9. Council recognises that in order to carry out their roles and responsibilities to the community, Council Members will need specific training and refresher courses about their legislative and governance roles and functions.
10. The Annual Plan of training activities for 2024 has been prepared in line with the Council Member suite of training and professional development documents and seeks to:
 - comply with the Local Government Act, the General Regulations and the Training Standards;
 - contribute to the personal/professional development of the individual; and
 - equip the elected body to work together to achieve the strategic and good governance objectives of Council.
11. As Council moves into its second year, particular emphasis has been given in the Annual Plan to participation of all Council Members in the development of a new team and ongoing orientation of first time Council Members.
12. The Annual Plan includes a set of mandatory ‘mid-term refresher’ sessions as prescribed by the Local Government Association (LGA) in line with their Training Standards. These training sessions will be offered by the Local Government Association until 15 November 2024.
13. The Act requires that all council members must comply with the prescribed mandatory requirements, which includes the LGA mid-term refreshers sessions.

14. The Act includes that if a member fails to comply with the mandatory training requirements, a council must suspend the member from office unless the member satisfies the council there were good reasons for the failure to comply.
15. The Annual Plan provides a target of training and professional development content to be conducted through the year. Additional requests or opportunities for group training may arise and will be included in the year's activity if Council/staff consider to be essential knowledge to perform the function of a Council Member.
16. As set out in the Council Members Training and Professional Development Policy and Procedure, each Council Member has an allocation to pursue relevant training to be conducted individually. These activities are not contained in the Annual Plan.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Information will be available on the council website as per the relevant policy.
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Policy:

Council Members Training and Professional Development Policy, Procedure and Plan – all documents endorsed January 2023.

Long Term Financial Plan:

Not applicable.

Budget:

A budget allocation is provided annually to support the training and professional development activities undertaken by Council Members in accordance with the Policy and the Annual Plan.

Statutory/Legal:

Local Government Act and General Regulations as outlined above.

Staff Resource Requirements:

Implementation of the recommendations can occur within existing staff capacity.

Environmental:

Not applicable.

Social:

Not applicable.

Risk Assessment:

There is a risk that prescribed mandatory training may not be attained. Compliance by all council members will be monitored and communicated as required as a risk management strategy.

Asset Management:

Not applicable.

Conclusion:

Adoption of the revised Council Members' Training and Professional Development Policy, Procedure and Plan is recommended.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	16 January 2023	CM Reference	DOC/22/163899
Title	Revision of Council Member Training and professional development policy, procedure and plan.		
Purpose	To provide an update to Council Members policy, procedure and plan at the commencement of the 2022-2026 Council term.		

Meeting Date	2 July 2018	CM Reference	DOC/18/63817
Title	Revision of policies: - Training and professional development policy, procedure; and plan - Induction policy and plan		
Purpose	To provide an update to Council Members policy, procedure and plan.		

Meeting Date	19 January 2015	HPRM Reference	DOC/15/459
Title	Revised Council Member Training and Development Policy, Procedure and Plan		
Purpose	To provide an updated Council Members' Training and Development Policy Procedure and Plan		

COUNCIL MEMBERS ANNUAL TRAINING PLAN 2024



Background/Purpose:

Council recognises that in order to carry out their roles and responsibilities to the community, Council Members will need specific training and refresher courses about their legislative and governance roles and functions.

The Council Member Training and Professional Development Policy outlines that a Training and Professional Development Plan (“the Plan”) will be prepared annually and available to all Council Members.

The following training and professional development plan seeks to:

- comply with the Regulations
- contribute to the personal/professional development of the individual; and
- equip the elected body to work together to achieve the strategic and good governance objectives of Council.

As Council moves into its second year, particular emphasis will be given in the Plan to participation of all Council Members in the development of a new team and ongoing orientation of first time Council Members.

In preparing the Plan, Councillors were consulted via online survey and other feedback mechanism to contribute learning gaps and training ideas. This feedback, along with observations by staff to identify the needs of Council Members, have formed the content of the Plan.

Policy/Plan Alignment:

Council Member Training and Professional Development Policy

Objective: To ensure Council Members are offered opportunities to undertake the required mandatory training in accordance with the LGA Training Standards for Council Members and any other appropriate training and development activities relevant to their roles and functions.

Community Plan 2020-2035

Leadership and Good Governance: LGG Strategy 1.2 Ensure the elected body has a comprehensive understanding of its roles and responsibilities and is supported to fulfill them effectively.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Rebecca Jeisman

Civic Governance Officer

8391 7291 rjeisman@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

Personal and Team Development Training Sessions

By external providers

Topics	Delivery
<p>Session: Sustainable Peak Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development and use of emotional intelligence to increase self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship management. Social Intelligence (SI) is the ability to build relationships and navigate social environments successfully. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emotions and thinking – theory Appreciation of emotional strengths and weaknesses Understanding self and team to achieve outcomes 	<p>Julie Cunningham Susan Bates</p>
<p>Session: Effective Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of considered decision making Skills for decision-making What are complex problems Problem solving steps and tools Evaluating decisions for effectiveness Confidence to make decisions Stopping people pleasing Communicating tough decisions 	<p>Julie Cunningham Susan Bates</p>
<p>Intensive SERIES</p> <p>Session 1: Constructive Conversations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing self- why it matters and how to do it well How to talk constructively when we disagree Understanding the roles of logic, empathy, and authenticity in effective communication Recognising red flags and how to get things back on track 	<p>Darren Williams</p>
<p>Intensive Series</p> <p>Session 2: Skills to influence for better outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does it take to be able to influence Keys to developing effective working relationships Steps in effective decision making Outcomes over ego 	<p>Darren Williams</p>

<i>continued</i> PERSONAL AND TEAM DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SESSIONS By external providers	
Topics	Delivery
<p>Intensive SEIRES Session 3: Creating Courage at Work</p> <p>Based on the research of Dr Brené Brown. Michelle Holland is an accredited facilitator of Dare to Lead™, and was trained in San Antonio, Texas by Dr Brown.</p> <p>Courage Capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and introduction to four skill sets of courageous leadership <p>Courageous leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing psychological safety • Determine your call to courage and find out what is standing in your way • Discover the armour you wear at work that impacts relationships and outcomes • Learn how to step into the ‘Arena’ as a courageous leader without your armour <p>Own vulnerability with pride</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing emotional literacy and empathy • Setting and maintaining boundaries 	<p>Michelle Holland</p>

PRESENTERS’ SPECIALIST AREAS

Julia Cunningham <https://juliecunningham.com.au/> Specialty: neuroscience, performance management, brain and thinking, leadership habits

Susan Bates *SMB Consulting* Organisational psychology, Psychometric assessment, Change management, Organisational review and development, Board and Director training

Darren Williams <https://dwconsulting.com.au/about-us/> strategies for developing and leading teams Building personal effectiveness skills and habits (high performing teams and communication skills)

Michelle Holland <https://www.synergyiq.com.au/> leadership, change management, workforce planning, strategic planning

Mandatory Mid-Term Refresher

Facilitated through Local Government Association of South Australia

Topics
<p>Session: Mid-Term council leadership refresher (module 8.1)</p> <p>This facilitated workshop meets the LGA Training Standard mid-term Council Leadership refresher requirements.</p> <p>Skilled facilitators will support a highly interactive session in unpacking the strengths and effectiveness of Council's leadership. Understanding the value and differences in leadership styles, roles, and responsibilities and how best to work together.</p> <p>An opportunity to 'check-in' mid-term, re-set as a Council leadership team and ensure Council is on track to deliver great outcomes for the remainder of the term.</p>
<p>Session: Mid-Term legal refresher (module 8.2)</p> <p>This workshop will provide Council members with a refresher on their key legal responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1999 and will focus in particular on the integrity provisions including conflict of interest, gifts and benefits, duties and the Behavioural Standards for Council Members.</p>
<p>Session: Mid-Term council meetings and procedures refresher (module 8.3)</p> <p>This workshop consists of a refresher on the requirements that apply to the holding and conduct of Council and Committee meetings. The role and purpose of information or briefing sessions will also be discussed.</p>
<p>Session: Mid-Term financial management refresher (module 8.4)</p> <p>This training consists of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Financial Management – Part A" focuses on the Annual Budget and Financial Plan.• "Financial Management – Part B" focuses on the quarterly Budget Review and audited Financial Report.

Summary of 2024 Activities

Activities include:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mandatory mid-term refresher training - Personal and team development training - Strategy workshops - and other additional social activities 				
January	Mon 8	Delivered: Conflicts of Interest	2 hours	
February				
March	Tue 5	Soft Plastics Recycle Plant (Wingfield)	half day	Optional
	Thu 7	Delivered: Leadership Styles and Resilience	2 hours	Required
April	Mon 8	Scheduled: Public Officer Training, Office for Public Integrity	2 hours	Required
May	Mon 6	Scheduled: Community Engagement for Elected Members	2 hours	Required
	TBA	Bus Tour	Half day	Optional
	Mon 27	Sustainable Peak Performance, Susan Bates and Julie Cunningham	2 hours	Required
June	TBA	2023 Social Dinner	4 hours	Optional
	Mon 24	Strategy Day	Full day	Desireable
July	Mon 29	Effective Decision Making, Susan Bates and Julie Cunningham	2 hours	Required
August	Mon 26	Scheduled: Mid-term Council leadership workshop refresher	3 hours	Mandatory
September	Mon 9	Intensive: Constructive Conversations, Darren Williams	2 hours	Required
	Thu 12	Intensive: Skills to influence for better outcomes, Darren Williams	2 hours	Required
	Mon 23	Scheduled: Mid-term Council legal workshop refresher	2 hours	Mandatory
	Mon 30	Intensive: Creating Courage at work, Michelle Holland	2 hours	Required
October	Mon 28	Scheduled: Mid-term Council meetings and procedures workshop refresher	2 hours	Mandatory
November	Mon 11	Scheduled: Mid-term Council financial management workshop refresher	3 hours	Mandatory
	Mon 18	Strategy Day	Full day	Desireable
December		Staff/Councillor Breakfast	1.5 hours	Optional

Please note: Dates are subject to change and dependent on external training providers

12.9	REPORT TITLE:	HARDSHIP POLICY REVIEW
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/34825
	ATTACHMENTS:	ATTACHMENT NO. 1 - DOC/23/151658- HARDSHIP POLICY ATTACHMENT NO. 2 - DOC/24/35217 - HARDSHIP POLICY (TRACKED CHANGES)
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Michael Moyle, Team Leader Revenue
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Alex Oulianoff, General Manager Corporate Services Helen Edmonds, Head of Wastewater

Community Plan 2020-2035:

Leadership and Good Governance

LGG Strategy 1.5 – Demonstrate accountability through clear, relevant and easily accessible policies, corporate reporting and legislative compliance.

Annual Business Plan:

N/A

Purpose:

To review the revised Hardship Policy.

Summary – Key Issues:

- The Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) requires that all water and wastewater retailers such as Councils have a Hardship Policy for residential retail customers.
- As the principles associated with the Hardship Policy are relevant for other Council customers as well, it was adopted for all customers.
- Council's endorsement of the Hardship Policy enables Council to comply with the ESCOSA retail code and the Water Act.
- The policy was due to be reviewed in March 2023.

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the revised Hardship Policy as shown in attachment 1.

Background:

1. Council is a water and wastewater retailer.
2. Under the Water Industry Act 2012, ESCOSA (Essential Services Commission of South Australia) is responsible for the economic regulation of the water and sewerage industry.
3. ESCOSA requires that all water and wastewater retailers such as Councils have a Hardship Policy for residential retail customers that is consistent with ESCOSA/ Ministerial requirements.
4. ESCOSA has a Model Hardship Policy that Councils and other water retailers can use.
5. Council has a Hardship Policy which, since 2015, has been based on the ESCOSA Model Hardship Policy.
6. The Hardship Policy provides details on how to identify customers who are experiencing payment difficulties due to hardship, and assist those customers to better manage their bills on an ongoing basis.
7. Council's Hardship Policy complies with the Water Industry Act 2012 as it relates to minor and intermediate retailers pursuant to Section 37 of the Water Industry Act 2012, and includes hardship pursuant to Section 182 of the Local Government Act 1999 – Remissions and Postponement of Rates.
8. ESCOSA has endorsed the previous version of the Hardship Policy, the review provided minor amendments to formatting and responsible Minister title details only.
9. ESCOSA were provided with the draft Hardship Policy to provide feedback. To date no feedback has been provided.
10. The policy was due for a routine review in March 2023.

Discussion:

11. An information briefing session was held on Monday 18 March 2024 with council members and provided the opportunity for Council Members to ask questions regarding the review and minor changes to the Hardship Policy.
12. A recent internal review of the policy has been undertaken and it was considered to still be relevant and appropriate. As a result, only minor adjustments to the policy wording have been implemented to accommodate the latest Council policy template.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Information is provided via this report which is available on Council's website. The revised Policy once adopted, will be added to Council's website.
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Policy:

There is an existing Hardship Policy.

Long Term Financial Plan:

N/A

Budget:

N/A

Statutory/Legal:

Under the Water Industry Act 2012, ESCOSA (Essential Services Commission of South Australia) is responsible for the economic regulation of the water and sewerage industry.

ESCOSA requires that all water and wastewater retailers such as Councils have a Hardship Policy for residential retail customers that is consistent with ESCOSA/ Ministerial requirements.

Consistent with Section 182 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Staff Resource Requirements:

The implementation of this policy will be managed within existing resources.

Environmental:

N/A

Social:

The adoption of the revised Hardship policy will provide clarity to customers on their rights and obligations and support those that are unable to meet their financial obligations as a customer of Council.

Risk Assessment:

The provision of this policy has mitigated the risk of not complying with requirements of various legislation. It also mitigates the risk of Council customers not being able to meet their financial obligations which could lead to credit rating implications and legal action unnecessarily. Policies such as these also mitigate the risk of reputational damage for Council by empathetically managing customers who find themselves in hardship.

Asset Management:

N/A

Conclusion:

The current Hardship Policy has been reviewed and has been found to be largely relevant and appropriate so only minor wording changes have been made.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	3 August 2020	CM Reference	DOC/20/26280
Title	Hardship Policy Review		
Purpose	To approve the revised and reviewed Hardship Policy		

Meeting Date	16 November 2015	CM Reference	DOC/15/108272
Title	Hardship policy for all council services		
Purpose	To seek Council endorsement of a Hardship Policy for all services provided to ratepayers.		



TITLE: Hardship Policy

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to identify customers who are experiencing payment difficulties due to hardship, and assist those customers to better manage their bills on an ongoing basis.

This policy sets out:

- processes to identify customers experiencing payment difficulties due to hardship, including identification by Council, self-identification by a customer, identification by an accredited financial counsellor, or welfare agency, and
- an outline of a range of processes or programs that we will use, or apply, to assist our customers who have been identified as experiencing payment difficulties.

2. SCOPE

Mount Barker District Council is committed to assisting customers who are experiencing financial hardship, to manage their payments in a manner that best suits the customer, and ensuring they are serviced.

This policy is based on:

- the customer hardship policy for minor and intermediate retailers, made by the Minister for Human Services, pursuant to section 37 of the *Water Industry Act 2012*, under a delegation by the Minister for Water and the River Murray, with modification. The reviewed policy has been provided to the Essential Services Commission of South Australia seeking feedback.
- Section 182 of the Local Government Act 1999 permits a Council to partially or wholly remit rates or to postpone rates on the basis of hardship.

3. DEFINITIONS

accredited financial counsellor means a person who holds a Diploma of Community Services (Financial Counselling), and who has worked at least 12 months as a financial counsellor under the supervision of the South Australian Financial Counsellors Association

connection means an agreed point of supply at which a **customer** receives a **service** from a Mount Barker District Council.

consumer means a person supplied with **services** as a **consumer** or user of those services (as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*) (*Note: you may be a consumer by virtue of being a council ratepayer*)

customer means a person or entity who owns land in relation to which a **service** is provided and includes:

- where the context requires, a person seeking the provision of a **service**, and
- in prescribed circumstances, a person supplied with **services** as a **consumer** or user of those services (without limiting the application of this definition to owners of land), and
- a person of a class declared by the **regulations** to be **customers**

(as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*) (*Note: you may be a **customer** by virtue of being a council ratepayer*)

customer hardship policy means this **policy** that has been adopted by Mount Barker District Council, in accordance with section 37 of the *Water Industry Act 2012* and *Local Government Act 1999*

financial counsellor means **accredited financial counsellor**

financial hardship means a circumstance of experiencing a lack of financial means, that may be either ongoing or temporary, but does not include circumstances where a person chooses not to meet a liability for an unpaid debt

hardship means **financial hardship**

hardship customer means a **customer** who has been identified under, accepted into, or is eligible for assistance under **our hardship program**

hardship program means an agreement between **Council** and a **hardship customer** for payment of outstanding sums due for **services**

our, we, us means the Mount Barker District Council

policy means this **customer hardship policy**

regulations means regulations under the *Water Industry Act 2012* and *Local Government Act 1999*

service means a service constituted by:

the sale and supply of **water** to a person for use (and not for resale other than in prescribed circumstances (if any)) where the **water** is to be conveyed by a reticulated system, or

the sale and supply of **sewerage services** for the removal of **sewage** (*including but not limited to community wastewater management systems*)

- the supply of a service provided by Mount Barker District Council (even if the service is not actually used) but does not include any service, or any service of a class, excluded from the ambit of this definition by the **regulations** (as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*).

retailer means the holder of a licence issued by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia under the *Water Industry Act 2012*

sewage includes any form of waste that may be appropriately removed or dealt with through the use of a **sewerage service** (as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*)

sewerage service means:

- a service constituted by the collection, storage, treatment or conveyance of **sewage** through the use of a reticulated system, or
- any other service, or any service of a class, brought within the ambit of this definition by the **regulations**

(as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*) (Note: sewerage service includes but not limited to community wastewater management systems)

water includes rainwater, stormwater, desalinated water, recycled water and water that may include any material or impurities, but does not include **sewage** (as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*)

water service means:

- a service constituted by the collection, storage, production, treatment, conveyance, reticulation or supply of **water**, or
- any other service, or any service of a class, brought within the ambit of this definition by the **regulations**.

