MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Plan
2020–2035
Appendix

Community priority directions ideas marketplace

The following pages feature ideas shared by community members at the most recent Futures Forum in September 2020. Each of these ideas may prove to be valuable contributions to projects that may benefit Community priority directions. Contributions to the community priority directions ideas marketplace have been edited for clarity and consistency.

**Your vision.
Our future.**

Community priority directions

Two Futures Forums and community submissions helped to inform the development of this plan. From this input, a consolidated list of priority community directions was developed to help define a compelling community vision for the future.

Informed by these community priorities, Council will pursue partnerships and opportunities to build on existing initiatives and explore and develop new ideas and shared narratives that drive credible business cases and tangible outcomes through the Plan's implementation.

These priority community directions reflect local and global challenges, strengths we have as a region and opportunities to enhance or establish initiatives that will benefit from future collaboration, partnerships and investment. While it is beyond the capacity of the Council or any other single entity to deliver all that is required to progress these initiatives, Council can play an essential role in making things easier and helping recognise and support the organisations and individuals involved in better defining, developing and delivering projects that align with the community priorities.

Actions to progress Community Priorities will include minor initiatives that are already happening or can be commenced, major projects or specific plans and strategies. All actions that link to a Community Priority will be identified as such in Councils 4-year Corporate Plan.

In this Community Plan, Council is committing to progressing the priorities and supporting the efforts of others through collaboration and partnership. The engagement methods for this support will include maintaining a Futures Forum community (in digital and physical realms), the publishing of a regular newsletter, posts on social media and occasional events, including forums and consultations.

Each priority direction has the potential to significantly enhance community wellbeing, economic prosperity and ecological sustainability; the themes that underpin our Community Plan.

Ideas marketplace

We gained valuable insight and suggestions from community members at the final futures forum in September 2020. Many of these ideas have the potential to grow and spread. They may also have the opportunity to become projects in their own right. Mount Barker District Council is committed to providing a forum for these ideas to flourish and, where possible, support to bring them to fruition in partnership with business, the not-for-profit sector, government and other partners and collaborators. Community input has been gathered into an Appendix that sets out contributions by theme in an 'ideas marketplace'.

The six priorities
The six Community Priorities are:

1. Circular Economies
Moving beyond recycling and rubbish to redefining 'waste' as a resource and stimulating community farming and agriculture through innovation, education and financial participation.

2. Activating Tourism
Developing Mount Barker as the heart of the Adelaide Hills and promoting its first-class tourism experiences and destinations.

3. Growth Infrastructure
Providing the infrastructure and services needed to enable Mount Barker's evolution into a small, modern and progressive city, servicing its residents and businesses, smaller towns and villages and the wider region.

4. Nature Connection
Recognising and celebrating the biodiversity values of the region and harnessing our collective wisdom, knowledge, skills and resources to elevate biodiversity protection and replenishment to the highest of priorities.

5. Climate Innovation
Tackling the climate emergency through a concerted, focussed and coordinated effort to reduce emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

6. Healthy Community
Celebrating and supporting the community and ensuring that community cohesiveness is maintained and strengthened and that our priority populations have the opportunity to live healthy and inclusive lives.
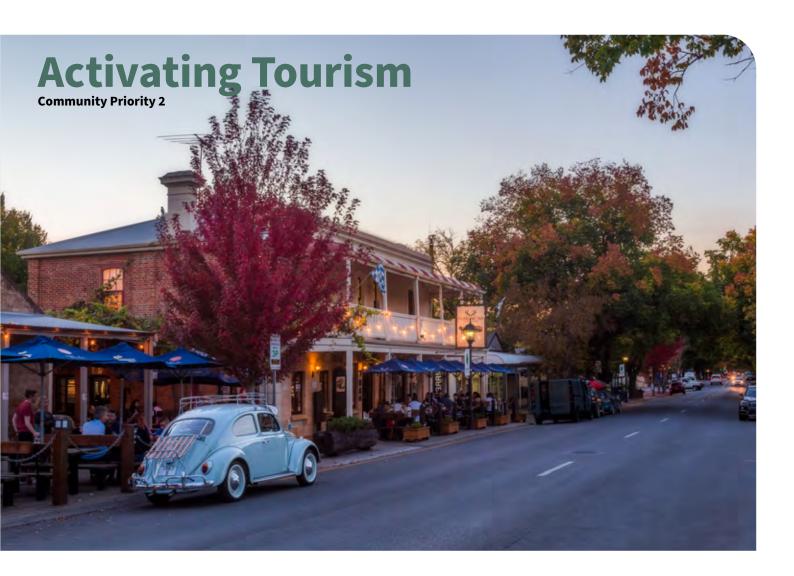
Circular Economies

