



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ECHUNGA TOWNSHIP PLAN

DECEMBER 2019



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01 PURPOSE

The Echunga Township Plan (the Plan) will guide the future of Echunga over the next 20 years. It is intended to assist Council in delivering coordinated projects, planning and services. 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 Echunga. The Plan will:

- Provide a long term vision for the township of Echunga
- 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.



02

Background & how to read the Plan

In July 2019, Council ran community consultation on a draft township plan for Echunga. We reviewed all feedback, made changes where needed and finalised the document into this Plan.

Background

On 1 July 2019, Council endorsed the draft Echunga Township Plan to go out on public consultation. The consultation period ran from 15 July to 15 August 2019.

The objective of the consultation was to test if the proposed priorities and key directions set by the draft Plan accurately reflect community expectations?

During the consultation period over 400 brochures were mailed and delivered to residents and an open day session was held at the Echunga Uniting Church on 3 August 2019.

There was active participation throughout the consultation period which included:

- 69 completed surveys
- 60 people attended the open day
- 10 written submissions received
- Council staff engaged with community organisations during the consultation period
- A detailed report on the summary of consultation was presented to Council on 2 December 2019. To view this report go to: mountbarker.sa.gov.au and open the 2 December 2019 Council Agenda

How to read this Plan

This report has been broken up into two sections.

The first section provides an introduction to the plan and includes information of the town of Echunga. It also provides detail on the six key themes and associated principles included in the plan.

The second part of the report 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 details the priorities for actions in the plan.

This report is structured as follows:

INTRODUCTION

Introduces the plan and provides an executive summary.

CONTEXT

A background to Echunga including issues and opportunities that influence the plan.

PLAN THEMES AND PRINCIPLES

An overview of the seven key themes and the guiding principles which underpin the plan.

EXPLORE THE PLAN

Provides an in-depth look at the Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Details the priorities of the Plan and how these priorities will be implemented.

03 THE PLAN

1 Improve Arrival and Wayfinding
Implement strategies to improve the arrival into the town. Providing better quality wayfinding throughout the town and entrance statements to encourage increased visitation to the main street and a greater understanding of the features of the town.

2 Improve Pedestrian Movement Throughout the Town
Improve the quality of pedestrian and cycling links throughout the town, identifying locations for new infrastructure for more safe and efficient movement.

3 Improve the use of the RSL Gardens of Remembrance
Establish the RSL Garden of Remembrance land at the intersection of Echunga Road and Strathalbyn Road as a public reserve in order to encourage greater use and functionality (see concept plan on page 21)

4 Advocate for Improvements to Churchill Road/Adelaide Road Intersection
Advocate for a Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure led review and upgrade of Adelaide Road, Church Hill Road intersection to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety whilst accommodating an improved interface to the heritage listed Hagen Arms.

5 Undertake Improvements to the Main Street
Undertake improvements to the main street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements (see concept plan).





6 Investigate Appropriate Zoning for Open Space Land

Providing more appropriate zoning for areas of the township currently within the Primary Production Zone as to better reflect its use e.g. primary school, golf course and recreation ground.

7 Continue to Support the Recreations Grounds

Support the continued use of the Recreation Grounds by sporting and community service groups to increase participation and social inclusion.

8 Improve Commercial Zone Development Policy

Investigate the effectiveness of the existing Local Centre Zone policies, and consider alternative policies that encourage a more broad range of commercial and residential development.

9 Support Economic Development

Support the creation and implementation of both Council and industry led strategies to better recognise and support the many local businesses and rural enterprises which help to define the Echunga Township and its surrounds.

10 Continue to provide necessary infrastructure upgrades

Undertake a review of existing stormwater management within the town to improve the quality and function of this infrastructure.

04 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's top three priorities for the township of Echunga over the next five years include improving the quality and efficiency of pedestrian movement throughout the town, improve the function of key open space areas and encourage greater visitation to the main street of Echunga.

The vision

The township of Echunga will offer a diverse and unique lifestyle for its residents, and will provide a range of high-quality and accessible public amenities to support an increasingly diverse population.

The profile of the town will continue to be raised through the support of a diverse local economy both within the town and its rural surrounds, and through the continued support of major events in the town. Issues such as social inclusion and a well-functioning community support network will continue to be addressed through participation in social and recreation activities throughout the town and region.

Seven key themes and their guiding principles

Seven themes have been developed to address to key opportunities that the Plan seeks to address. The seven themes include:

1. Heritage, character and identity
2. Connected communities
3. Access and movement
4. Open space and community facilities
5. Economic development, growth and tourism
6. The main street
7. Infrastructure

Implementation and priorities

Implementation of the Plan has been separated into short, medium, long and on-going projects over a twenty year period. A number of priorities have been identified which will be actioned in the short term (0-3 years).

These priorities include:

- Improve the quality and efficiency of pedestrian movement throughout the town.
- Improve the function and usability of land at the RSL Garden of Remembrance to provide for a greater variety of community uses.
- Undertaken improvements to the mainstreet, creating a better pedestrian environment and improved landscape qualities;

Community Consultation

Community consultation on the draft Plan was undertaken from July 15 to August 15 2019. Further details of the summary of consultation can be found on page 5.

A detailed report on the summary of consultation was presented to Council on 2 December 2019. To view this report go to: mountbarker.sa.gov.au and open the 2 December 2019 Council Agenda.

