



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Plan 2020–2035

Your vision. Our future.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to this summary of our Community Plan by first acknowledging that we live on the traditional ancestral land of the Peramangk people and acknowledging their leaders, past, present and emerging.

In these times we are extremely fortunate to live in the Mount Barker District, part of the beautiful Adelaide Hills and I am very grateful and honoured to be the Mayor of the Mount Barker District Council. That said, there is much to challenge our community now and in the future. From bushfires in December 2019 and January 2020, to COVID-19 and the climate crisis, we must think and act with purpose and confidence in the future of this place and all that it offers.

Since our last Strategic Plan was adopted back in 2015, about 4500 new residents have joined our community and we welcome them with open arms. Our district is growing quickly and while more people coming to live here adds vibrancy, diversity and new dimensions, we strive to support and preserve enduring positive community values and natural environments and ecosystems.

This Community Plan sets a vision for the district and identifies goals and



objectives designed to highlight social, economic and environmental issues and challenges that affect us all, now and into the future. We have also developed 6 Priority Directions which are detailed in this Plan.

I welcome you to join us in implementing this Community Plan.

Mayor Ann Ferguson

Contact us at council@mountbarker.sa.gov.au to get involved.



Trends and pressures

In order to plan for community needs and aspirations, it is important to understand the trends and pressures impacting our community, environment and economy.

These trends and pressures are:

- local (e.g. population growth)
- national (e.g. economic performance)
- global (e.g. climate change or the Coronavirus pandemic).

Beyond immediate and long-term global crises, our Community Plan needs to consider a diversity of trends and pressures including population growth (with more younger and older people); our need for cultural, recreational and sporting opportunities; regional economic factors; water management; and our relationships with nature, technology and the providers of goods and services.

Understanding these factors helps Council and community address important local issues such as providing infrastructure and services for our growing district community. This understanding also helps us consider our contribution to solving global problems that affect us, such as reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

Integrating our planning

This Community Plan guides all the work of Council and enables partnerships with others to achieve desired outcomes for our wellbeing, prosperity and sustainability.

The Goals and Objectives contained within this plan have a planning horizon of 15 years, reviewed every four years. Lead strategies will be aligned to actions in the four-year Corporate Implementation Plan.

Actions from the Corporate Implementation Plan will be budgeted for and delivered through the Annual Business Plan.

We will continue to welcome input and ideas from community members and other stakeholders throughout the life of the Community Plan.

15 years	Community Plan Your vision. Our future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community themes• Long-term goals and objectives• Priority directions• Indicators• Delivery guidelines
10 years	Long Term Financial Plan and Strategic Asset Management Plan	The Long Term Financial Plan anticipates and plans for fiscal challenges and opportunities and aligns with the Community Plan and Strategic Asset Management Plan to ensure that Council can achieve its objectives and maintain its financial sustainability in the medium to long term.
4 years	Corporate Implementation Plan	<p>Sets priorities and budgets for projects, programs and services stemming from strategies, plans and other Council priorities.</p> <p>The Corporate Implementation Plan is updated annually and Informs specific actions, project and management plans and divisional business plans. It is integrated with Council's long-term financial plan and asset management plan.</p>
1 year	The Annual Business Plan	The Business Plan sets the annual work program and budget and is informed by the Corporate Implementation Plan.

Our guiding themes



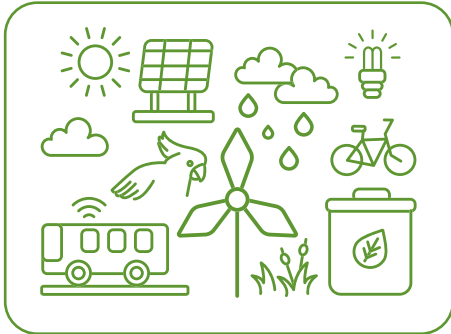
Community Wellbeing

- Activity and movement
- Health and social connection
- Heritage, cultural expression and celebration
- Safety and resilience
- Mobility and accessibility



Economic Prosperity

- Business and employment
- Identity and reputation
- Growth and opportunity
- Education, learning and innovation



Ecological Sustainability

- Emissions reduction
- Urban greening
- Nature and wildlife
- Low waste
- Clean and abundant water

The three themes adopted in the draft Community Plan have many intersecting components.

Society and the wellbeing of the community is ultimately affected by the health of the economy and availability of meaningful, well-paid employment. The health of the community and the economy is wholly dependent on the health of the environment and availability of clean air, water and soil and thriving biodiversity.

The new Community Plan is structured around the themes of Community Wellbeing, Ecological Sustainability and Economic Prosperity. The goals listed above are the ones that guide this Plan. A number of related objectives, indicators and measures are set out in the full plan.

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The Priority Directions introduced on the following Page influence (and are influenced by) each of the themes
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Our six priorities

In late 2019, we sought insight from the community and hosted a 'futures forum'.

Forum participants and those who made submissions were asked to define their vision for the district and co-create some 'big ideas'. Following this engagement

and a review of current and future issues and trends, six priority directions were developed. With your input, they can help deliver our community's vision for the future.



1 Circular Economies

Circular economies can help us move beyond rubbish and recycling and redefine 'waste' as a resource. We can stimulate community farming and agriculture through innovation, education and financial participation. Put simply, a circular economy is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and instead enabling the continual use of new resources.



2 Activating Tourism

Mount Barker is at the heart of the Adelaide Hills. The district and surrounding region offer first-class cultural and tourism experiences and destinations. The climate, landscape, environment and heritage (Aboriginal and that of other countries), when added to the food, wine and other delights that are grown and sold here make us attractive to international, interstate and intrastate visitors.



3 Growth Infrastructure

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 that befit a small, progressive city and all 14 villages of the district.



4 Nature Connection

The Australian Government describes the Mount Lofty Ranges as one of fifteen 'biodiversity hotspots'. 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. It is critical that we create opportunities to harness our collective wisdom, knowledge, skills and resources to elevate biodiversity protection and replenishment and to bring nature closer to where and how we live.



5 Climate Innovation

In November last year, Council adopted a Climate Change Action Plan to increase the effort to reduce emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Climate change is an existential challenge that requires a concerted, focussed and coordinated effort across all governments and the corporate world, supported by community.



6 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 vulnerable, marginalised or unsupported people have the opportunity to live healthy and productive lives and to feel part of this community.

Delivering the Plan

Council cannot contribute to Community Wellbeing, Economic Prosperity and Ecological Sustainability outcomes without having the structures and governance arrangements in place and without the support of others. We have therefore created the delivery guidelines of Leadership and Good Governance, Working Smarter and Implementation Partnerships to streamline Council's actions and the actions of others. Learn more by consulting the full Community Plan.