Community Priority 1

Put simply, a circular economy is a social and economic system that eliminates waste through the continual use of resources. In embracing the Circular Economies priority, we can move beyond recycling and rubbish to redefining waste as a resource.

Ideas marketplace

The following ideas emerged as we engaged with the community and many others in the development of this plan:

- Develop a market for scrunchable plastics from silage, potting, soil, fertiliser bags
- Encourage waste reduction through product stewardship/responsibility
- Dismantle buildings rather than demolish them and reuse the materials

- Prioritise reduction of packaging, especially that which cannot be recycled or reused
- Educate community and consumers to help in understanding implications of consumer packaging choices
- Place value on 'waste' for example through 'precious plastic' program
- Using psychology and marketing science to help consumer cultural change
- Build a community library of 'things' to reuse, repurpose household and shed goods for people to borrow.
- Create fixing and repair workshops – mending, sharpening, repurposing etc
- Find opportunities to use e-waste (e.g. through teaching repair, café hacker / mens' shed
- Research/co-design a net zero lab
- Work with the construction industry on ways to incorporate recycled products

- Redirecting waste that may be able to be diverted.
- Create an information sharing platform
- Barcode bins. Charge cost to resident per bin. Encourage residents to be waste conscious.
- Reward businesses who reduce or make use of waste
- Target building waste: gyprock, polystyrene, timber
- Use waste building wood to create biochar
- Provide local markets for recycled plastic and other products
- Encourage social enterprises / disability enterprises (e.g. partnerships for upcycling, repurposing etc)
- Pressure manufacturers to change from waste and throwaway
- Encourage manufacturers to be responsible for their products when no longer of use to the person who bought it.

Activating Tourism

Community Priority 2

Mount Barker is at the heart of the Adelaide Hills. The district and surrounding region offers first-class experiences and destinations.

Ideas marketplace

The following ideas emerged as we engaged with the community and many others in the development of this plan:

- Provide financial assistance with marketing and advertising
- Help local businesses gain more exposure
- Encourage bicycle tourism
- Develop a theatre in Hahndorf
- Provide better access and online links for tourism
- Support youth bands and music of all styles
- Break the perception of distance to Adelaide
- Leverage the experience of the region, show it visually
- Recognise and promote early mining history
- Provide grants for business growth, especially for young business owners
- Establish a central cellar door for smaller wineries that are producing but don't have a cellar door or physical sales centre. It could also stock other Hills-made products
- Work with local business/tourism associations/organisations .
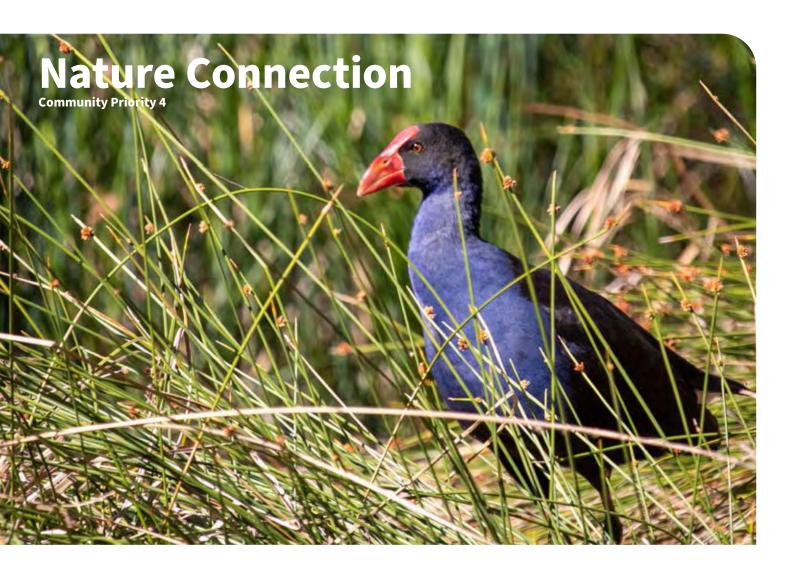
Growth Infrastructure
Community Priority 3