(as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*)

4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Council

- To provide a policy to assess hardship.

Chief Executive Officer

- Has the necessary powers to make all decisions under or for the purposes of this Policy. The Chief Executive Officer may further sub-delegate this power.

General Manager Corporate Services & Manager Financial Services:

- Will ensure policy is reviewed as legislation is amended.

Team Leader Revenue

- Will liaise with the customer experiencing hardship.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1 IDENTIFYING RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

- 5.1.1 A **customer** experiencing **financial hardship** is someone who is identified by themselves, by **Council**, by an **accredited financial counsellor**, or by a welfare agency as having the intention, but not the financial capacity, to make required payments in accordance with **our** payment terms.
- 5.1.2 There are two types of **financial hardship**: ongoing and temporary. Depending on the type of **hardship** being experienced, **hardship customers** will have different needs and will require different solutions.
- 5.1.3 **Customers** who are identified as experiencing ongoing **hardship** are generally those on low or fixed incomes. These **customers** may require ongoing assistance.
- 5.1.4 **Customers** who may be identified as experiencing temporary **hardship** are those who have experienced a short-term change in circumstances, such as serious illness, disability or death in the family, loss or change in income, separation, divorce or other family crisis, a loss arising from an accident, or some other temporary financial difficulty. These **customers** generally require flexibility and temporary assistance, such as an extension of time to pay or an alternative payment arrangement.
- 5.1.5 The extent of **hardship** will be determined by either **Council's** assessment process or by an external body, such as an **accredited financial counsellor**.
- 5.1.6 Where Council assesses a **customer's** eligibility for **hardship** assistance, Council **will** consider indicators including (but not limited to) whether:
- the **customer** is on a Centrelink income and holds a Pensioner Concession Card or holds a Centrelink Low Income Health Care Card
 - the **customer** is eligible for a South Australian Government concession
 - the **customer** has been referred by an **accredited financial counsellor** or welfare agency
 - the **customer** advises they have previously applied for emergency relief (irrespective of whether or not their application was successful)
 - the **customer's** payment history indicates that they have had difficulty meeting their **retail services** bills in the past
 - the **customer**, through self assessment, has identified their position regarding their ability to pay.

5.2 ASSISTING CUSTOMERS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

5.2.1 Council will inform a **customer** of this **customer hardship policy** where:

- it appears that non-payment of a bill for **services** is due to the **customer** experiencing payment difficulties due to **hardship**, or
- **Council is** proposing to install a flow restriction device due to non payment of a recycled water bill.

5.2.2 Where a **customer** has been identified as experiencing **financial hardship**, **Council** will offer the **customer**, as soon as is reasonably practicable, flexible and frequent payment options that have regard to the **hardship customer's** usage, capacity to pay and current financial situation. These options will include the following:

- an interest and fee free payment plan that complies with Section 8 Payment Plans (below)
- Centrelink's Centrepay service (only where available), or
- other arrangement, under which the **customer** is given more time to pay a bill or to pay in arrears (including any disconnection or restriction charges),

recognising that some **customers** have a short-term **financial hardship** issue that may be resolved in the near to medium-term, where others may require a different type of assistance for ongoing financial issues.

5.2.3 **Council** will not charge a **customer** a reconnection charge where that **customer** is experiencing **financial hardship** and should have been identified as eligible for this **customer hardship policy**, so long as the **customer** agrees to participate in **our hardship program**, upon reconnection.

5.2.4 **Council** will engage in discussion with the **hardship customer** to determine a realistic payment option in line with the **customer's** capacity to pay.

5.2.5 **Council** will work with a **hardship customer's financial counsellor** to determine the payment arrangement and instalment amount that best suits the **customer** and their individual circumstances.

Where a **hardship customer's** circumstances change, **Council** will work with the **customer**, and their **financial counsellor**, to re-negotiate their payment arrangement.

5.2.6 **Council** will not require a **hardship customer** to provide a security deposit.

5.2.7 **Council** will not restrict a **hardship customer's services** if:

- the **customer** has agreed to a payment arrangement and continues to adhere to the terms of that arrangement, or

- **Council** has failed to comply with the requirements of this **customer hardship policy**, or
- the **customer's service** is a community wastewater management system or other sewerage service.

5.2.8 **Council** will also offer the **hardship customer**:

- where appropriate, information about the right to have a bill redirected to a third person, as long as that third person consents in writing to that redirection
- information about, and referral to, Commonwealth and South Australian Government concessions, rebates, grants and assistance programs
- information about, and referral to, accredited financial and other relevant counselling and support services, particularly where a **customer** is experiencing ongoing **financial hardship**.

5.2.9 Where a **hardship customer** requests information or a redirection of their bills, **Council** will provide that information or redirection free of charge.

5.2.10 **Council** will provide information to the **hardship customer** on how to reduce usage and improve **water** efficiency, which may include referral to relevant government **water** efficiency programs. This will be provided at no charge to the **customer**.

5.2.11 **Council** will explain to the **hardship customer** how and when the **customer** will be returned to regular billing cycles (and collection), after they have successfully completed the **hardship program**.

5.2.12 **Council** will also explain to the **hardship customer** that they will be removed from **our hardship program**, and be returned to **our** standard collection cycles, including debt recovery, should they cease to make payments according to the agreed payment arrangement or fail to contact **Council** for a period of greater than 90 days.

5.2.13 **Council** will not take any action to remove a **customer** from our **hardship program** until **we** have sent the **customer** a written notice, allowing them 10 working days from the date of the notice to contact **Council** to re-negotiate their re-entry into the program.

5.3 SERVICES PROVIDED BY COUNCIL

Council rates accounts are made up of a combination of rates and **services** (as defined in this policy).

All or any other sums that are due to the council for rates and services may be dealt with under this **hardship** policy.

5.4 PAYMENT PLANS

5.4.1 Council's payment plan for a hardship customer will be established having regard to:

- the **customer's** capacity to pay and current financial situation
- any arrears owing by the **customer**
- the **customer's** expected usage needs over the following 12 month period.

5.4.2 The payment plan will also include an offer for the **hardship customer** to pay for their **services** in advance or in arrears by instalment payments at a frequency agreed with the **customer** (e.g. weekly, fortnightly, monthly or as otherwise agreed with the **customer**).

Where a payment plan is offered to a **hardship customer**, **we** will inform the **customer** in writing, within 10 business days of an agreement being reached, of:

- the duration of the plan
- the amount of each instalment payable under the plan, the frequency of instalments and the date by which each instalment must be paid
- if the **customer** is in arrears – the number of instalments to pay the arrears, and
- if the **customer** is to pay in advance – the basis on which instalments are calculated.

5.4.3 **Council** will waive any fees for late payment of a bill for a **hardship customer** provided the terms of the payment agreement are being met.

Where a **hardship customer** is seeking assistance in accordance with this **policy**, but has failed to fulfil their obligations under an existing hardship arrangement, **Council** will require them to sign up for direct debit deductions or Centrepay (where available).

5.5 DEBT RECOVERY

5.5.1 **Council** will suspend debt recovery processes while negotiating a suitable payment arrangement with a **hardship customer**.

5.5.2 **Council** will not engage in legal action or commence proceedings for the recovery of a debt relating to a **retail service** for a **hardship customer** if:

- the **customer** has agreed to a payment arrangement and continues to adhere to the terms of that arrangement, or
- **Council** has failed to comply with the requirements of this **customer hardship policy**.

5.6 RIGHTS OF CUSTOMERS EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Every **customer** experiencing **financial hardship** has the right to:

- Be treated respectfully on a case-by-case basis, and have their circumstances kept confidential.
- Receive information about alternative payment arrangements, this **customer hardship policy**, and government concessions, rebates, grants and assistance programs.
- Negotiate an amount they can afford to pay on a payment plan or other payment arrangement.
- Consider various payment methods, and receive written confirmation of the agreed payment arrangement within 10 business days.
- Renegotiate their payment arrangement if there is a change in their circumstances.
- Receive information about free and independent, **accredited financial counselling services**.
- Receive a language interpreter service at no cost to the customer.
- Be shielded from legal action and additional debt recovery costs, whilst they continue to make payments according to an agreed payment arrangement.
- Not have **services** restricted or disconnected as long as they have agreed to a payment arrangement and continue to make payments according to an agreed plan.

5.7 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 5.7.1 **Council** will ensure **customers** have equitable access to this **customer hardship policy**, and that this **policy** is applied consistently.
- 5.7.2 **Council** will ensure appropriate training of staff dealing with **customers** in **hardship** to enable them to treat **customers** with respect and without making value judgements. Training will also assist staff in the early identification of **hardship customers**, with establishing payment plans based on a **hardship customer's** capacity to pay, and include processes for referral to an **accredited financial counsellor** or welfare agency for assistance.
- 5.7.3 This **customer hardship policy** does not limit or prevent **Council** from waiving any fee, charge or amount of arrears for the provision of **services** to **customers** who are experiencing **financial hardship**.

5.8 DELEGATION

The Council has delegated to its Chief Executive Officer the necessary powers to make all decisions under or for the purposes of this Policy. The Chief Executive Officer may further sub-delegate this power.

5.9 CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information disclosed by a **customer** is confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than the assessment of an application for assistance.

5.10 COMPLAINTS HANDLING

Details of **Council's** customer complaints and dispute resolution process are available at **Council's** website: www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au. Council will also make a copy of this process available to a **customer**, upon request, as soon as practicable, and at no charge to the **customer**.

A **customer** experiencing **hardship** has a right to have any complaint heard and addressed by **Council**, and in the event that their complaint cannot be resolved, the right to escalate their complaint to the relevant Ombudsman. Further details can be found at www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au and www.ewosa.com.au.

5.11 EXCLUSIONS

Where there is a commercial contract for the supply of service, the conditions within the contract will take precedence over this policy.

6. TRAINING / EDUCATION

Training not required. The use of this policy will assist in the education of staff to identify when to commence the elements previously described to assist in identifying ratepayers hardship circumstances and the action required.

7. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed:

- every three years; or
- the frequency dictated in legislation, or
- earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related Policies and Procedures; or;
- if deemed necessary by the General Manager of Corporate Services.

8. ACCESS TO THE POLICY

The Policy is available for public inspection at the Customer Service Centre, at the Local Government Centre, 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker, South Australia and on the Council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au

1. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on this Policy, please contact:

Title: Manager Financial Services

Address: PO Box 54, Mount Barker

South Australia, SA, 5251

Telephone: 08 8391 7200

Email: council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

REFERENCE NUMBER	DOC/23/151658		
PREVIOUS DOCUMENT NUMBER:	DOC/20/26280		
INTERNAL GOVERNANCE:			
Author	Name: Steven Ireland	Title: Manager Financial Services	Date: 3/11/2023
Responsible General Manager:	Name: Alex Oulianoff	Title: General Manager Corporate Services	Date: 3/11/2023
Reviewed by CEO	Name		Date
REVIEWED BY CGG			Date of Meeting
APPROVED BY (DOCUMENT OWNER):	Council		
	[meeting minute #]		[meeting date]
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND RELATED DOCUMENTS:	Local Government Act 1999 Water Industry Act 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates Rebate Policy • Rating Policy • Rates Fines Policy 		
COMMUNITY PLAN 2020-2035 REFERENCE:	Governance and Leadership GL: 2 Corporate Capacity and Leadership GL 2.1 Demonstrate accountability through clear, relevant and easily accessible policies and corporate reporting		
REVIEW CYCLE	This Policy will be reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (if a new Policy in 6 or 12 months and then)every three years; or - the frequency dictated in legislation, or - earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related Policies and Procedures or ; - if deemed necessary by the Manager Financial Services Review within 12 months of new Council term It is recognised that from time to time circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this		

	document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name or a State or Federal Department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council (if statutory) or the Chief Executive Officer (if administrative).		
NEXT REVIEW DATE	6/11/2026		
DOCUMENT HISTORY:			
DOCUMENT VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR (PERSON TO WHOM CHANGES ARE TO BE RECOMMENDED)	NATURE OF CHANGE
VERSION 1.0			
VERSION 2.0			
VERSION 3.0			
DOCUMENT LOCATION:	Council website [publication date] Available for inspection, downloading or printing from our website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au		
	This Policy is available for inspection, during business hours at: Mount Barker District Council, Level 1, 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker		



TITLE: Hardship Policy

REFERENCE NUMBER:	Doc/20/26280
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ DEPARTMENT:	Corporate
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:	Local Government Act 1999 Water Industry Act 2012
MOUNT BARKER 2035—DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN:	Governance and Leadership GL: 2 Corporate Capacity and Leadership GL 2.1 Demonstrate accountability through clear, relevant and easily accessible policies and corporate reporting
RELATED POLICIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates Rebate Policy • Rating Policy • Rates Fines Policy
SUPPORTING PROCEDURES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
PREVIOUS REVIEW DATES:	17 November 2015
ENDORSED BY COUNCIL:	3 August 2020
MINUTE RESOLUTION NUMBER:	OM20200803.17
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	March 2023

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to identify customers who are experiencing payment difficulties due to hardship, and assist those customers to better manage their bills on an ongoing basis.

This policy sets out:

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- an outline of a range of processes or programs that we will use, or apply, to assist our customers who have been identified as experiencing payment difficulties.

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Mount Barker District Council is committed to assisting customers who are experiencing financial hardship, to manage their payments in a manner that best suits the customer, and ensuring they are serviced.

This policy is based on:

- the customer hardship policy for minor and intermediate retailers, made by the Minister for ~~Communities and Social Inclusion~~ Human Services, pursuant to section 37 of the *Water Industry Act 2012*, under a delegation by the Minister for Water and the River Murray, with modification. The reviewed policy has been provided to the Essential Services Commission of South Australia seeking feedback. The modifications contained in this policy have been approved by the Essential Services Commission of South Australia.
- Section 182 of the Local Government Act 1999 permits a Council to partially or wholly remit rates or to postpone rates on the basis of hardship.

3. DEFINITIONS

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- in prescribed circumstances, a person supplied with **services** as a **consumer** or user of those services (without limiting the application of this definition to owners of land), and
- a person of a class declared by the **regulations** to be **customers**

(as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*) (Note: you may be a **customer** by virtue of being a council ratepayer)

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_____ the sale and supply of **sewerage services** for the removal of **sewage** (*including but not limited to community wastewater management systems*)

- the supply of a service provided by Mount Barker District Council

(even if the service is not actually used) but does not include any service, or any service of a class, excluded from the ambit of this definition by the **regulations** (as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*).

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(as defined in the *Water Industry Act 2012*)

4. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Council

- To provide a policy to assess hardship.

Chief Executive Officer

- Has the necessary powers to make all decisions under or for the purposes of this Policy. The Chief Executive Officer may further sub-delegate this power.

General Manager Corporate Services & Manager Financial Officer Services:

- Will ensure policy is reviewed as legislation is amended.

Manager Revenue, Property and Records / Revenue & Property Officers

Team Leader Revenue

- Will liaise with the customer experiencing hardship.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

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- 5.1.1 A **customer** experiencing **financial hardship** is someone who is identified by themselves, by **Council**, by an **accredited financial counsellor**, or by a welfare agency as having the intention, but not the financial capacity, to make required payments in accordance with **our** payment terms.
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 - the **customer** advises they have previously applied for emergency relief (irrespective of whether or not their application was successful)
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 - the **customer**, through self assessment, has identified their position regarding their ability to pay.

5.2 ASSISTING CUSTOMERS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

- 5.2.1 Council will inform a **customer** of this **customer hardship policy** where:

- it appears that non-payment of a bill for **services** is due to the **customer** experiencing payment difficulties due to **hardship**, or
- **Council is** proposing to install a flow restriction device due to non payment of a recycled water bill.

5.2.2 Where a **customer** has been identified as experiencing **financial hardship**, **Council** will offer the **customer**, as soon as is reasonably practicable, flexible and frequent payment options that have regard to the **hardship customer's** usage, capacity to pay and current financial situation. These options will include the following:

- an interest and fee free payment plan that complies with Section 8 Payment Plans (below)
- Centrelink's Centrepay service (only where available), or
- other arrangement, under which the **customer** is given more time to pay a bill or to pay in arrears (including any disconnection or restriction charges),

recognising that some **customers** have a short-term **financial hardship** issue that may be resolved in the near to medium-term, where others may require a different type of assistance for ongoing financial issues.

5.2.3 **Council** will not charge a **customer** a reconnection charge where that **customer** is experiencing **financial hardship** and should have been identified as eligible for this **customer hardship policy**, so long as the **customer** agrees to participate in **our hardship program**, upon reconnection.

5.2.4 **Council** will engage in discussion with the **hardship customer** to determine a realistic payment option in line with the **customer's** capacity to pay.

5.2.5 **Council** will work with a **hardship customer's financial counsellor** to determine the payment arrangement and instalment amount that best suits the **customer** and their individual circumstances.

Where a **hardship customer's** circumstances change, **Council** will work with the **customer**, and their **financial counsellor**, to re-negotiate their payment arrangement.

5.2.6 **Council** will not require a **hardship customer** to provide a security deposit.

