



21 February 2023

**Media Statement**

## Mount Barker Regional Education Centre

Please see statement below attributed to Mayor David Leach.

“Council was an active stakeholder in the development of the business case and supported Regional Development Australia – Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island’s submission to establish a Regional University Centre (RUC) in Mount Barker.

“Our Community Plan and economic development strategy include a strong focus on education, learning and innovation. The objectives of the Community Plan are all consistent with the development of a RUC in the council area.

“The development of local tertiary education options is an important element to a comprehensive educational offering within the region. The time and cost impediment of traveling for university study can be a significant barrier to some.

“Mount Barker continues to experience significant population growth and with it, the need to provide access to quality tertiary education opportunities.

“Increasing tertiary education levels across our district will have profound social and community impacts and has the ability to transform our community and increase the value of job opportunities.

“A Regional University Centre is a logical first step towards a much needed university education presence in Mount Barker.”

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