Each year the population of Mount Barker regional centre grows by around 2.6%.With this growth comes the need and expectation to provide infrastructure and services and protect heritage and community values as Mount Barker evolves into a small, modern and progressive city. Growth infrastructure is as equally important to the smaller towns and villages of the district as it is to Mount Barker in servicing residents and businesses and the wider region.

Ideas marketplace
The following ideas emerged as we engaged with the community and many others in the development of this plan:

- Develop projects that assist with food security for a growing region
- Develop energy sustainability and energy security for the growing region
- Develop a coherent traffic management strategy to stop both Mount Barker and Hahndorf being overwhelmed by heavy traffic
- Introduce a chamber of commerce to build business not just in town centre
- Low energy passive sustainable housing (all buildings)
- Provide alternative options for institutionalized childcare, e.g. family day care
- Develop a community value exchange – give and get back
- Ensure a consistent power supply
- Fast speed internet including wireless

- Bring nightlife to Mount Barker
- Seek out Indigenous knowledge/ involvement
- Preserve heritage
- Build the ring road around Mount Barker, with wide bike lanes and footpaths
- Ensure critical public transport to enable economic/social participation in housing developments especially as they go further on town boundaries
- Ensure social housing is integral to any new approved housing development (built to liveable housing standards)
- Fast-track the new supermarkets around Mount Barker so that people can walk/ride from their houses to shops.
- Have more initiatives like urban farms
- Be part of a community garden local sharing/supportive network of shared interest
- Build the past into the future – acknowledge and show gratitude for the lives of our ancestors
- Build tiny house parks for affordable housing
- Create walkable neighborhoods
- Consult with people of all abilities to ensure accessibility and inclusion
- Consult with the Disability Inclusion Reference Group
- Collaborate with State and Federal governments to leverage more community and infrastructure support on the basis of our high-growth status.

Nature Connection

The Australian Government describes the Mount Lofty Ranges as one of fifteen 'biodiversity hotspots'. This means the region contains very significant biodiversity that is also highly threatened. Biodiversity protection is an urgent problem, with only 3% of original native vegetation remaining in the district and several fauna and flora species at risk. In the Mount Barker district it is critical that we create opportunities to harness our collective wisdom, knowledge, skills and resources to elevate biodiversity protection and replenishment to the highest of priorities and to open new opportunities to bring nature closer to where and how we live.