5.2.7 **Council** will not restrict a **hardship customer's services** if:

- the **customer** has agreed to a payment arrangement and continues to adhere to the terms of that arrangement, or
- **Council** has failed to comply with the requirements of this **customer hardship policy**, or

- the **customer's service** is a community wastewater management system or other sewerage service.

5.2.8 **Council** will also offer the **hardship customer**:

- where appropriate, information about the right to have a bill redirected to a third person, as long as that third person consents in writing to that redirection
- information about, and referral to, Commonwealth and South Australian Government concessions, rebates, grants and assistance programs
- information about, and referral to, accredited financial and other relevant counselling and support services, particularly where a **customer** is experiencing ongoing **financial hardship**.

5.2.9 Where a **hardship customer** requests information or a redirection of their bills, **Council** will provide that information or redirection free of charge.

5.2.10 **Council** will provide information to the **hardship customer** on how to reduce usage and improve **water** efficiency, which may include referral to relevant government **water** efficiency programs. This will be provided at no charge to the **customer**.

5.2.11 **Council** will explain to the **hardship customer** how and when the **customer** will be returned to regular billing cycles (and collection), after they have successfully completed the **hardship program**.

5.2.12 **Council** will also explain to the **hardship customer** that they will be removed from **our hardship program**, and be returned to **our** standard collection cycles, including debt recovery, should they cease to make payments according to the agreed payment arrangement or fail to contact **Council** for a period of greater than 90 days.

5.2.13 **Council** will not take any action to remove a **customer** from our **hardship program** until **we** have sent the **customer** a written notice, allowing them 10 working days from the date of the notice to contact **Council** to re-negotiate their re-entry into the program.

5.3 **SERVICES PROVIDED BY COUNCIL**

Council rates accounts are made up of a combination of rates and **services** (as defined in this policy).

All or any other sums that are due to the council for rates and services may be dealt with under this **hardship** policy.

5.4 PAYMENT PLANS

5.4.1 Council's payment plan for a hardship customer will be established having regard to:

- the **customer's** capacity to pay and current financial situation
- any arrears owing by the **customer**
- the **customer's** expected usage needs over the following 12 month period.

5.4.2 The payment plan will also include an offer for the **hardship customer** to pay for their **services** in advance or in arrears by instalment payments at a frequency agreed with the **customer** (e.g. weekly, fortnightly, monthly or as otherwise agreed with the **customer**).

Where a payment plan is offered to a **hardship customer**, we will inform the **customer** in writing, within 10 business days of an agreement being reached, of:

- the duration of the plan
- the amount of each instalment payable under the plan, the frequency of instalments and the date by which each instalment must be paid
- if the **customer** is in arrears – the number of instalments to pay the arrears, and
- if the **customer** is to pay in advance – the basis on which instalments are calculated.

5.4.3 **Council** will waive any fees for late payment of a bill for a **hardship customer** provided the terms of the payment agreement are being met.

Where a **hardship customer** is seeking assistance in accordance with this **policy**, but has failed to fulfil their obligations under an existing hardship arrangement, **Council** will require them to sign up for direct debit deductions or Centrepay (where available).

5.5 DEBT RECOVERY

5.5.1 **Council** will suspend debt recovery processes while negotiating a suitable payment arrangement with a **hardship customer**.

5.5.2 **Council** will not engage in legal action or commence proceedings for the recovery of a debt relating to a **retail service** for a **hardship customer** if:

- the **customer** has agreed to a payment arrangement and continues to adhere to the terms of that arrangement, or
- **Council** has failed to comply with the requirements of this **customer hardship policy**.

5.6 RIGHTS OF CUSTOMERS EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Every **customer** experiencing **financial hardship** has the right to:

- Be treated respectfully on a case-by-case basis, and have their circumstances kept confidential.
- Receive information about alternative payment arrangements, this **customer hardship policy**, and government concessions, rebates, grants and assistance programs.
- Negotiate an amount they can afford to pay on a payment plan or other payment arrangement.
- Consider various payment methods, and receive written confirmation of the agreed payment arrangement within 10 business days.
- Renegotiate their payment arrangement if there is a change in their circumstances.
- Receive information about free and independent, **accredited financial counselling services**.
- Receive a language interpreter service at no cost to the customer.
- Be shielded from legal action and additional debt recovery costs, whilst they continue to make payments according to an agreed payment arrangement.
- Not have **services** restricted or disconnected as long as they have agreed to a payment arrangement and continue to make payments according to an agreed plan.

5.7 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 5.7.1 **Council** will ensure **customers** have equitable access to this **customer hardship policy**, and that this **policy** is applied consistently.
- 5.7.2 **Council** will ensure appropriate training of staff dealing with **customers** in **hardship** to enable them to treat **customers** with respect and without making value judgements. Training will also assist staff in the early identification of **hardship customers**, with establishing payment plans based on a **hardship customer's** capacity to pay, and include processes for referral to an **accredited financial counsellor** or welfare agency for assistance.
- 5.7.3 This **customer hardship policy** does not limit or prevent **Council** from waiving any fee, charge or amount of arrears for the provision of **services** to **customers** who are experiencing **financial hardship**.

5.8 DELEGATION

The Council has delegated to its Chief Executive Officer the necessary powers to make all decisions under or for the purposes of this Policy. The Chief Executive Officer may further sub-delegate this power.

5.9 CONFIDENTIALITY

Any information disclosed by a **customer** is confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than the assessment of an application for assistance.

5.10 COMPLAINTS HANDLING

Details of **Council's** customer complaints and dispute resolution process are available at **Council's** website: www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au. Council will also make a copy of this process available to a **customer**, upon request, as soon as practicable, and at no charge to the **customer**.

A **customer** experiencing **hardship** has a right to have any complaint heard and addressed by **Council**, and in the event that their complaint cannot be resolved, the right to escalate their complaint to the relevant Ombudsman. Further details can be found at www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au and www.ewosa.com.au.

5.11 EXCLUSIONS

Where there is a commercial contract for the supply of service, the conditions within the contract will take precedence over this policy.

6. TRAINING / EDUCATION

Training not required. The use of this policy will assist in the education of staff to identify when to commence the elements previously described to assist in identifying ratepayers hardship circumstances and the action required.

7. REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed:

- every three years; or
- the frequency dictated in legislation, or
- earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related Policies and Procedures; or;
- if deemed necessary by the ~~Chief Financial Officer~~General Manager of Corporate Services.

8. ACCESS TO THE POLICY

The Policy is available for public inspection at the Customer Service Centre, at the Local Government Centre, 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker, South Australia and on the Council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au

1. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on this Policy, please contact:

Title: ~~Chief Manager~~ Financial ~~Officer~~ Services

Address: PO Box 54, Mount Barker
South Australia, SA, 5251

Telephone: 08 8391 7200

Email: council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au ~~council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au~~

REFERENCE NUMBER	DOC/23/151658		
PREVIOUS DOCUMENT NUMBER:	DOC/20/26280		
INTERNAL GOVERNANCE:			
Author	Name: Steven Ireland	Title: Manager Financial Services	Date: 3/11/2023
Responsible General Manager:	Name: Alex Oulianoff	Title: General Manager Corporate Services	Date: 3/11/2023
Reviewed by CEO	Name	Date	
REVIEWED BY CGG			Date of Meeting
APPROVED BY (DOCUMENT OWNER):	Council		
	[meeting minute #]	[meeting date]	
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND RELATED DOCUMENTS:	Local Government Act 1999 Water Industry Act 2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates Rebate Policy • Rating Policy • Rates Fines Policy 		
COMMUNITY PLAN 2020-2035 REFERENCE:	Governance and Leadership GL: 2 Corporate Capacity and Leadership GL 2.1 Demonstrate accountability through clear, relevant and easily accessible policies and corporate reporting		
REVIEW CYCLE	<p>This Policy will be reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - _____ (if a new Policy in 6 or 12 months and then)every three years; or - _____ the frequency dictated in legislation, or - _____ earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related Policies and Procedures or ; - _____ if deemed necessary by the Manager Financial Services <p>Review within 12 months of new Council term</p> <p>It is recognised that from time to time circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this</p>		

				<p><u>document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name or a State or Federal Department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council (if statutory) or the Chief Executive Officer (if administrative).</u></p>
<u>NEXT REVIEW DATE</u>				6/11/2026
<u>DOCUMENT HISTORY:</u>				
<u>DOCUMENT VERSION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AUTHOR (PERSON TO WHOM CHANGES ARE TO BE RECOMMENDED)</u>	<u>NATURE OF CHANGE</u>	
<u>VERSION 1.0</u>				
<u>VERSION 2.0</u>				
<u>VERSION 3.0</u>				
<u>DOCUMENT LOCATION:</u>				<p>Council website [publication date]</p> <p><u>Available for inspection, downloading or printing from our website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au</u></p>
				<p><u>This Policy is available for inspection, during business hours at: Mount Barker District Council, Level 1, 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker</u></p>

12.10	REPORT TITLE:	REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEETING PROCEDURES – AMENDMENT TO CODE RELATING TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/39690
	ATTACHMENTS:	1. DOC/24/39713 – REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEETING PROCEDURES – MARCH 2024
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Sue Miller, Corporate Governance & Risk Officer
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Community Plan 2020-2035:

Leadership and Good Governance

LGG Strategy 1.3 – Provide opportunities for the community to access and participate in decision-making processes and fully integrate community engagement practices into Council activities.

LGG Strategy 1.5 – Demonstrate accountability through clear, relevant and easily accessible policies, corporate reporting and legislative compliance.

Annual Business Plan:

Nil

Purpose:

To advise Council that the current practice of minuting questions asked without notice at Council and Committee meetings is contrary to the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013, Regulation 9(5); and

To provide a revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures for adoption by Council to bring the Council's Code of Practice into compliance with the Regulations.

Summary Key Issues

- Council can consider related changes to its own meetings practices that vary those within the Local Government Act 1999 and Regulations.
- Council has had a Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures (the Code) since 2014.
- The Code has been reviewed to address an inconsistency with a statutory provision of the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 - refer tracking in attachment 1.
- As the change to the Code is to correct an error in relation to a procedure that is not expressed in the Meeting Regulations as capable being varied, the amended Code does not require a majority of two thirds of the members for it to be carried.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. notes the current practice of minuting questions asked without notice at Council and Committee meetings is contrary to the provisions of the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013, Regulation 9(5); and**
 - 2. adopt the revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures (attachment 1) to bring the Code into alignment with the Regulations.**
-

Background

1. The Mount Barker District Council conducts its meetings according to the rules and procedures in:
 - a. The Local Government Act 1999 (Chapter 6); and
 - b. Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 (as amended) – the Regulations
2. The Code of Practice governs procedures for the Council at its ordinary meetings, special meetings and all meetings of Council's Section 41 Committees.
3. Section 6-Discretionary Procedures of the Regulations allows Council to add to, or vary, aspects of some of the Regulations and to supplement certain regulatory meeting practices for its own set of meeting practices as outlined in its Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures (as adopted). Only some (not all) Regulatory provisions can be amended by the Council in this way.
4. The Regulations that can be varied are limited to:
 - a. R10 (2) Petitions
 - b. R12 (9), (10), (11) Motions
 - c. R13 (1), (3), (4), (5) Amendments to motions
 - d. R15 (1), (2) Addresses by members
 - e. R16 (3) Voting
 - f. R16 (3) Divisions
 - g. R19 Adjourned business
 - h. R21 Chief Executive Officer may submit a report recommending revocation or amendment of Council decision
5. Council has had a Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures (the Code) since 2014. The Code is required to be reviewed annually and was last reviewed on 7 August 2023.

6. The Code is applicable to Council Meetings, Special Council Meetings, Audit and Risk Committee Meetings, Community Grants Assessment Committee Meetings, and Summit and Sport Recreation Park Board Meetings.
7. The Code specifies any discretionary procedures that Council has adopted and provides information on other matters not covered by Regulation (included in a table underneath the relevant Regulation in the Code).
8. It is an optional Code but can assist both Council Members and the public by clarifying why Council takes particular steps process wise, and in some instances allows Council to determine its own meeting practices and procedures.
9. Any change to an optional Code must be supported at a Council meeting by at least two thirds of the members of the Council entitled to vote on the resolution; that is, it is only those parts of the Code that vary a procedure in the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 (the Meetings Regulations) that is expressed as capable of variation that require a resolution supported by two thirds of the members entitled to vote. Refer paragraph 15 below.

Discussion

10. Council has determined its own meeting practices to vary some Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 and where there is no regulation.
11. Council's Code has varied Regulation 9-Questions as it relates to questions without notice. However, a recent review has identified that Regulation 9 is not capable of being varied, and therefore Council's Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures is contrary to the Regulations.

Regulation 9-Questions

9(5) A question without notice and the reply will not be entered in the minutes of the relevant meeting unless the members present at the meeting resolve that an entry should be made.

12. This report is to correct the contradiction and ensure Council's Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures is compliant with the Regulations.
13. Effective from this council meeting, any questions without notice for which Council has not resolved specifically that an entry should be made in the minutes will be reflected in the minutes of the relevant meeting as follows:

Questions without notice were asked and responded to at the meeting.

14. Council Members are encouraged to provide any questions as Questions with Notice pursuant to Regulation 9(1):

Regulation 9-Questions

(1) A member may ask a question on notice by giving the chief executive officer written notice of the question at least 7 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the question is to be asked.

- 15. It is only those parts of the Code that vary a procedure in the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 (the Meetings Regulations) that is expressed as capable of variation that require a resolution supported by two thirds of the members entitled to vote. Therefore, as this change to the Code is to correct an error in relation to a procedure that is not expressed in the Meeting Regulations as capable being varied, legal opinion was sought to confirm this change does not require a majority of two thirds of the members for it to be carried.
- 16. In the event the amended Code is not carried, then the Council’s Code of Practice will have an element that is ultra vires, therefore staff will be administering minuting of meetings in accordance with the Regulations.
- 17. As part of this review, clarity has been provided for the timing of submitting of questions with notice when a council or committee meeting is impacted by a public holiday.
- 18. The Code will be reviewed again in April 2025.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	If adopted the revised Code will be placed on Council’s website.
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Policy:

There is an existing Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures.

Long Term Financial Plan:

Nil

Budget:

N/A

Statutory/Legal:

- The Code is an optional code and relates to Section 6 of the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013.
- Local Government Act 1999

Staff Resource Requirements:

There is no impact on staff resourcing.

Environmental:

N/A

Social:

The Code will make it easier for the community to understand the meeting practices used.

Risk Assessment:

Without a Code of Practice there is a risk of inconsistency in meeting procedures.

Asset Management:

N/A

Conclusion

The revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures is recommended for adoption to address a variation Council has made to the Code that is not capable of being varied.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

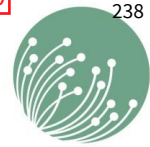
Meeting Date	7 August 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/73852
Title	Revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures		
Purpose	To provide a revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures for adoption by Council.		

Meeting Date	4 July 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/76319
Title	Revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures		
Purpose	To provide a revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures for consideration and adoption by Council.		

Meeting Date	5 July 2021	CM Reference	DOC/21/94638
Title	Revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures		
Purpose	To provide a revised Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures for consideration and adoption by Council.		

Meeting Date	7 December 2020	CM Reference	DOC/20/111479
Title	Visual or Audio Recordings by the Public at Informal Gatherings, Council and Committee Meetings		
Purpose	To recommend additional wording for the Council's Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures regarding audio or visual recordings of Council and Committee meetings and informal gatherings by the public.		

Meeting Date	6 July 2020	CM Reference	DOC/20/76447
Title	Questions from the Gallery During COVID-19 Restrictions		
Purpose	To seek endorsement to amend the way the public can provide Questions from the Gallery and to keep Questions Arising from the Council Meeting in abeyance for the time being.		



TITLE: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEETING PROCEDURES

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Mount Barker District Council conducts its meetings according to the rules and procedures in:

- The Local Government Act 1999 (Chapter 6); and
- Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 (as amended)

These Regulations allow Council to establish a Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures that can add to, or vary, aspects of some of the Regulations and supplements to both the Act and the Regulations. The Regulations that can be varied relate to:

- 10 (2) Petitions
- 12 (9), (10), (11) Motions
- 13 (1), (3), (4), (5) Amendments to motions
- 15 (1), (2) Addresses by members
- 16 (3) Voting
- 16 (3) Divisions
- 19 Adjourned business
- 21 Chief Executive Officer may submit a report recommending revocation or amendment of Council decision

This Code will specify any discretionary procedures that Council has adopted and provides information on other matters not covered by Regulation (included in a table underneath the relevant Regulation).

2. CODE OBJECTIVES

The primary policy objectives of this Policy are to:

- Ensure consistency of approach
- Provide clarity in processes
- To assist in an improved understand of meeting practices used.

This is achieved by:

- providing the information within the Regulations
- provide information on discretionary procedures that Council has adopted (noted under the relevant heading in a box)
- provides information on Council practices for matters both covered by Regulation and not covered by Regulation (noted under the relevant heading in a box)

The Code is applicable to Council and Committee meetings.

3. DEFINITIONS

Act means the *Local Government Act 1999*.

4. OPERATING PROCEDURES PRIOR TO THE MEETING

4.1 Ordinary Meetings

The legislative requirements that allow Council to hold meetings are determined by Section 81 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act), with a similar provision for Committees at Section 87.

4.2 Special Meetings

Section 82 and 83 of the Act specifies requirements for special council meetings. .

The Chief Executive Officer must at the request of:

- the Presiding Member of Council; or
- at least three Council Members or
- a council committee at which at least three members of the council vote in favour of the making of the request

call a Special Council Meeting which may be held at any time.

Section 87 of the Act makes provision for special meetings of Committees.

The Chief Executive Officer must at the request of:

- the presiding member of a council committee; or
- at least two members of a council committee,

call a special meeting of a council committee which may be held at any time.

4.3 Notice of Agendas for Meetings – Ordinary and Special Meetings

Section 83 & 84 of the Local Government Act 1999 establishes the legislative framework for providing Council Members and the public with notice of Council meetings. Council has also determined that this will also apply to Committee meetings.

One copy of the agenda, reports and attachments is provided at the Local Government Centre for public viewing and is also available on Council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au One (1) copy of the agenda will be available per group or per person free of charge. Two (2) copies of the agenda, reports and attachments are provided in the Gallery at the Council and Committee meetings.

Reports from Council officers included in the agenda will generally be accompanied by a recommendation from the relevant officer. A recommendation is not a motion, and has no status until moved and/or seconded. A recommendation forms the starting point for deliberations of the Council or a Committee. The Council or a Committee may adopt the recommendation, vary it, or adopt another approach entirely.

The Council or Committee may, by resolution, amend the order of business as set out in the agenda. The Presiding Member (at their own initiative or at the request of a Member of Council or a Committee) may bring forward items for debate and resolution where, for example, a large gallery is present for the item, or contractors or consultants are present to make presentations. The adoption of this practice will be kept to a minimum to ensure minimum disruption to the meeting and to members of the public.

4.4 Conflict of Interest

The provisions in relation to a Council Member's interest are set out in Sections 73- 75C of the Act. The provisions of Sections 73- 75C apply to meetings of Council and Council committees and apply to Council Members and any other person appointed to a Council Committee.

It is a Council or Committee Member's responsibility to ensure they are aware of, and understand, the provisions of Sections 73-75C of the Act in relation to declarations of interest and how they are to be dealt with.

A Council or Committee Member who has an interest in a matter before the Council must disclose to the Council or Committee whether the interest 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.

Council or Committee Members are encouraged to initially review agendas from the perspective of possible conflicts of interest and where applicable, and as early as possible before a meeting, may seek advice about a possible interest by contacting the Chief Executive Officer or Governance staff. If necessary, the Chief Executive Officer will assist the Member to contact the Council's lawyers directly for advice, at Council's expense.

4.5 Public Access

Council has adopted a 'Code of Practice for Access to Council and Committee Meetings and Documents' which outlines Council's commitment to conducting meetings in a place open to the public unless the Council or Committee makes an order to exclude the public to discuss a matter in confidence under Section 90 and 91 of the Act.

4.6 Late Items

Council will avoid the presentation of late agenda items.

If a late agenda item is unavoidable, every effort will be made to email these items to Council or Committee Members and to post them on Council's website as soon as possible.

Late items will only be considered for matters that arise following the deadline for the production of an agenda, and which, in the best interests of Council, should be dealt with prior to the next Council or Committee meeting.

4.7 Addendums

On occasions additional information is provided following the issue of the meeting agenda, eg:

- revised recommendations based on feedback after the release of the agenda; and/or
- further information that may have come to hand about an agenda item after the agenda has been distributed and which is important to bring to the attention of members before they vote on the matter;

4.8 Ward Donations

Council Members may nominate members of the community or community groups to receive a donation from their annual Ward Allowance. Where possible Council Members should notify Governance staff in advance of the council meeting of the recipient, the amount and the purpose of the donation. The Council meeting resolves on the list of donations to be made.

4.9 Length of Meetings

Council Meetings will conclude by no later than 10.00pm or be adjourned to another date and time unless there is a resolution to extend past that time for a maximum of 30 minutes.

A resolution of Council or a Committee is required to continue with the meeting, or adjourn the remaining business to another time and place. Extensions will be for no longer than 30 minutes.

4.10 Requests from the public to film, photograph or record meetings

Members of the public who wish to film, photograph or record a Council or Committee meeting or a council members' information or briefing session (other than confidential items) must seek approval of the Chief Executive Officer by 3pm on the day of the

meeting/ council members' information or briefing session . A request to seek approval is to be made in writing or via email. The filming, recording or photography must not hinder, interrupt or interfere in the proceedings of the meeting/ council members' information or briefing session .

5. OPERATING PROCEDURES DURING THE MEETING

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Part 1—Preliminary

Regulation 1—Short title

These regulations may be cited as the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013.

Regulation 3—Interpretation

(1) *In these regulations, unless the contrary intention appears—*

Act means the Local Government Act 1999;

clear days—see subregulations (2) and (3);

deputation means a person or group of persons who wish to appear personally before a council or council committee in order to address the council or committee (as the case may be) on a particular matter;

formal motion means a motion—

(a) that the meeting proceed to the next business; or

(b) that the question be put; or

(c) that the question lie on the table; or

(d) that the question be adjourned; or

(e) that the meeting be adjourned¹;

Guiding Principles—see regulation 4;

member means a member of the council or council committee (as the case may be);

point of order means a point raised to draw attention to an alleged breach of the Act or these regulations in relation to the proceedings of a meeting;

presiding member means the person who is the presiding member of a council or council committee (as the case may be) and includes any person who is presiding at a particular meeting;

written notice includes a notice given in a manner or form determined by the council.

- (2) In the calculation of **clear days** in relation to the giving of notice before a meeting—
- (a) the day on which the notice is given, and the day on which the meeting occurs, will not be taken into account; and
 - (b) Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays will be taken into account.
- (3) For the purposes of the calculation of **clear days** under subregulation (2), if a notice is given after 5 p.m. on a day, the notice will be taken to have been given on the next day.
- (4) For the purposes of these regulations, a vote on whether **leave of the meeting** is granted may be conducted by a show of hands (but nothing in this subregulation prevents a division from being called in relation to the vote).

Note—

- 1 See regulation 12 for specific provisions about formal motions.

Regulation 4—Guiding Principles

The following principles (the **Guiding Principles**) should be applied with respect to the procedures to be observed at a meeting of a council or a council committee:

- (a) procedures should be fair and contribute to open, transparent and informed decision-making;
- (b) procedures should encourage appropriate community participation in the affairs of the council;
- (c) procedures should reflect levels of formality appropriate to the nature and scope of responsibilities exercised at the meeting;
- (d) procedures should be sufficiently certain to give the community and decision-makers confidence in the deliberations undertaken at the meeting.

Leave of the Meeting

A vote on whether **leave of the meeting** is granted may be conducted by a show of hands.

A division may be called in relation to the vote.

Meeting Protocols

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones will be switched off or silent during Council and Committee meetings and Council and Committee members are expected to give full attention to the meeting in progress.

Expression of Faith and Acknowledgement of Land

A Prayer will be read by the Presiding Member at the beginning of the Council meeting. Members who wish to stand for this reading may do so. Following the reading of the

Prayer the Presiding Member will read the 'Acknowledgement of Land' to acknowledge the Council meeting is taking place in the country of the traditional owners. Members who wish to stand for this reading may do so.

Questions from the Gallery

There will be an up to 15 minute segment at the beginning of the Council meeting. Refer to Appendix 4 for information about questions from the Gallery.

PART 2 – MEETINGS OF COUNCILS AND KEY COMMITTEES

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 5—Application of Part

The provisions of this Part apply to or in relation to—

- (a) the meetings of a council; and*
- (b) the meetings of a council committee performing regulatory activities; and*
- (c) the meetings of any other council committee if the council has, by resolution, determined that this Part should apply to that committee.*

Regulation 6—Discretionary procedures

- (1) Subject to the requirements of the Act, if a provision of this Part is expressed to be capable of being varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to this regulation, then a council may, by a resolution supported by at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the council entitled to vote on the resolution, determine that a code of practice prepared or adopted by the council that establishes its own procedures for the relevant matter or matters will apply in substitution for the relevant provision (and such a determination will have effect according to its terms).*
- (2) A council should, at least once in every financial year, review the operation of a code of practice under this regulation.*
- (3) A council may at any time, by resolution supported by at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the council entitled to vote on the resolution, alter a code of practice, or substitute or revoke a code of practice.*
- (4) A council must, in considering the exercise of a power under this regulation, take into account the Guiding Principles.*

- (7) Regulation 12(4) does not apply to a motion under subregulation (3).*
- (8) This regulation does not limit or derogate from the operation of regulation 20¹.*

Note—

- ¹ *Furthermore, if a matter is not dealt with by the Act or these regulations (including under a code of practice under this regulation), then the relevant procedure will be—*
- (a) as determined by the council; or*

- (b) *in the case of a council committee where a determination has not been made by the council—as determined by the committee.*

(See sections 86(8) and 89(1) of the Act.)

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 7—Commencement of meetings and quorums

- (1) *A meeting will commence as soon after the time specified in the notice of meeting as a quorum is present.*
- (2) *If the number of apologies received by the chief executive officer indicates that a quorum will not be present at a meeting, the chief executive officer may adjourn the meeting to a specified day and time.*
- (3) *If at the expiration of 30 minutes from the time specified in the notice of meeting as the time of commencement a quorum is not present, the presiding member or, in the absence of a presiding member, the chief executive officer, will adjourn the meeting to a specified day and time.*
- (4) *If a meeting is adjourned for want of a quorum, the chief executive officer will record in the minute book the reason for the adjournment, the names of any members present, and the date and time to which the meeting is adjourned.*
- (5) *If a meeting is adjourned to another day, the chief executive officer must—*
 - (a) *give notice of the adjourned meeting to each member setting out the date, time and place of the meeting; and*
 - (b) *give notice of the adjourned meeting to the public by causing a notice setting out the date, time and place of the meeting to be placed on display at the principal office of the council.*

Adjourned Meetings

If a meeting is adjourned to another day, the Chief Executive Officer must:

- (a) give notice of the adjourned meeting to each member of the Council setting out the date, time and place of the meeting;
- (b) give notice of the adjourned meeting to the public by causing a notice setting out the date, time and place of the meeting to be published on a website determined by the chief executive officer.

Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at a Council or Committee meeting should be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer or Governance staff by email or telephone before the meeting. The apology will be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

If no apology has been received and there is no leave of absence, and the Member is not present they will be recorded in the minutes as being Absent.

Leave of Absence

In accordance with the Act, Council Members should seek leave of the Council meeting if they intend being absent for three or more consecutive ordinary meetings of the Council. Failure to seek, and be granted, leave of absence may result in the Council member losing office in accordance with Section 54 of the Act.

Leave of absence will be recorded in the minutes of the Council meetings for the period required.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 8—Minutes

- (1) *The minutes of the proceedings at a meeting must be submitted for confirmation at the next meeting or, if that is omitted, at a subsequent meeting.*
- (2) *No discussion on the minutes may occur before confirmation, except as to the accuracy of the minutes as a record of proceedings.*
- (3) *On the confirmation of the minutes, the presiding member will—*
 - (a) *initial each page of the minutes, which pages are to be consecutively numbered; and*
 - (b) *place his or her signature and the date of confirmation at the foot of the last page of the minutes.*
- (4) *The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting must include—*
 - (a) *the names of the members present at the meeting; and*
 - (ab) *the name of any member who is not present because the member is suspended or taken to have been granted leave of absence from the office of member of the council; and*
 - (b) *in relation to each member present—*
 - (i) *the time at which the person entered or left the meeting; and*
 - (ii) *unless the person is present for the whole meeting, the point in the proceedings at which the person entered or left the meeting; and*
 - (c) *each motion or amendment, and the names of the mover and seconder; and*
 - (d) *any variation, alteration or withdrawal of a motion or amendment; and*
 - (e) *whether a motion or amendment is carried or lost; and*
 - (f) *any disclosure of interest made by a member; and*
 - (g) *an account of any personal explanation given by a member; and*

- (h) details of the making of an order under subsection (2) of section 90 of the Act (see subsection (7) of that section); and
- (i) a note of the making of an order under subsection (7) of section 91 of the Act in accordance with the requirements of subsection (9) of that section; and
- (j) details of any adjournment of business; and
- (k) a record of any request for documents to be tabled at the meeting; and
- (l) a record of any documents tabled at the meeting; and
- (m) a description of any oral briefing given to the meeting on a matter of council business; and
- (n) any other matter required to be included in the minutes by or under the Act or any regulation.

Discussion by Members

Discussion by Members will not be recorded in the minutes.

Majority Vote

As the majority vote is all that is required to have a motion carried (other than where stipulated that two thirds of the numbers present is required), a unanimous vote will not be recorded.

Personal Explanations

Where a Member has made a personal explanation only the topic and a limited description of the explanation will be included in the minutes.

Recording of the Meeting

The meetings of the Council and Council Committee will be electronically recorded by staff to assist in minute preparation and are disposed of immediately after the minutes are confirmed.

Live streaming of the Meeting

The meetings of Council will be live streamed at the time the meeting is occurring with the exception of any items for which it is resolved are to be considered in confidence.

Projection of Recommendations/Motions/Amendments

Recommendations/Motions/Amendments are projected on the screens within the Chamber during the Council meeting. While this is available for the Gallery to view it is provided primarily to assist Council Members to ensure they are clear on the wording of a motion and/or an amendment.

The screens within the Chamber may not be visible to observers of the live stream.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 (as amended))

Regulation 9—Questions

- (1) *A member may ask a question on notice by giving the chief executive officer written notice of the question at least 7 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the question is to be asked.*
- (2) *If notice of a question is given under subregulation (1)—*
 - (a) *the chief executive officer must ensure that the question is placed on the agenda for the meeting at which the question is to be asked; and*
 - (b) *the question and the reply must be entered in the minutes of the relevant meeting.*
- (3) *A member may ask a question without notice at a meeting.*
- (4) *The presiding member may allow the reply to a question without notice to be given at the next meeting.*
- (5) *A question without notice and the reply will not be entered in the minutes of the relevant meeting unless the members present at the meeting resolve that an entry should be made.*
- (6) *The presiding member may rule that a question with or without notice not be answered if the presiding member considers that the question is vague, irrelevant, insulting or improper.*

Questions on Notice

Questions on Notice will be used by Members of the Council or Committee where the answer does not warrant extensive investigation or reports being prepared (also refer below). Questions are to be provided by 5pm the Sunday prior to the Council meeting or 7 clear days prior to a Committee meeting. In the event a Council meeting is held on a Tuesday, questions are to be provided by 5pm on the Monday prior to the Council meeting. The Question must relate to their role as a Council or Committee Member.

The Presiding Member may rule the question improper if it is ultra vires and although placed on Council's agenda it will not be answered. The Presiding Member will provide reasons for any decision that a question not be answered.

Council staff will provide a written answer to be included in the agenda where time permits.

In circumstances where the Chief Executive Officer determines that extensive investigation or reports will need to be prepared, the matter may be referred to the Council for its consideration and determination on whether the question should be answered.

Council staff are available to provide assistance to Council or Committee members in drafting a question on notice. Requests for assistance can be directed by telephone or email to the Chief Executive Officer, or relevant General Manager or Governance staff with cc to Executive Assistant to CEO & Mayor.

While council staff are able to provide assistance on appropriate wording of a question on notice, ultimate responsibility for the wording of a question on notice rests with the Council or Committee member placing the question on notice.

Questions Without Notice

Council Staff are available to answer questions of Members in advance of meetings.

If a Member asks a question at a meeting without notice, unless there is a specific motion that an entry be made, Council meeting and Committee minutes will only show which Council Member asked the question, the topic and which staff (if any) provided a response record that a question or questions were asked and answered at the meeting unless there is a specific resolution of Council (or Committee) to include further particulars of the Question Without Notice in the minutes of the meeting.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 10—Petitions

- (1) *A petition to the council must—*
 - (a) *be legibly written or typed or printed; and*
 - (b) *clearly set out the request or submission of the petitioners; and*
 - (c) *include the name and address of each person who signed or endorsed the petition; and*
 - (d) *be addressed to the council and delivered to the principal office of the council.*
- (2) *If a petition is received under subregulation (1), the chief executive officer must ensure that the petition or, if the council has so determined as a policy of the council, a statement as to the nature of the request or submission and the number of signatures or the number of persons endorsing the petition, is placed on the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the council or, if so provided by a policy of the council, a committee of the council.*
- (3) *Subregulation (2) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.*

Petitions

Pursuant to Regulation 10(2) the petition (including on-line petitions) must be placed on the agenda of the next Council or a Committee meeting (whichever is the most appropriate).

A petition must be addressed to the Council and delivered to the Council by means determined by the Chief Executive Officer as follows:

- emailed to council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au; or
- mailed to Council at PO Box 54 Mount Barker SA 5251

The Chief Executive Officer will ensure that the report to the Council (or Committee) contains:

- a summary of the petition including a statement as to the nature of the request or submission,
- the number of signatures;
- how many of the signatories live within the District; and
- the first page of the petition as an attachment

A copy of the full petition will be made available to all Council or Committee Members upon request, and will be provided at the meeting for perusal.

Timing of Petition

If a petition is received after the agenda has been distributed but before the meeting is held it will only be tabled at the meeting. At the following meeting the petition will be received.

What is not a petition

A letter with multiple signatures is not regarded as a petition.

Tabled Petitions

A Council member may table a petition at a Council meeting. If the petition is unrelated to an agenda item for the meeting, then the following Council meeting will provide a report to receive the petition.