Ideas marketplace

The following ideas emerged as we engaged with the community and many others in the development of this plan:

- Act to prevent further species loss – communicate and educate for thought/cultural change
- Soften interface between human and nature where we all act to protect and rebuild nature
- Accept that trees are our heritage
- Share scientific knowledge to the community
- Link Mount Barker Summit to Totness CP
- Share knowledge about regenerative agriculture - experiences and successes
- Create a Youth Council
- Develop more trails linking zones so people can walk/cycle
- Build more awareness for children/ community events
- Use Indigenous knowledge to inform and guide
- Link the 'safe' zones for native animals through corridors
- Ensure development adapts to remnant vegetation and environment and not be modified for profit
- Ensure the community accepts responsibility to act on climate change
- Incentivise farmers to revegetate part of the farm
- Develop Nature – Tourism
- Offer extension/access to advice
- Involve Indigenous people in sharing knowledge and culture
- Provide more conservation areas
- Assist farmers to be more sustainable
- Provide landcare type activities for people with disabilities
- Develop an Indigenous 'bush tucker' community garden in the area, to be managed on a roster basis by local primary schools, both public & private.

Climate Innovation

At its meeting on 4 November 2019, Council formally recognised that we are in a state of climate emergency, requiring urgent action from all levels of government.

Ideas marketplace

The following ideas emerged as we engaged with the community and many others in the development of this plan:

- Look for ways to create local employment opportunities and to keep people working from home to reduce transport emissions, increase local spend and increase quality of life
- Increase tree canopy cover to offset emissions and cool urban environments

- Use the green waste from Councils tree removal and pruning program to make biochar
- Provide collection point for building wood waste for making biochar
- Aim for Council to be carbon neutral by 2030 including through using biochar
- Encourage new homes to have a high green rating
- Require new homes to be energy self sufficient
- Host a climate space community summit and connect community through open space events
- Acknowledge urban heat island effect caused by higher density developments, hard surfaces etc and devise solutions
- Council could purchase local energy generated through community energy networks

- Create electric vehicle charging networks
- Encourage heat pump systems instead of gas
- Increase shade in the town centre using awnings as well as more tree canopy. Council could work with a Waite Institute PhD student to come up with some ideas/designs
- Work with someone Peats Soil to make Biochar on a mass scale in addition to other composts etc.
- Use a system similar to 'food miles' where residents can utilise compost etc. made from waste from their own Council area.
- Charge residents for the waste they actually generate.

Healthy Community

The Mount Barker district has a highly engaged community, but meaningful connection and support isn't guaranteed or assumed for all, now nor in the future. As the district population grows, it will be important to ensure that community cohesiveness is maintained and strengthened and that our priority populations are supported and have the opportunity to live healthy and productive lives and to feel part of this community.

Ideas marketplace

The following ideas emerged as we engaged with the community and many others in the development of this plan:

- Encourage alternative housing options to allow ageing in place.
- Develop other ideas to allow ageing in place such as working to change attitudes/understanding

- Foster/encourage more intergenerational understanding/activity/projects etc. Can start with schooling, community gardening, community development projects
- Use the knowledge and experience of existing services – supportive model
- Priortise the thoughts and ideas of the young citizens in the community
- Recognise that heritage is essential for community wellbeing
- Address transport corridors to avoid long commutes to enable people to engage locally
- Re introduce rail infrastructure for commuters
- Coordinate the community's role in disaster management.
- Integrate retirement homes with Early Learning Centres and schools
- Connect with the tourist industry
- Encourage intergenerational mentorship and activities

- Provide more social events to get people together, e.g. womens club
- Remember the skills of older people
- Consider that people with disabilities are now living longer and need their needs considered in 'Ageing' innovation
- Recognise the role of open space, parks and reserves in health and wellbeing
- Provide a voice for youth and their role as future leaders and drivers and owners
- Consult with people of all abilities
- Collaborate with Mission Australia (Mt Barker) Our Strengthening Communities project
- Ensure community involvement and decisions reflect community and not corporate
- Have houses close to shops/supermarkets/public transport to encourage social interaction and active transport
- Have smaller houses / more diverse housing to cater for different lifestyles
- Strengthen bottom up approach of community engagement.
- Work with residents' associations to provide what communities need, where we need it
- Encourage Community centres in all our towns and help them to happen
- Give more emphasis to Multicultural, low socio-economic and social isolated populations
- Consider more creative, community driven place making
- Do more with people, not for people.