Template

Use of the template on Council's website (and attached to this Code of Practice) is encouraged.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 11—Deputations

- (1) *A person or persons wishing to appear as a deputation at a meeting must deliver (to the principal office of the council) a written request to the council.*
- (2) *The chief executive officer must transmit a request received under subregulation (1) to the presiding member.*
- (3) *The presiding member may refuse to allow the deputation to appear at a meeting.*
- (4) *The chief executive officer must take reasonable steps to ensure that the person or persons who requested a deputation are informed of the outcome of the request.*
- (5) *If the presiding member refuses to allow a deputation to appear at a meeting, the presiding member must report the decision to the next meeting of the council or council committee (as the case may be).*
- (6) *The council or council committee may resolve to allow a deputation to appear despite a contrary ruling by the presiding member.*
- (7) *A council may refer the hearing of a deputation to a council committee.*

Deputations

A person or persons wishing to appear as a deputation at a meeting must deliver (to the Council by means determined by the Chief Executive Officer as set out below) a written request to the Council:

- emailed to council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au; or
- mailed to Council at PO Box 54 Mount Barker SA 5251

Should the person(s) presenting the Deputation be representing an organisation, association or other body, they may be requested by administration to provide a copy of the relevant Constitution and Rules or a minute from a meeting at which the deputation was authorised, for that organisation, association or other body prior to commencing their Deputation.

If a deputation is requested for the next council or committee meeting it must be received prior to finalising the agenda or 5 days prior to the Committee Meeting to enable the matter to be given the appropriate public notice and be listed on the agenda.

If the deputation relates to a matter of business on the agenda, a person or persons wishing to appear as a deputation at a meeting must provide their written request to the Council by 10.00am on the day of the meeting.

A person or persons appearing as a deputation will be allowed to speak on an issue for a maximum of 5 minutes. The Presiding Member may allow additional time and seek

leave of the meeting by show of hands to do so. Council Members may then ask questions at the conclusion of the deputation.

Visual Presentation

Any visual presentation must be supplied on a USB drive and provided to the Minute Secretary prior to the meeting.

Visual presentations can be shared via electronic means by the person undertaking the deputation.

Multiple speakers

Where the deputation involves a group of people only new points may be spoken of by other members. The Presiding Member has discretion to determine if the subject matter has been covered by previous speakers.

Distribution of Notes

If notes are to be distributed, this may occur electronically prior to the meeting (with a copy provided to the Minute Secretary). Council Member details are available on Council's website. If provided at the meeting 12 copies must be provided to the Minute Secretary prior to the commencement of the meeting to distribute and may not be distributed at the meeting by the person making the deputation.

Minutes

Only the time taken for the deputation, the speaker's name and the topic will be recorded in the minutes.

Template

Use of the template on Council's website (and attached to this Code of Practice) is encouraged.

Presentations

At times:

- the Mayor will invite an organisation to present relevant information to Council;
- a staff member will present relevant information to a Committee or Council meeting.

Such presentations do not include Deputations nor representations. The duration of each presentation is to be no longer than 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions, if required. There is to be a limit of two (2) presentations per scheduled meeting.

Should Council resolve to allow a Deputation that has previously been refused by the

Presiding Member to be presented it will be placed as an item of business on the agenda of the next ordinary meeting.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 12—Motions

- (1) *A member may bring forward any business in the form of a written notice of motion.*
- (2) *The notice of motion must be given to the chief executive officer at least 7 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the motion is to be moved.*
- (3) *A motion the effect of which, if carried, would be to revoke or amend a resolution passed since the last general election of the council must be brought by written notice of motion.*
- (4) *If a motion under subregulation (3) is lost, a motion to the same effect cannot be brought—*
 - (a) *until after the expiration of 12 months; or*
 - (b) *until after the next general election,**whichever is the sooner.*
- (5) *Subject to the Act and these regulations, a member may also bring forward any business by way of a motion without notice.*
- (6) *The presiding member may refuse to accept a motion without notice if, after taking into account the Guiding Principles, he or she considers that the motion should be dealt with by way of a written notice of motion.*
- (7) *The presiding member may refuse to accept a motion if the subject matter is, in his or her opinion, beyond the power of the council or council committee (as the case may be).*
- (8) *A motion will lapse if it is not seconded at the appropriate time.*
- (9) *A member moving or seconding a motion will speak to the motion at the time of moving or seconding the motion.*
- (10) *A member may only speak once to a motion except—*
 - (a) *to provide an explanation in regard to a material part of his or her speech, but not so as to introduce any new matter; or*
 - (b) *with leave of the meeting; or*
 - (c) *as the mover in reply.*
- (11) *A member who has spoken to a motion may not at a later stage of the debate move or second an amendment to the motion.*

- (12) *A member who has not spoken in the debate on a question may move a formal motion.*
- (13) *A formal motion must be in the form of a motion set out in subregulation (14) (and no other formal motion to a different effect will be recognised).*
- (14) *If the formal motion is—*
- (a) *that **the meeting proceed to the next business**, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is, in the case of an amendment, that the amendment lapses and the meeting proceeds with the consideration of the motion before the meeting without further reference to the amendment and, in the case of a motion, that the motion lapses and the meeting proceeds to the next item of business; or*
 - (b) *that **the question be put**, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that debate is terminated and the question put to the vote by the presiding member without further debate; or*
 - (c) *that **the question lie on the table**, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the meeting immediately moves to the next item of business and the question can then only be retrieved at a later time by resolution (and, if so retrieved, debate is then resumed at the point of interruption); or*
 - (d) *that **the question be adjourned**, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the question is disposed of for the time being but debate can be resumed at the later time (at the point of interruption); or*
 - (e) *that **the meeting be adjourned**, then the effect of the motion, if successful, is that the meeting is brought to an end immediately without the consideration of further business.*
- (15) *If seconded, a formal motion takes precedence and will be put by the presiding member without discussion unless the motion is for an adjournment (in which case discussion may occur (but only occur) on the details for resumption).*
- (16) *A formal motion does not constitute an amendment to a substantive motion.*
- (17) *If a formal motion is lost—*
- (a) *the meeting will be resumed at the point at which it was interrupted; and*
 - (b) *if the formal motion was put during debate (and not at the end of debate) on a question, then a similar formal motion (ie, a motion to the same effect) cannot be put until at least 1 member has spoken on the question.*
- (18) *A formal motion for adjournment must include the reason for the adjournment and the details for resumption.*
- (19) *Any question that lies on the table as a result of a successful formal motion under subregulation (14)(c) lapses at the next general election.*

(20) *The chief executive officer must report on each question that lapses under subregulation (19) to the council at the first ordinary meeting of the council after the general election.*

(21) *Subregulations (9), (10) and (11) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.*

Motions

Pursuant to Regulation 12 (21) The Presiding Member may seek a mover of a motion (which may or may not be the recommendation included in the report) and then a seconder.

If a seconder for the motion is not forthcoming immediately, the mover will have up to 5 minutes to speak to the motion following which the Presiding Member will again seek a seconder. If there isn't a seconder then, the motion will lapse.

- a) The mover or seconder of a motion may reserve their right to speak to a motion at the time of moving or seconding.
- b) If a written notice of motion to retrieve a question that lies on the table is not successful (either not seconded, or is lost) the meeting moves to the next agenda item. A retrieval motion can be brought forward again at a future Council meeting via a written Notice of Motion to be submitted in advance of the meeting.

In the event the motion to retrieve a question from the table is carried, there will then be a motion before Council, and debate will resume on the motion (at the point of interruption).

In the case of a successful amendment to a motion (i.e. an amendment that is carried), only those who moved or seconded the amendment will be taken to have spoken to the motion as amended.

En Bloc Motion

Normally, only multiple reports that are for noting will be moved en bloc.

Committee Recommendations

Committee recommendations for Council to resolve will be considered individually by Council and will not be moved en bloc. This will ensure any possible future rescission motion will only affect one resolution rather than a block of resolutions.

Questions for Clarification Prior to the Meeting

Members are encouraged to contact Council staff prior to Council and Committee

meetings to clarify matters appearing on the agenda. The preferred method of contact by Council Members for a Council meeting is by email to the council meeting agenda items email or telephone. As per Council's Council Members' Access to Information Policy and Procedure emails should be directed to a Manager, General Manager or Chief Executive Officer, and include a copy to the relevant General Manager, and all Council / (Committee) Members, and the Executive Assistant to CEO and Mayor.

Notice of Motion

Requests for assistance in wording the Motion can be directed by telephone or email to the Chief Executive Officer or relevant General Manager or Governance staff with cc to the Executive Assistant to CEO & Mayor.

Inclusion of some background information assists members with the rationale behind the motion.

While council staff are able to provide assistance on appropriate wording of a notice of motion, ultimate responsibility for the wording of a notice of motion rests with the Council or Committee member placing the motion on notice.

Where deemed appropriate (and if time permits) the Chief Executive Officer, may include 'Officer Comment' in order to facilitate informed decision making.

If the Member moving the Motion is absent and has not advised the Presiding Member if they wish it withdrawn and resubmitted to a future meeting:

- a) another Member may move the motion; or
- b) the meeting may resolve to include the Motion in the next agenda when the member is present

A Moved Motion Which is Lost

Other than the circumstance as detailed in Regulation 12(3) and (4) a lost motion can be brought back to Council at another time.

Motions Without Notice – Regulation 12 (5)

Motions without notice have not been advertised to the broader community and will therefore be restricted to business that is:

- a) a request that a report on a particular topic be presented at a future meeting;
- b) a simple matter, requiring little information to be considered, and the impact is deemed to be minor; and
- c) a matter of such urgency and importance that failure to consider it at the meeting would be likely to result in detriment to the Council.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 13—Amendments to motions

- (1) *A member who has not spoken to a motion at an earlier stage of the debate may move or second an amendment to the motion.*
- (2) *An amendment will lapse if it is not seconded at the appropriate time.*
- (3) *A person who moves or seconds an amendment (and, if he or she chooses to do so, speaks to the amendment) will, in so doing, be taken to have spoken to the motion to which the amendment relates.*
- (4) *If an amendment is lost, only 1 further amendment may be moved to the original motion.*
- (5) *If an amendment is carried, only 1 further amendment may be moved to the original motion.*
- (6) *Subregulations (1), (3), (4) and (5) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.*

Amendments

1. Amendments are not permitted to be a direct negative to the motion, Amendments are only meant to alter or provide a minor change not to substantially modify the motion.
2. Although there is a restriction on who can move and second an amendment (Regulation 13 (1) and (3)), other members may speak in the amendment debate.
3. There is no right of reply with the mover of an amendment because it is not a motion and has no standing on its own. The right of reply rests with the mover of the original motion.
4. A mover and seconder will be required for the amendment and they will be taken to have spoken to the motion as per the Regulations.
5. The mover of the amendment does not have a right of reply prior to the amendment being voted on.
6. The mover and seconder of the amendment cannot be the mover or seconder of the motion being amended or a member who has already spoken to the

motion.

7. Only those who moved or seconded the amendment will be taken to have spoken to the motion:
 - a) All other Members are entitled to speak to the amendment and, in so doing will not be deemed to have spoken to the motion
 - b) The amendment, if carried, will become the motion as amended for Council to consider
 - c) The mover in reply will close the debate on the motion as AMENDED

A Division cannot be called on an amendment as it is not a motion.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 14—Variations etc

- (1) *The mover of a motion or amendment may, with the consent of the seconder, request leave of the meeting to vary, alter or withdraw the motion or amendment.*
- (2) *The presiding member must immediately put the question for leave to be granted and no debate will be allowed on that question.*

Regulation 15—Addresses by members etc

- (1) *A member must not speak for longer than 5 minutes at any 1 time without leave of the meeting.*
- (2) *A member may, with leave of the meeting, raise a matter of urgency.*
- (3) *A member may, with leave of the meeting, make a personal explanation.*
- (4) *The subject matter of a personal explanation may not be debated.*
- (5) *The contribution of a member must be relevant to the subject matter of the debate.*
- (6) *Subregulations (1) and (2) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.*

Addresses by Members

Council: Members will raise their hand and wait for recognition from the Presiding Member prior to standing and addressing the Council.

Committees: Members will raise their hand and wait for recognition from the Presiding Member before speaking and may remain seated.

Forms of Address

The Mayor shall be addressed as Your Worship or Mayor.

Councillors should be referred to as ‘Councillor’ followed by their surname.

Independent Members should be referred to by the relevant prefix followed by their surname.

Staff Members should be referred to by the relevant prefix followed by their surname.

Interaction with the Gallery

Council Members will not speak to members of the gallery during the meeting or accept notes from those present in the Gallery.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 16—Voting

- (1) *The presiding member, or any other member, may ask the chief executive officer to read out a motion before a vote is taken.*
- (2) *The presiding member will, in taking a vote, ask for the votes of those members in favour of the question and then for the votes of those members against the question (and may do so as often as is necessary to enable him or her to determine the result of the voting), and will then declare the outcome.*
- (3) *A person who is not in his or her seat is not permitted to vote.*
- (4) *Subregulation (3)—*
 - (a) *may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6; and*
 - (b) *does not apply in relation to a member participating in a council committee meeting by telephone or electronic means approved in accordance with procedures determined by the council or council committee for the purposes of section 89 of the Act.*

Voting

A vote in relation to a question for decision before the Council shall be taken via a show

of hands. The presiding member, or any other member, may ask the chief executive officer to read out a motion or amendment before a vote is taken.

Election Process for Council Member Appointments

The process for determining a Council appointment to a particular position is as follows:

Nominations

1. Council Members should consider whether they have a conflict of interest when nominating and whether they should participate in the vote.
2. If Council Members wish to nominate but will be absent from the meeting they may notify the Chief Executive Officer or the Executive Assistant to the CEO and Mayor via email or letter of their desire to nominate;
3. The Presiding Member will call for nominations, this does not require a seconder as it is not a motion.
4. If there are more nomination(s) than positions the Presiding Member will allow up to 2 minutes each for those members to explain why they are the most appropriate nominee.

Voting

10. Voting will occur via a Secret Ballot

Each Council Member in the Chamber including the Presiding Member will complete their voting slip with the name of the preferred Council Member or members as the case may be. These will be collected and counted by a Council Officer present and an additional Council Officer acting as scrutineer.

11. The counting will be first past the post, majority vote.
12. The Presiding Member will announce the result of the secret ballot process and will call for a motion to formalise that.
13. Council Members will not be able to see the voting slips after the vote is completed and the voting slips will be destroyed by the scrutineers.

15. Tied Vote

If there is a tie for the most votes using a Secret Ballot, **but** there are also votes for other nominees, Council will undertake a further process (using a

secret ballot) with this then being restricted only to the two or more as the case may be tied nominees who received the most votes except where the vote is for Deputy Mayor (refer below).

16. If the subsequent result is a tied vote between candidates using a Secret Ballot **and** no other candidates received any votes, the result will be decided by the scrutineer placing the Council Member names in a box and with the first name drawn out by the Presiding Member being the Council Member who is eliminated until there is only the required number of names remaining. This will be followed by a motion and resolution.
17. Tied vote for Deputy Mayor will follow the requirements in the Local Government Act 1999 S 51(8) in that if the votes for two or more candidates for the office are equal after the first round of voting, lots must be drawn to determine which candidate or candidates will be excluded.

Use of Telephone or Electronic Means to Participate in Committee Meetings – Regulation 16 (4)(b).

Members of a Committee can participate in the meeting via electronic means provided advance notice has been provided to the Chairperson and Minute Secretary.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 17—Divisions

- (1) *A division will be taken at the request of a member.*
- (2) *If a division is called for, it must be taken immediately and the previous decision of the presiding member as to whether the motion was carried or lost is set aside.*
- (3) *The division will be taken as follows—*
 - (a) *the members voting in the affirmative will, until the vote is recorded, stand in their places; and*
 - (b) *the members voting in the negative will, until the vote is recorded, sit in their seats; and*
 - (c) *the presiding member will count the number of votes and then declare the outcome.*
- (4) *The chief executive officer will record in the minutes the names of members who voted in the affirmative and the names of the members who voted in the negative (in addition to the result of the vote).*

- (5) *Subregulation (3) may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.*

Divisions

A division is taken as follows:

- (i) the members voting in the affirmative will, until the vote is recorded, stand in their places, and then be seated;
- (ii) the members voting in the negative will, until the vote is recorded, sit in their seats and then be asked to stand in their places until their vote is recorded;
- (iii) the presiding member will count the number of votes and then declare the outcome;

A Division cannot be called on an amendment as it is not a motion.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 18—Tabling of information

- (1) *A member may require the chief executive officer to table any documents of the council relating to a motion that is before a meeting (and the chief executive officer must then table the documents within a reasonable time, or at a time determined by the presiding member after taking into account the wishes of the meeting, and if the member who has required the tabling indicates that he or she is unwilling to vote on the motion until the documents are tabled, then the matter must not be put to the vote until the documents are tabled).*
- (2) *The chief executive officer may, in tabling a document, indicate that in his or her opinion consideration should be given to dealing with the document on a confidential basis under section 90 or 91 of the Act.*

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 19—Adjourned business

- (1) *If a formal motion for a substantive motion to be adjourned is carried—*
 - (a) *the adjournment may either be to a later hour of the same day, to another day, or to another place; and*
 - (b) *the debate will, on resumption, continue from the point at which it was adjourned.*

- (2) *If debate is interrupted for want of a quorum and the meeting is then adjourned, the debate will, on resumption, continue from the point at which it was interrupted.*
- (3) *Business adjourned from a previous meeting must be dealt with before any new business at a subsequent meeting.*
- (4) *The provisions of this regulation may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.*

Adjourned business

To ensure that debate can commence from the point of the interruption, if a formal motion that "the question lie on the table" or "the question or meeting be adjourned" as per 14 (c), (d) and (e) is carried, the minutes shall record those Members who have spoken in the debate.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 20—Short-term suspension of proceedings

- (1) *If the presiding member considers that the conduct of a meeting would benefit from suspending the operation of all or some of the provisions of this Division for a period of time in order to allow or facilitate informal discussions, the presiding member may, with the approval of at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members present at the meeting, suspend the operation of this Division (or any part of this Division) for a period determined by the presiding member.*
- (2) *The Guiding Principles must be taken into account when considering whether to act under subregulation (1).*
- (3) *If a suspension occurs under subregulation (1)—*
 - (a) *a note of the suspension, including the reasons for and period of suspension, must be entered in the minutes; and*
 - (b) *the meeting may proceed provided that a quorum is maintained but, during the period of suspension—*
 - (i) *the provisions of the Act must continue to be observed¹; and*
 - (ii) *no act or discussion will have any status or significance under the provisions which have been suspended; and*
 - (iii) *no motion may be moved, seconded, amended or voted on, other than a motion that the period of suspension should be brought to an end; and*
 - (c) *the period of suspension should be limited to achieving the purpose for which it was declared; and*
 - (d) *the period of suspension will come to an end if—*

- (i) *the presiding member determines that the period should be brought to an end; or*
- (ii) *at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members present at the meeting resolve that the period should be brought to an end.*

Note—

1 See particularly Part 4 of Chapter 5, and Chapter 6, of the Act.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 21—Chief executive officer may submit report recommending revocation or amendment of council decision

- (1) *The chief executive officer may submit a report to the council recommending the revocation or amendment of a resolution passed since the last general election of the council.*
- (2) *The chief executive officer must ensure that the report is placed on the agenda for the meeting at which the report is to be considered.*
- (3) *The provisions of this regulation may be varied at the discretion of the council pursuant to regulation 6.*

PART 3 – MEETINGS OF OTHER COMMITTEES

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 22—Application of Part

The provisions of this Part apply to or in relation to the meetings of any council committee that is not subject to the operation of Part 2.

Regulation 23—Notice of meetings for members

Pursuant to section 87(15) of the Act, section 87 is modified in its application in relation to the meetings of a committee to which this Part applies as if subsections (4) and (7) to (10) of that section provided as follows:

- (a) *that notice of a meeting of the committee may be given in a form determined by the committee after taking into account the nature and purpose of the committee; and*
- (b) *that notice need not be given for each meeting separately; and*
- (c) *that if ordinary meetings of the committee have a set agenda then notice of such a meeting need not contain, or be accompanied by, the agenda for the meeting; and*
- (d) *that it is not necessary for the chief executive officer to ensure that each member of the committee at the time that notice of a meeting is given is*

supplied with a copy of any documents or reports that are to be considered at the meeting.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 24—Public notice of committee meetings

Pursuant to section 88(7) of the Act, section 88 is modified in its application in relation to the meetings of a committee to which this Part applies as if subsections (2), (3) and (4) provided as follows:

- (a) that public notice need not be given for each meeting separately; and*
- (b) that public notice may be given by displaying a notice and agenda in a place or places determined by the chief executive officer after taking into account the nature and purpose of the committee.*

Regulation 25—Minutes

- (1) The minutes of the proceedings of a meeting must include—*
 - (a) the names of the members present at the meeting; and*
 - (b) each motion carried at the meeting; and*
 - (c) any disclosure of interest made by a member; and*
 - (d) details of the making of an order under subsection (2) of section 90 of the Act (see subsection (7) of that section); and*
 - (e) a note of the making of an order under subsection (7) of section 91 of the Act in accordance with the requirements of subsection (9) of that section.*
- (2) The minutes of the proceedings at a meeting must be submitted for confirmation at the next meeting or, if that is omitted, at a subsequent meeting.*

PART 4 – MISCELLANEOUS

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 26—Quorum for committees

- (1) The prescribed number of members of a council committee constitutes a quorum of the committee and no business can be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum is present.*
- (2) For the purposes of this regulation, the **prescribed number** of members of a council committee is—*
 - (a) unless paragraph (b) applies—a number ascertained by dividing the total number of members of the committee by 2, ignoring any fraction resulting from the division, and adding 1; or*
 - (b) a number determined by the council.*

Note—See also section 41(6) of the Act.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 27—Voting at committee meetings

- (1) *Subject to the Act and these regulations, a question arising for decision at a meeting of a council committee will be decided by a majority of the votes cast by the members present at the meeting and entitled to vote on the question.*
- (2) *Each member of a council who is a member of a council committee and who is present at a meeting of the committee must, subject to a provision of the Act to the contrary, vote on a question arising for decision at that meeting.*
- (3) *The presiding member of a council committee has a deliberative vote on a question arising for decision at the meeting but does not, in the event of an equality of votes, have a casting vote.*

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 28—Points of order

- (1) *The presiding member may call to order a member who is in breach of the Act or these regulations.*
- (2) *A member may draw to the attention of the presiding member a breach of the Act or these regulations, and must state briefly the nature of the alleged breach.*
- (3) *A point of order takes precedence over all other business until determined.*
- (4) *The presiding member will rule on a point of order.*
- (5) *If an objection is taken to the ruling of the presiding member, a motion that the ruling not be agreed with must be moved immediately.*
- (6) *The presiding member is entitled to make a statement in support of the ruling before a motion under subregulation (5) is put.*
- (7) *A resolution under subregulation (5) binds the meeting and, if a ruling is not agreed with—*
 - (a) *the ruling has no effect; and*
 - (b) *the point of order is annulled.*

Regulation 28A—Exclusion of member from meeting by presiding member

- (1) *For the purposes of section 86(6b) of the Act, before giving a direction under that subsection, the presiding member must allow the member to make a personal explanation.*

(2) If a member is excluded from a meeting for a contravention of section 86(6a) of the Act, action cannot be taken under regulation 29 in respect of the contravention.

(3) A member will not be taken to contravene section 86(6a) of the Act merely because the member is—

- (a) objecting to words used by a member who is speaking; or*
- (b) calling attention to a point of order; or*
- (c) calling attention to want of a quorum.*

(4) For the purposes of section 86(6e) of the Act, if a member the subject of a direction excluding them from a meeting under section 86(6b) of the Act refuses to comply with the direction or enters the meeting in contravention of the direction, the remaining members at the meeting may, by resolution—

- (a) censure the member; or*
- (b) suspend the member for a part, or for the remainder, of the meeting*

Regulation 29—Interruption of meetings by members

(1) A member of a council or council committee must not, while at a meeting—

- (a) behave in an improper or disorderly manner; or*
- (b) cause an interruption or interrupt another member who is speaking.*

(2) Subregulation (1)(b) does not apply to a member who is—

- (a) objecting to words used by a member who is speaking; or*
- (b) calling attention to a point of order; or*
- (c) calling attention to want of a quorum.*

(3) If the presiding member considers that a member may have acted in contravention of subregulation (1), the member must be allowed to make a personal explanation.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

(4) Subject to complying with subregulation (3), the relevant member must leave the meeting while the matter is considered by the meeting.

(5) If the remaining members resolve that a contravention of subregulation (1) has occurred, those members may, by resolution—

- (a) censure the member; or*
- (b) suspend the member for a part, or for the remainder, of the meeting.*

(6) A member who—

- (a) refuses to leave a meeting in contravention of subregulation (4); or*
- (b) enters a meeting in contravention of a suspension under subregulation (5), is guilty of an offence.*

Maximum penalty: \$1250.

(below is an extract from the Local Government Procedures at Meetings Regulations 2013 as amended)

Regulation 30—Interruption of meetings by others

A member of the public who is present at a meeting of a council or council committee must not—

- (a) behave in a disorderly manner; or*
- (b) cause an interruption.*

Maximum penalty: \$500.

Other Matters not covered by Regulation

Recommendations From Committees

The Audit and Risk Committee and Community Grants Assessment Committee do not have delegated authority. Their minutes are published to the Meetings page of Council's website. Any recommendations from Committees are provided to the following Council meeting for a decision.

The Summit Sport and Recreation Park Board does have delegated authority. Their minutes are published to the Meetings page of Council's website. Any recommendations from the Board are provided to the following Council meeting for consideration.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor may provide a written report in dot point form on duties undertaken in the role since the previous Council meeting which will be included as dot points within the minutes.

Council Members' Reports

Council Members may provide a written report in dot point form on duties undertaken since the previous Council meeting to be lodged with the Minute Secretary before the start of the Council meeting which will be included as dot points within the minutes.

6. REVIEW

This Code of Practice should be reviewed at least once in every financial year (pursuant to Regulation 6(2) of the Local Government Act (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 or earlier in the event of changes to legislation or related Policies and Procedures or if deemed necessary by Governance staff.

7. ACCESS TO THE CODE OF PRACTICE

The Code of Practice is available for public inspection at the Customer Service Centre, at the Local Government Centre, 6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker, South Australia and on the Council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au.

A copy can be provided on payment of a fixed fee.

8 FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on this Code of Practice, please contact:

Title: Risk & Governance Officer

Address: PO Box 54
Mount Barker SA 5251

Telephone: 8391 7230

Email: council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

REFERENCE NUMBER:	DOC/23/443998
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER/ DEPARTMENT:	Deputy CEO
APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:	Local Government Act 1999 Local Government Act (Procedures and Meetings) Regulations 2013 (amended) Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2021
COMMUNITY PLAN 2020-2035:	Leadership and Good Governance LGG Strategy 1.3 : Provide opportunities for the community to access and participate in decision-making processes and fully integrate community engagement practices into Council activities LGG Strategy 1.5 : Demonstrate accountability through clear, relevant and easily accessible policies, corporate reporting and legislative compliance.
RELATED POLICIES / CORPORATE POLICIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Practice (for Access to Council and Committee Meetings and Documents)
SUPPORTING PROCEDURES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Templates
PREVIOUS REVIEW DATES:	6 July 2020, 5 July 2021, 4 July 2022
ENDORSED BY COUNCIL:	7 August 2023
MINUTE RESOLUTION NUMBER:	OM20230807.12
NEXT REVIEW DATE:	5 August 2024

Templates

1. Order of Business for the Council Meetings
2. Order of Business for the Audit and Risk Committee, and Community Grants Assessment Committee Meetings, Summit Sport and Recreation Park Board meetings
3. Order of Business for a Special Meeting
4. Questions from the Gallery
5. Template for Petitions
6. Template for Deputations

Appendix 1:**Template for Order of Business for Ordinary Council Meetings**

1. Council Opening
 - Expressions of Faith
 - Acknowledgement of Country
 - Apologies/Leave of Absence
2. Questions from the Gallery
3. Confirmation of Minutes
4. Conflict of Interest Declaration
5. Deputations
Name of person undertaking the deputation and topic
6. Questions with Notice
Name of Council Member and Topic of Question
7. Questions without Notice
8. Motions on Notice
Topic and Name of Councillor
9. Motions Without Notice
10. Petitions
Petition Title and Purpose
11. Recommendations from Committees
Name of Committee and Date
12. Reports by Officers
Report Title and Purpose
13. Information Reports
Report Title and Purpose
14. Quarterly Reports
Report Title and Purpose
15. Mayor's Report
16. Members' Reports
17. Questions Arising from the Council Meeting
18. Confidential Reports
Report Title

Appendix 2

Template for Order of Business for the Audit and Risk Committee and the Community Grants Assessment Committee, Summit Sport and Recreation Park Board

1. Committee Opening
 - Apologies/ Leave of Absence
2. Confirmation of Minutes
3. Conflict of Interest Declaration
4. Deputations

5. Questions with Notice

6. Questions without Notice

7. Motions on Notice

8. Motions Without Notice

9. Petitions
 - Petition Title and Purpose

10. Reports by Officers
 - Report Title and Purpose

11. Information Reports
 - Report Title and Purpose

12. Confidential Reports
 - Report Title and Purpose

Appendix 3:**Template for Order of Business for a Special Meeting:**

- 1 Council Opening
 - Expression of Faith
 - Acknowledgement of Country
 - Apologies/Leave of Absence

- 2 Conflict of Interest Declaration

3. Reports by Officers
 - Report Title and Purpose

Appendix 4 – MAYOR’S INTRODUCTION -QUESTIONS FROM THE GALLERY

Question Time is an up to 15 minute segment at the beginning of the meeting to allow the members of the public in the Gallery to ask questions. It is not a time to make a deputation, have intense discussion or debate – it is simply to ask questions.

The questions must be presented with courtesy and respect and must not be of a personal, intimidating or vexatious nature.

The questions are not restricted to those regarding agenda items but they must be relevant to this Council or be within the jurisdiction of this Council.

Any questions outside of this policy will be disallowed.

The minutes will reflect who asked a question and the topic and a brief summary of the reply provided at the meeting.

Should the question not be able to be answered, the question will be noted by the minute secretary for further investigation and responded to by administration staff at a later date.

It is the responsibility of the person asking the question to provide their name and contact details to the minute secretary.

At the end of the meeting there is an opportunity for questions regarding items on tonight’s agenda.

Members of the public are advised that Elected Members and staff appreciate opportunities to respond to questions outside of council meetings, as this can allow for a considered response to complex questions, or questions requiring investigation.

Appendix 5:

Template for Petitions



PETITION TO COUNCIL

MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Please note the following guidelines:

1. A petition is a formal submission to the Council signed by many residents. Typically, a petition draws the attention of Council to a particular matter or asks the Council to consider making a particular decision.
2. The Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 (R10) provide that a petition to the Council must:
 - be legibly written or typed or printed
 - clearly set out the request or submission of the petitioners; and
 - include the name and address of each person who signed or endorsed the petition
 - be addressed to the Council and delivered to the principal office of the council:
 - emailed to council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au; or
 - mailed to Council at PO Box 54 Mount Barker 5251

Petitions received by the Mount Barker District Council, in addition to the legislative requirements must:

- include the name and address of the person submitting the petition (the head petitioner)
- the purpose and reason must be on each page of the petition
- the petition must be directed to Council either in person to the principal office of council or by mail, fax, attached as documents and emailed to council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

A suggested format for petitions follows.

3. Receipt of your petition will be acknowledged. Petitions received with the required information (as per 2 above) will be placed on the agenda for the next ordinary Council meeting in accordance with the Regulations.
4. Normal practice is that a petition is simply received (not debated). It is not necessary for you to attend the Council meeting but you are most welcome to if you wish.
5. Your request will be considered and, if so determined by Council, a further report will then be prepared for Council consideration. You will be advised by letter when this is to occur. Additionally, you are encouraged to check Council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au and go to Council Meetings for what action Council resolved to take and the date at which the further report on this matter may be considered if so determined by Council.
6. For further information please contact Executive Assistant to CEO and Mayor
Mount Barker District Council
PO Box 54
MOUNT BARKER SA 5251
council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au
Ph 8391 7200
Fax 8391 7299
7. Social media petitions are to be addressed to the Head Petitioner.



PETITION TO COUNCIL

MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

PETITION COVER PAGE

First page of petition – attach additional pages as required

To the Mount Barker District Council

We the undersigned, petition the Council to (define purpose)

.....
.....
.....

For the following reasons:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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

Name:

.....

Office Use Only	
Total Signatures	_____
Total within District	_____
Total outside District	_____

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

Appendix 6:

Template for Deputations:



Please note the following guidelines:

1. Deputations (R11) are an important part of community participation in the decision-making process, providing individuals or groups in the community with an opportunity to present their opinions to the meeting.
2. The Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 (the Regulations) provide that a person who wishes to appear as a deputation and address the Council meeting on a matter must make the request in writing (R11). The Presiding Member may refuse to allow the deputation, but if so that decision must be reported to the next meeting. The meeting may then resolve to allow the deputation.

A person or persons wishing to appear as a deputation at a meeting must deliver (to the Council by means determined by the Chief Executive Officer as set out below) a written request to the Council:

- emailed to council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au; or
- mailed to Mount Barker District Council at PO Box 54 Mount Barker 5251

If a deputation is requested for the next meeting it must be received prior to finalising the agenda or 5 days prior to the Council or Committee Meeting to enable the matter to be given the appropriate public notice and be listed on the agenda.

If the deputation relates to a matter of business on the agenda, a person or persons wishing to appear as a deputation at a meeting must provide their written request to the Council by 10.00am on the day of the meeting.

If the deputation request is on behalf of a community group or Association, it should be accompanied by brief supporting information as to whom has been authorised to present the deputation.

3. Once the Presiding Member has granted your request to make a deputation to Council you will be advised in writing.
4. Presenters will be given 5 **minutes** to do their presentation, followed by questions (if any) from the Council. It would be appreciated if you could be mindful of the time allowed for your presentation.
5. The Council or Committee meeting will begin at the time advised in the published agenda for the meeting and although the exact time for the deputation to commence is difficult to determine it would be best to be present at the published meeting start time. The agenda for the meeting (published 3 clear days in advance of the meeting) will list the name of the person (or community group) making the deputation, and the subject matter only. The agenda will be available on Council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au and go to Council, Meetings, and the relevant meeting.
6. Visual presentations are welcome - please bring your presentation on a USB drive. Visual presentations can be shared via electronic means by the person undertaking the deputation.

REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

7. It is preferable to email your presentation to the Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer & Mayor council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au prior to the Council meeting so that it can be loaded on to our system to ensure the presentation will run, and as a back-up, however this is not a compulsory requirement.
8. If you wish to provide hard copies of your presentation, or distribute supporting information, 12 copies will be required for a Council meeting (11 Council Members, plus 1 for Council's electronic records system) which must be provided to the Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer & Mayor prior to the meeting. It is your responsibility to provide copies for distribution. You are welcome to distribute your information to Council Members electronically in advance; email addresses for all Council Members are available on council's website www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au and go to Council, Councillors, with a copy to the Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer & Mayor.
9. You should be aware that Council and Committee meetings are open to the public.
10. There is unlikely to be any legal protection or other privilege in relation to any statements that you may make in this forum. This means that anything you say will be subject to the normal laws of defamation. Consequently you should take care how you make your address.

REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

I have read and understood the Deputation Information Sheet and acknowledge the above guidelines:

I/we hereby request to be heard at the next meeting of Council or Committee (if not specified it will be taken to be Council) on:				
Name:				
Address:				
Contact number:				
Email:				
I will be speaking on my own behalf:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Or				
As the spokesperson of a group of persons:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
(If yes, who or what group are you representing?)				
The topic or issue I wish to speak about is: <i>(please give sufficient details of the matter to enable consideration of your request for a deputation):</i>				



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

The relevance to Council in relation to the subject matter is:
What expectations do you have of Council as a result of this deputation?
What benefit will be delivered to the general community as a result of this deputation?

Signature	Date
Print Name	

Office use only

Approved by the Mayor:	Yes	No
Received (date and time):	at	am/pm
Acknowledged by Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer & Mayor		
Approved meeting date:	Deputation time:	
Date depute notified:	Reference:	

Information for Deputation:

Once you have received confirmation of the time and date of the deputation you are approved to speak at the Council meeting as per the approval.

At the appropriate time in the meeting you will be invited by the Presiding Officer (usually the Mayor) to make your deputation on the topic or issue which you have nominated.

You will be asked to state your name, which will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and then be given 5 minutes speaking time. After this the Presiding Officer may ask elected members if they have any questions.

You will be expected to conduct yourself in an orderly manner to reflect the level of formality appropriate to the meeting. Please address elected members appropriately i.e. the Mayor is to be addressed as 'Mayor' and the elected members as 'Councillor'.

You should refrain from making defamatory or derogatory comments. Council meetings are open to the general public, are live streamed and there are no privileges protecting you in relation to defamation.

You may find it helpful to prepare brief notes of the matter upon which you wish to speak to the Council and then use those notes when you address the matters at the meeting.

Visual presentations are welcome - please bring your presentation on a USB drive.

Should your deputation require further investigation it will be referred to the appropriate Council Officer.

For further information please contact, Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer & Mayor, on 8391 7200 or council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

Mount Barker District Council
PO Box 54
MOUNT BARKER SA 5251
council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au

(This page may be retained by the applicant)

12.11	REPORT TITLE:	WARD DONATIONS
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/23/73346
	ATTACHMENTS:	NIL
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Maree Barns, Business Support Officer (Governance and Corporate)
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	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 2023/24 of \$17,820 which equates to \$1620 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 Szilassy	\$200	Mount Barker Community Centre - Office materials and stationery to assist in the provision of Community Centre programs
Councillor Hardingham	\$100	Hahndorf Lions for support towards delivering ANZAC Day service
Councillor Hardingham	\$100	Macclesfield RSL for support towards delivering ANZAC Day service
Councillor Hardingham	\$100	Echunga RSL for support towards delivering ANZAC Day service
Councillor Hardingham	\$100	Meadows Community Association for support towards delivering ANZAC Day service

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 2023/24 of \$17,820 which equates to \$1620 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 Business Support Officer - Governance and Corporate, 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 governance 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.
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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 \$17,820 which equates to \$1620 recommended expenditure by each Council Member. Any unallocated ward allowance balance is not carried over to the next financial year.

\$7,750 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:	LIVING LIGHTLY LOCALLY – UPDATE
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/30716
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Greg Sarre, Principal Advisor, Sustainability
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Phil Burton, General Manager, Infrastructure

Purpose:

To provide an update on the Living Lightly Locally project and its proposed future extension.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. Mount Barker District Council has been supporting and participating in the collaborative Citizen Science project, Living Lightly Locally.
2. The Living Lighter Locally project is designed to help people who are wanting to make change in the way they live their lives and reduce the impact their lifestyles have on the planet.
3. After a 3 year pilot, the project is now entering a new phase with potential new funding partners, including ongoing commitment from Council.

Background:

1. Council is part of a collaborative project that in 2021 was successful in winning a Citizen Science grant of \$280,000 from the Australian Government.
2. The ‘Living Lighter Locally: Smarter and Stronger through Citizen Science’ project (or LLL) responds to the growing public appetite for meaningful change towards wellbeing, resilience and sustainability.
3. The LLL project is an initiative of UniSA which was successful in its federal funding application and runs the project in partnership with Mount Barker District Council, Burnside Council, Landcapes SA (Hills and Fleurieu and Green Adelaide) and the Red Cross. The project has run for 3 years with a total value circa \$730,000, including cash and inkind contributions of project partners.

4. The project has involved Mount Barker residents who have engaged in an adult education program that guides them to establish baseline environmental and social data and set SMART goals for improvement, then empowers them to effect change in their households, while reporting on progress toward goals to inform and influence the broader community.
5. The initial 3 year pilot project is coming to an end and a new phase is commencing, including with the support of additional funding partners (to be confirmed).
6. This report provides background to the project and its intended outcomes and detail as to what is involved in the next phase.

Discussion:

7. Key outcomes of the 3 year pilot project include:
 - a. Development of 12-month research and education program (with affiliated branding and website [Living Lightly Locally](#))
 - b. Delivery of the first two pilots in the Mount Barker District and City of Burnside Council areas
 - c. Production of 12, 30 minute educational video prototypes featuring 'local legends' and informed by theory and research
 - d. Production of four community visions for change (one for each of the local cohorts involved in the pilot)
 - e. Partner in the first Local Learning Lab in SA delivered by WWF, Regen Studios, Ecocreative, TACSI and Mount Barker District Council in 2022
 - f. Case studies of engaged participants showing real-world motivations, challenges and opportunities for wellbeing and environmental impact solutions
8. The project has been profiled and promoted through a number of different forums, demonstrating the value in a local government partnering with a university to apply theory and research to real-world situations. Forums where the project has been profiled include:
 - In a publication in a Special Issue of the journal *Sustainability* on "Sustainable Scenarios of Energy and Ecological Footprint"
 - Through a Masters by Research Project '*Changing the World for Good: Mapping the Long-Term Impacts of Adult Community Environmental Education Programs in SA*' to inform program evaluation and development
 - In two newspaper articles (The Courier) and one magazine article (Cosmos Magazine)
 - As content in a textbook reaching 6000 high- school students across Australia in a 2023 "Explore and Analyse" Argument
 - In more than six local research forums, two national conferences and one international conference (EcoSummit 2023)

- As a featured Australian localisation case study on a panel at the Planet Local Summit in the UK in Sept 2023
9. Some of the other benefits to Council in partnering on this project include:
 - An opportunity to engage residents through delivery of a program which wouldn't otherwise be possible
 - Artistic capture of community visions of a sustainable and desirable future
 - Access to research-informed educational materials and opportunity to co-design improvements for future delivery
 - Interactive and extendable network maps enabling residents to connect to businesses, organisations, projects and initiatives at the local, state, national and international level
 - Empowerment of a 'core' group of engaged, informed and connected residents passionate about improving wellbeing and sustainability in their region
 - Co-creation of evidence-based policy, informed by research into the motivations, opportunities and barriers to achieving win/win environmental and social outcomes
 10. The pilot project involved around 40 residents, each of whom engaged in the 12 month program, using trial and error to influence their activities in areas such as household waste and energy management, water conservation, transport and vehicle use and gardening.
 11. The online platform developed for the program was used to deliver educational materials with a portal to upload data and share the journey of participants. Outcomes have been, and will continue to be, shared widely across the community and in research and public policy forums. A full report on the project outcomes will be delivered by UniSA as part of its commitment to the federal government grant.
 12. Council's contribution to LLL has been \$3,300 per year for 3 years (funded through a relevant operational budget line), plus staff time.
 13. With the success of the pilot program, there has been considerable interest in its extension and UniSA staff are in very positive discussions with a major funding partner to continue and upscale the project to the state level. Other councils are also interested in being involved and it is expected that an announcement around this will be made shortly.
 14. Council administration has provided in-principle agreement to a further 3 year commitment with an annual contribution of \$5,000, plus in-kind support. This contribution can be made through existing staff resources and an operational budget that provides for environmental, sustainability and climate action around the district.

Conclusion:

Mount Barker District Council has been a foundation partner in the 'Living Lighter Locally: Smarter and Stronger through Citizen Science' project since 2021. A proposition to extend this successful project for a further 3 years is being considered by various funding partners and Council has provided in-principle support to continue involvement.

13.2	REPORT TITLE:	DISABILITY ACCESS & INCLUSION PLAN (DAIP) PROGRESS REPORT
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/13063
	ATTACHMENTS:	DAIP PROGRESS REPORT 2023 <i>This attachment is provided separately on the Council website (click here)</i>
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Egon Loh, Community Development Officer, Planning and Community
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Ben Footner, Manager Customer Experience

Purpose:

To inform Council on progress of the Disability Access and Inclusive Plan (DAIP) for reporting period 1 January to 31 December 2023.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) was endorsed by Council in October 2020 and provides a 4-year plan for improving access and inclusion across the range of council functions.
2. The South Australian *Disability Inclusion Act 2018* requires that Council report its preceding financial year progress on implementation of their DAIPs to the Department of Human Services (DHS) by 31 October.
3. However, DHS has advised that the reporting timelines have changed as part of the Disability Inclusion Act 2022 Review, switching from Financial Year to calendar from 2024 onwards. The latest reporting date is 31 March 2024.

Background:

1. Council endorsed its Disability Access and Inclusion Plan at its meeting on 6 October 2020.
2. The Plan was developed in association with the community to provide a 4 year plan for improving access and inclusion, identifying key objectives and priorities across a number of themes to ensure that the district continues to develop as a highly liveable place for everyone.
3. As per legislative requirements, the final DAIP was submitted to the DHS for approval.

4. A full copy of the DAIP is available on Council's website: <https://www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au/council/plans/disability-access-inclusion-plan>

Discussion:

5. The South Australian *Disability Inclusion Act 2018* requires Council report its preceding financial year progress on implementation of their DAIPs to the Department of Human Services (DHS) before 31 October.
6. Upon advice from DHS, the reporting timeline for all Councils was postponed and was informed the new reporting date is 31 March 2024.
7. The Plan has a total of 83 actions and up till the end of the calendar year of 2023:
- a. 70 actions were complete
 - b. 13 are in progress
8. **Attachment 1** contains a copy of the 2023 progress report.
9. The progress report has been submitted to DHS in line with reporting requirements.
10. The new State Disability Inclusion Plan is expected to publish 2nd quarter of 2024 and Council will develop the next DAIP thereafter.

Conclusion:

Council officers will undertake a comprehensive assessment of the existing Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) before initiating the formulation of the upcoming DAIP (2024-2028), ensuring alignment with the updated State Disability Inclusion Plan.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	4 October 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/123696
Title	DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT		
Purpose	Informing Council with Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Progress Report (2021-2022)		

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	17 January 2022	CM Reference	DOC/21/202678
Title	DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT		
Purpose	Informing Council with Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Progress Report (2020-2021)		

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	6 October 2020	CM Reference	DOC/20/99595
Title	DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2020-2024 (DAIP)		
Purpose	Endorse and adopt the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan		

13.3 **REPORT TITLE:** **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

DATE OF MEETING: **2 APRIL 2024**

FILE NUMBER: **DOC/24/033099**

ATTACHMENT: **N/A**

Key Contact Brian Jackway, Economic Development Officer

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

Purpose:

To provide Council with an update on activities and actions that have occurred between December 2023 and March 2024 implementing the Economic Development Strategy (EDS).

Summary – Key Areas:

1. Business Development events focused on Start-Ups, the Creative sector, First Nations and Agribusiness have been delivered across the last 4 months. These align with Council's EDS and support growing industries within our District.
2. Direct engagement with individual businesses, trader groups, and sector based businesses, Federal and State Government representatives and the Education Sector continues to provide opportunities to stimulate business growth, employment opportunities and tourism visitation in our local economy.
3. Tourism and Community events continue to be an important economic stimulant, with over 60 events attracting over 130,000 attendees through December 2023 to March 2024. Detailed economic modelling of the impact of the events program will be presented as part of a mid-2024 Council report.

Background:

1. Council's Economic Development Strategy 2022-2027 (EDS) provides the framework for staff's work plan activities to drive improved economic outcomes for our community.
2. Council delivers on the key actions of the EDS through a partnership approach, working closely with all tiers of Government, industry and business associations, Regional Development Australia and Adelaide Hills Tourism.

Discussion:

The summary of recent/upcoming activity is provided below:

3. **First Nations Business Event** –The First Nations Business event scheduled for May 15, 2024, underscores the commitment of Council and its surrounding areas to supporting a diverse economy. By supporting, growing and promoting indigenous businesses in the region, this event not only fosters economic development within the indigenous community but also promotes cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.
4. **Empowering Local Businesses with Grants** - connect local businesses with grant opportunities across federal, state, and local governments. Provide educational resources to help businesses identify relevant grants and craft compelling applications.
5. **Local small business engagement** – The economic development team average approximately 50 visits/ meetings monthly to businesses in the district. Recent examples include sharing information on current grant funding opportunities and how to best leverage major events including Tour Down Under and AFL Gather Round.
6. **The Starting a Business Workshop** held on 21 February, 2024, at the Laratinga Pavilion exemplifies Council’s commitment to nurturing entrepreneurship. By providing aspiring entrepreneurs with practical guidance, resources, and networking opportunities, these workshops empower individuals to pursue their business ventures with confidence. 12 local businesses were in attendance.
7. **Engage Precinct associations** – Engagement with Mount Barker Business Group, Business Mount Barker, and Hahndorf Business & Tourism Association continues to occur, providing updates on key Council initiatives, procurement advice, business advice, engagement and links to grants, events and mentoring. In addition, Council staff evaluate and disseminate trading conditions data.
8. **Tourism Development** – Updating HBTA (Hahndorf Business & Tourism Association) and Hahndorf traders has been a strong focus to prepare for the Women’s Tour Down Under in Hahndorf on the 12 January 2024. Council Staff continue to work on opportunities to maximise AFL Gather Round for economic impact direct and in-direct.
9. **Visitor Servicing:** Alternative visitor servicing options are now active with more being developed in order to ensure visitors are provided with key information to both attract them and inform them once here. These alternatives include (*status provided in brackets*):

- a. Hahndorf Virtual Guide (*active*)
- b. QR Code Logo in shopfronts (*active: Links to Visit Adelaide Hills, Hahndorf SA, History of Hahndorf, How to Get Here, Virtual Guide*)
- c. Brochure (*dispersed locally & regionally*)
- d. Adelaide Hills Map (*existing*)
- e. Ambassador and on-site guide program (*finalising details prior to-launch*)
- f. In-location signage (*design near completion*)
- g. Interactive digital display (*feasibility/funding*)

A review of the effectiveness of these initiatives will be on-going, whilst a more detailed report will be provided to Council in May 2024, including opportunities to further expand visitor servicing approaches throughout the broader District.

10. **Education** – Discussions are underway with the tertiary education sector about creating improved local access, which includes staff continuing to work with the RDA about gaining support for a federally funded Study Hub in Mount Barker.
11. **A Women in Non-Traditional Trades Event** has been organised, for the first time, and engagement with schools, unemployed and local employers to attend this event. This event encourages women of all ages to look at jobs and career paths into agriculture, horticulture, chef, construction, vet nursing, traffic management and wine.
12. **Skills Commissioner:** Staff met with Cameron Baker, South Australian Skills Commissioner to discuss opportunities to improve workforce and skills development to feed key local industries such as health, retail/hospitality and agriculture. Opportunities for further engagement with the Commissioner were also agreed.
13. **Events:** A varied event calendar is a competitive advantage for our District, with the December through March period including over 55 events, attracting over 130,000 attendees. Some of the notable events include the Gathered and Christkindle Markets, Tour Down Under, Get Festive, Street Arts Fest, All British Day, Mount Barker Show, Taste of the Adelaide Hills and Meadows Easter Fair.
14. **Agribusiness Network Support Program** - Economic Development's Agribusiness Support Program has facilitated another successful seminar (the 7th event) in February 2024, with 38 attendees from around the District. The focus was on financial acumen, with the Commonwealth Bank, and chartered accounting firm, Hood Sweeney, among the speakers. Two further events are planned in 2024, before the program concludes in December.

15. **Economic Data** – Quick stats relevant to Council’s economic performance in February 2024 (District Wide)

Resident spend - \$113m (up 9.8% over Feb 23). Supermarkets top category. Highest growth category – computer services (up 70.7% on Feb 23). Business spend - \$58m (up 9% vs Feb 23). Visitor spend – up 10.5% on Feb23. Top category of visitors into our LGA are 65+ with 20% of total spend.

Council’s economic development team and its industry partners including Adelaide Hills Tourism and Regional Development Australia will continue to monitor these broader economic factors and their relevance for our regional and local economy.

Conclusion:

This report provides an overview of the key activities between December 2023 and March 2024 in implementing Council’s Economic 2022-2027 Development Strategy.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	4 December 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/154504
Title	Economic Development Program Update		
Purpose	To provide Council with an update on the actions that have occurred between September and November, 2023 implementing the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) including recent activities.		

Meeting Date	4 September 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/105424
Title	Economic Development Program Update		
Purpose	To provide Council with an update on the actions that have occurred between May and August, 2023 implementing the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) including recent activities.		

13.4	REPORT TITLE:	HEYSEN GALLERY: PROJECT PROGRESS
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/23/153074
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Luke Gray, Strategic Projects & Economic Development Manager
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Andrew Stuart, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose:

To notify Council that the Heysen Foundation have satisfied the requirements for the release of further funding as part of Council's existing commitment to the development of the new Heysen Gallery and purchase of an adjoining land parcel, 59 Sandow Road, Verdun.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. In April of 2020, Council endorsed a \$1.5million commitment to the Heysen Foundation in order to facilitate the development of the new Heysen Gallery.
2. \$150,000 of this figure was provided upfront in order to assist in urgent works associated with the house, with the remaining funds to be released once building works on the new gallery were scheduled to commence.
3. The Heysen Foundation have notified Council that enabling works are now contracted, with SA Power Networks commencing works associated with the new Gallery.
4. The Foundation has also advised that they have a contract for sale for the adjoining land parcel, 59 Sandow Road, Verdun.
5. \$150,000 of the remaining \$1,350,000 is being released now, with the remaining to be released once final project approvals have been obtained and construction of the gallery is scheduled to commence.
6. The new Heysen Gallery represents a significant investment within the art and tourism industry and ensures that this internationally renowned artist(s) and residence is celebrated and accessible to our community, well into the future.

Background:

1. The Cedars partnership between Council and the Heysen Foundation is effectively separated into two primary stages:

- a. Securing and consolidating existing property and core art works (complete).
 - b. Securing adjacent property, Certificate of Title Volume 5520 Folio 973 (“Sandow” parcel) and construction of new gallery, upgrade to existing home and associated works (current phase).
2. In 2016, Council provided \$1.5million to the Heysen Foundation to assist in the securing of The Cedars and the associated core art works. At the time, the property and artworks were at risk of being split up amongst members of the family, which would have resulted in a loss of a consolidated collection and the ability for the public to experience the property where so many of the artworks were created.
 3. Council’s investment was critical in giving confidence to the Federal Government regarding this project and its merits as an arts and cultural tourism destination. As a result, they committed \$9million to the Heysen Gallery project.
 4. Further contributions from Council were identified as necessary to assist the project as it moves from planning and feasibility through to design and construction. This included a contribution foreshadowed to assist in the acquisition of the adjacent property, 59 Sandow Road, Verdun.
 5. On April 6, 2020, Council endorsed an additional \$1.5million commitment to the Heysen Foundation in order to assist in the securing of the adjoining Sandow Road property and the development of the new Heysen Gallery.
 6. \$150,000 of the \$1.5million was released in 2020 to assist in urgent works to The Cedars, with this being successfully acquitted.
 7. The drawdown of the remaining \$1.35 million loan to the Heysen Foundation is included in the 2023/24 Budget.

Discussion:

8. The Heysen Foundation has notified Council that enabling works to facilitate construction of the Heysen Gallery have been contracted, with construction works commencing.
9. Futhermore, the Sandow Road Property is now under contract to the Heysen Foundation, awaiting final settlement.
10. As a result, \$150,000 of the remaining \$1.35million Council commitment is being released to aid in the timely progression of the project.

11. The remaining funding commitment will be released once final project approvals have been obtained and construction of the gallery is scheduled to commence.
12. The 2020 Funding Agreement between Council and the Heysen Foundation provides the necessary legal, security and key performance criteria to protect the interests of both parties and to ensure the stated objectives are achieved.
13. As with previous, the remaining contributions to the Foundation are to be provided in the form of an interest free loan, secured by way of registered mortgage over the 59 Sandow Road, being the whole of the land comprised of Certificate of Title Volume 5520 Folio 973.

Conclusion:

The progression of the Heysen Gallery Project and associated land acquisition are sufficient to trigger further pre-committed Council contributions to the Heysen Foundation to enable the continuation of the project.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	6 April 2020	CM Reference	DOC/20/37830
Title	The Cedars: Stage 2 Contribution		
Purpose	To formalise stage 2 of Council's funding contribution to support development of The Cedars Art Gallery, leveraging significant community and economic benefit for the Region.		

Meeting Date	18 April 2016	HPRM Reference	DOC/16/33733
Title	Heysen Foundation – The Cedars and Core Artworks acquisition		
Purpose	To formalise Council's financial support and commitment to secure The Cedars and associated core artworks for future generations		

14. QUARTERLY REPORTS**Recommendation**

That the following reports be noted enbloc.

14.1 REPORT TITLE: SOUTHERN & HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

DATE OF MEETING: 2 APRIL 2024

FILE NUMBER: DOC/24/36885

Key Contact Alison Hancock, Executive Manager

Manager/Sponsor Andrew Stuart, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose:

To provide a report on the outcomes of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association (SHLGA) Board meetings held 8 December 2023 and 23 February 2024.

Summary – Key Issues:

- A key outcomes summary is provided following each SHLGA Board meeting.

Background:

1. The SHLGA is a regional subsidiary established pursuant to the Local Government Act.
2. Membership of the SHLGA Board comprises the Mayors and CEOs of each of the constituent Councils, being Adelaide Hills Council, Alexandrina Council, District Council of Yankalilla, City of Victor Harbor, Kangaroo Island Council and Mount Barker District Council.
3. The Mayor and CEO are Council's representatives on the S&HLGA Board and Councillor Rebecca Hewett and Alison Hancock, Executive Manager are deputy board members.
4. Councillor Rebecca Hewett and Alison Hancock, Executive Manager attended the December 2023 meeting.
5. Deputy Mayor Councillor Harry Seager and Andrew Stuart, CEO attended the February 2024 meeting

Discussion:

1. The key outcomes summary for the 8 December 2023 and 23 February 2024 meetings are available via the S&HLGA's website – refer link below:

[Meetings | Southern and Hills LGA](#)

<https://www.lga.sa.gov.au/southern-and-hills-lga/meeting-and-business>

8 December 2023 meeting, hosted by City of Victor Harbor, included updates on:

- Regional Health Plan
- Regional Transport Plan
- RDA Regional Economic Development Network and Infrastructure Plan
- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study (RH&C committee)
- Jeff Tate Review February 2023 Stage 2 Recommendations (revisited)

23 February 2024 meeting, hosted by Kangaroo Island Council, included updates on:

- Regional Health Plan
- 2030 Regional Transport Plan
- RDA Regional Economic Development Network and Infrastructure Plan
- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Study (RH&C committee)
- Regional LGA EO Management Group
- Resilient Hills and Coast (RHC)

2. Regional Health Plan

- The S&HLGA Regional Public Health Committee last met on 14 February.
- Work continues in the background to populate our region's Community Wellbeing Indicators.
- S&HLGA is still awaiting notification of success or otherwise of our ILC application for "Supporting people with communication disability to participate in parks, trails and bikeways across the Southern and Hills region". The application to ILC – Social and Community Stream 2023-2024 for funding is for a total of \$368,998.
- The LGA has completed a draft Hoarding and Squalor report

3. S&HLGA Guest Speaker

At the 23 February 2024 meeting hosted by Kangaroo Island Council, Robyn Daly, JLT National Program Manager Resilience, presented on Managing Disaster Risk, the lens on Local Government. The deep understanding of LG landscape and its ability to identify the challenges of natural hazard events for investing in disaster risk reduction has resulted in the development of the National Local Government Vulnerability Program (NLGVP). The purpose of the NLGVP is simply to collect local vulnerability profiling information (by Council

and by Region) and transform it into harmonised data that will inform the build of Community Resilience. The S&HLGA Region has had Victor Harbor and Kangaroo Island Councils participate in an early pilot study.

Conclusion:

Regular reports will keep Council updated on matters involving the S&HLGA. Council Members may wish to regularly check the S&HLGA website for most recent activities and publications.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	4 December 2023	HPRM Reference	DOC/23/160845
Title	Southern and Hills Local Government Association Update Report		
Purpose	To provide a report on the outcomes of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association (SHLGA) Board meetings held 25 August 2023 and 20 October 2023		

Meeting Date	7 August 2023	HPRM Reference	DOC/23/88593
Title	Southern and Hills Local Government Association Update Report		
Purpose	To provide a report on the outcomes of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association (SHLGA) Board meeting held 23 June 2023		

Meeting Date	5 June 2023	HPRM Reference	DOC/23/64697
Title	Southern and Hills Local Government Association Update Report		
Purpose	To provide a report on the outcomes of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association (SHLGA) Board meeting held 28 April 2023.		

14.2	REPORT TITLE:	ADELAIDE HILLS REGION WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY QUARTERLY REPORT – JANUARY TO MARCH 2024
	DATE OF MEETING:	2 APRIL 2024
	FILE NUMBER:	DOC/24/63430
	ATTACHMENT:	1: DOC/24/36466 - KEY OUTCOMES SUMMARY MEETING 15 FEBRUARY 2024 2: DOC/24/36450 - IN THE CIRCULAR – JANUARY 2024 (AHRWMA NEWSLETTER) 3: AGENDA AND MINUTES – AHRWMA
	<u>Key Contact</u>	Alex Oulianoff, General Manager, Corporate Services
	<u>Manager/Sponsor</u>	Andrew Stuart, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose:

To provide Council with a quarterly report from its regional subsidiary, the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA).

Summary – Key Issues:

1. AHRWMA held a Board meeting on 15 February 2024. The Key Outcomes Summary of the meeting is provided as attachment 1.
2. The AHRWMA’s quarterly newsletter published January 2024 ‘In the Circular’ is provided as attachment 2.
3. The agenda and minutes for the Authority’s meeting are available on the Authority’s website.

Background:

1. Mount Barker District Council is a member of the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority.
2. The Authority is a section 43 committee that is administered by a Board in accordance with the Local Government Act (1999) and the Authority’s Charter to achieve sustainable waste management through shared services for the communities of Adelaide Hills Council, Mount Barker District Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge and Alexandrina Council.

3. The Board is responsible for managing all activities of the Authority, ensuring that the Authority acts in accordance with its Charter. The Board meets at least 5 to 6 times each financial year.
4. The Board's responsibilities include development of strategic and business directions and strategies aimed at improving the business of the Authority. The Board appoints an Executive Officer responsible for implementing the decisions made by the Board and managing the day-to-day operations of the Authority.
5. The Authority's business activities include landfill operations, resource recovery centre management, hook-lift truck transport services and mobile concrete crushing services on behalf of and for the benefit of Member Councils. The Authority also represents Member Councils in relevant forums, provides technical waste and resource management advice and coordinates education services across the region.
6. Council's representatives on the Board are Alex Oulianoff, General Manager Corporate Services (Board Member) and Councillor Bradley Orr (Deputy Board Member).

Discussion:

1. The AHRWMA's key outcomes from their 15 February 2024 are provided as attachment 1.
2. Consultation on the draft 2022-32 Strategic Plan and Regional Education Plan was undertaken with member Councils and key stakeholders; the Plans were the subject of an information briefing session with Council members on 22 January 2024. Council Members were provided an overview of the Authority's draft 2022-2032 Strategic Plan and Regional Education Plan.
3. Subsequent to this Information Session, an internal review of the documents was undertaken a summary of the feedback received was provided to Council Members via memo dated 8 March 2024.
4. Reporting of Authority activities is provided in the form of a quarterly Newsletter – In the Circular. Refer attachment 2.
5. The agenda and minutes for Board meetings are available on the Authority's website – link provided as attachment 3.

Conclusion:

Quarterly reports from the AHRWMA keep member Councils regularly updated on matters involving the Authority's core business.

Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	15 January 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/4004
Title	Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Quarterly Report – October to December 2023		
Purpose	To provide Council with a quarterly report from its regional subsidiary, the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA).		

Meeting Date	6 December 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/106574
Title	Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Quarterly Report – June to September 2023		
Purpose	To provide Council with a quarterly report from its regional subsidiary, the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA).		

Meeting Date	4 April 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/37969
Title	Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Quarterly Report – October to December 2022		
Purpose	To provide Council with a quarterly report from its regional subsidiary, the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA).		

Meeting Date	6 March 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/24168
Title	Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Quarterly Report – July to September 2022		
Purpose	To provide Council with a quarterly report from its regional subsidiary, the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA).		

Meeting Date	7 November 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/123864
Title	Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Annual Report 2021/22		
Purpose	To provide Council the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority's (AHRWMA) Annual Report 2021/22 for adoption and subsequent inclusion as an attachment to Council's Annual Report 2021/22.		

Meeting Date	1 August 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/92623
Title	Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Quarterly Report – January to March 2022		
Purpose	To provide Council with a quarterly report from its regional subsidiary, the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA).		

14.3 **REPORT TITLE:** **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA AHFKI
QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT (OCT-DEC 2023)**

DATE OF MEETING: **2 APRIL 2024**

FILE NUMBER: **DOC/24/39959**

Key Contact Brian Jackway, Economic Development Officer

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

Purpose:

To provide a quarterly update (OCT-DEC 23) on the activity of Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island (RDA) as part of their on-going partnership role with Council, in delivering economic outcomes for our District and broader Region.

Summary – Key Issues:

1. RDA has continued to progress a number of key initiatives consistent with its Project Plan 2022-2025.
2. Council staff have continued to engage with RDA staff on providing improved and new avenues to business funding including grant and non-grant based structures.
3. A review of the State Governments progress on actions regarding the improvement of public transport options across our District and broader Region has and will be a key focus of the RDA.

Background:

1. Council has a 3-year funding agreement with RDA.
2. The current funding agreement of \$65,979 per annum commenced 1 July 2022 and concludes on 30 June 2025.
3. Council funds and is a member of RDA to enhance economic development and liveability in our district and across the region through a collaborative approach to regional issues.
4. RDA receives additional funding from five other member councils, State and Federal Government. The split of funding between the three levels of government is Federal Government 22%, State Government 52% and local government (6 member councils) 26%.

5. RDA works in partnership with Council to deliver and agree on programs to support the development and implementation of projects or activities identified in their respective strategic plans.
6. RDA provides quarterly reports on their activities and project status to member councils. A copy of the latest quarterly report will be available to Council Member via the Elected Members Extranet/Communication.

Discussion:

7. The RDA Quarterly (Oct-Dec 2023) Report includes the following key highlights of activities;
 - a) WSP Australia commenced their undertaking of the Fleurieu and KI Transport Plan, on behalf of DIT. RDA provided WSP with regional intel on public transport and other transport matters through interviews and also provision of our public transport work.
 - b) In March 2023, RDA AHFKI launched the region's own leadership program: Inspired Leadership 2023. The program was delivered by Newday Leadership, with a strong focus on soft skills development, climate change, cultural awareness and inclusion. Graduates of the program had a final chance to celebrate and reflect on their year at the Newday Leadership Summit which was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on 2 November.
 - c) RDA continue to work with stakeholders to bed down agreements for the development of the Parndana housing development (40 allotments) and the related Kangaroo Island Community Club's workers housing project.
 - d) RDA continues to support and work with Resilient Hills & Coasts across its project suite. Unfortunate news arrived in December about the cessation of the Building Better Finance service, which has been a game changer for councils considering the Building Upgrade Finance program.
 - e) RDA are developing a place-based financing option which will aim to match local investors with local projects. This will be a valuable tool in assisting business and community organisations to find capital to fund projects.
 - f) Digitisation. A Digital Solutions workshop delivered in Birdwood in October was a sell-out! Its focus was guiding businesses to unlock the power of social media to drive sales and bolster customer conversion. RDA, in collaboration with our council partners, was pleased to bring the Business Fundamentals workshop to Stirling in December. A workshop was held in Mount Barker in February 2024.

Conclusion:

The RDA have provided Council with their Quarterly Report (Oct-Dec 2023) providing an update on their activities and project status. Council staff work closely on projects relevant to the district and provide input into initiatives with regional context.

Meeting Date	4 Sep 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/105424
Title	Regional Development Australia Quarterly Project Report April-June 2022 incorporated into the Economic Development Program Update.		
Purpose	To provide the Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island quarterly update on its projects to its member Councils.		

Meeting Date	6 May 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/109589
Title	Regional Development Australia Quarterly Project Report April-June 2022		
Purpose	To provide the Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island quarterly update on its projects to its member Councils.		

Meeting Date	6 February 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/9400
Title	Regional Development Australia Quarterly Project Report April-June 2022		
Purpose	To provide the Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island quarterly update on its projects to its member Councils.		

Meeting Date	5 September 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/102048
Title	Regional Development Australia Quarterly Project Report April-June 2022		
Purpose	To provide the Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island quarterly update on its projects to its member Councils.		

Meeting Date	6 June 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/60759
Title	Regional Development Australia Quarterly Project Report January-April 2021		
Purpose	To provide the Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island quarterly update on its projects to its member Councils.		

Meeting Date	7 March 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/21028
Title	Regional Development Australia Quarterly Project Report Oct-Dec2021		
Purpose	To provide the Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island quarterly update on its projects to its member Councils.		

Meeting Date	6 December 2021	CM Reference	DOC/21/194113
Title	Regional Development Australia Quarterly Project Report July- September 2021		
Purpose	To provide the Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island quarterly update on its projects to its member Councils.		

15. MAYOR'S REPORT

Activity

16. MEMBERS' REPORTS**16.1 Councillor Szilassy**

Date	Activity
4 March 2024	Council Meeting
4 March 2024	Community Forum, Mount Barker
5 March 2024	Soft plastics bridge manufacture and tour
7 March 2024	Member Training - Leadership
8 March 2024	International Women's Day Celebration, St Francis De Sales College
9 March 2024	Street Arts Fest (Pop Up Park)
12, 18, 25 March 2024	Information Briefing Sessions
14 March 2024	Adelaide Hills Reconciliation Working Group (AHRWG)
20 March 2024	Nairne Districts and Residents Association Councillor Forum
20 March 2024	Laratinga Community Shed, Official launch and open day
23 March 2024	Mount Barker District Show
23 March 2024	Youth Beats (Pop Up Park)
25 March 2024	Confidential Briefing Sessions
26 March 2024	Harrogate Hall Committee meeting
Ongoing	Phone calls and emails with North Ward residents

17. QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**18. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

NIL