05 CONTEXT



Peramangk acknowledgment

Mount Barker District Council would like to acknowledge that the township of Echunga is located on the traditional land of the Peramangk people. We respect their spiritual relationship with their country and their cultural and heritage beliefs.

The plan will ensure that the significance of this culture is represented, where possible and appropriate through the proposed visions and actions contained within the plan.

Focus Area

The focus area for the plan is limited to the township of Echunga, however it is acknowledged that much of the area's residents and its economic activity occur within the rural surrounds of Echunga.

Many factors have influenced Echunga to make it what it is today, these being its historic, demographic, tourism and environmental conditions which make up the township.

05 CONTEXT CONTINUED



Settlement

At the time of European settlement the land around Echunga formed part of the Battunga Country inhabited by the indigenous Peramangk community. The land provided a rich and diverse range of native flora and fauna and a consistent supply of fresh drinking water.

The European settlement of Echunga can be in part attributed to Jacob Hagen who in 1847 was granted land in the area and further sub-divided the land to create a small settlement.

Whilst agriculture was the predominant industry during the settlement of the town, the area was soon identified as an important site for gold mining. Gold was first discovered in 1852 by William Chapman and this discovery led to Echunga being the first proclaimed gold field in South Australia. Subsequent discoveries saw additional gold mining fields established at Wattle Flat, Long Gully, Poormans Hill and Jupiter Creek.

The town experienced more difficult times in the early 1900's, including the end of the gold mining boom, the first of two World Wars and a disastrous bushfire in 1939, however a strong agriculture industry saw the rural community of Echunga continue to thrive. The town now plays an increasingly more important role as a local centre for the areas rural community providing for a well-connected and supportive community.



Demographics

Presently the Echunga township and its rural surrounds is home to approximately 1,740 people, representing just over 5% of the Mount Barker district's total population. Growth in the Echunga population has been slow, yet consistent with a 5% increase in the town's population over the past eight years – an average of approximately 10 new residents per year.

The predominant household structures within the Echunga township are couples with children (39.5%) and couples without children (31.2%) however a further exploration of this data also reveals that the largest age groups represented within the Echunga population are those in the 50+ age group and children under the age of 18 years.

Current projections anticipate that the rate of population growth in Echunga will be reasonably modest with a 3.42% increase to 2036 which is approximately 58 additional residents 17 years. The town's population is also aging with the percentage of residents over the age of 60 expected to increase from 16.8% to 23.6% by 2036.



Economy and tourism

The Echunga Township and its rural surrounds is home to a variety of local businesses and rural enterprises, with specialist agriculture activities and a thriving equine industry the most prominent.

The increasing presence and value of the local equine industry, should be acknowledged, with the Echunga rural environment now being a focal point for this kind of activity.

Similarly, the increase of farm-gate sales and on-farm value adding activities continue to be an important part of the rural economic environment.

Within the town there are a number of important and unique local businesses which help to define the town, with a hotel, general store and bakery, hairdresser and Post Office providing services for the Echunga community along with a number of other service industries present throughout the town.

Echunga has a relatively high rate of employment with 98.4% of the workforce employed. Notwithstanding this many residents are required to travel outside of the District to find employment (up to 54% District wide).

The town benefits from major community events held throughout the year such as the All British Day which has attracted increasing larger crowds to the town each year for the one day event. The Tour Down Under also continues to be a popular event for the town.



Physical environment

Echunga is situated within an area of highly productive farmland on the western edge of the Mount Lofty Ranges. The area sees some of South Australia's highest annual rainfall and is home to rural enterprises which include grazing, horticulture and horse keeping.

The natural environment includes large gum trees and a number of small seasonal watercourses which pass through the town.

The eastern parts of the town are located on sloping terrain as is the eastern approach to the town along Church Hill Road. The remainder of the town is largely flat and is characterised by heritage buildings with floral gardens.

The town's major recreation areas lay to the north-west of the town with the golf course, recreation ground and primary school all located outside of the existing town boundary.

06 TEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES & THE SEVEN THEMES

There are ten guiding principles and seven key themes used in the preparation of this plan.

The 10 guiding principles are:

1. Protect and enhance cultural, natural heritage and promote the continued identity of the Echunga township.
2. Improve access, safety and connectivity of movement of pedestrians and vehicles throughout the township.
3. Promote improved public transport links between Echunga, Mount Barker and metropolitan Adelaide and beyond.
4. Enhance and improve existing open space and recreation ground facilities for use by all age groups in consideration of usability and functionality.
5. Encourage development which expands the economic base and growth of the township.
6. Promote tourism events for the township and increase opportunities for short-term accommodation.
7. Ensure the renewal/upgrade of assets that align with Council's Asset Management Plans and the continued growth of the Echunga township.
8. Pursue proactive management of infrastructure in the context of a growing township.
9. Promote the activation of the main street through community art, identification and activity nodes.
10. Improve the appearance of the streetscape and public realm via beautification works.

The icons on the following page represent the seven 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 state government agencies including:

- Echunga Community Association
- Echunga Recreation Ground Committee
- Echunga Memorial Institute
- Echunga Primary School
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure
- Country Fire Service
- Local businesses.



HERITAGE, CHARACTER AND
IDENTITY
(See page 16)



OPEN SPACE AND
COMMUNITY FACILITIES
(See page 22)



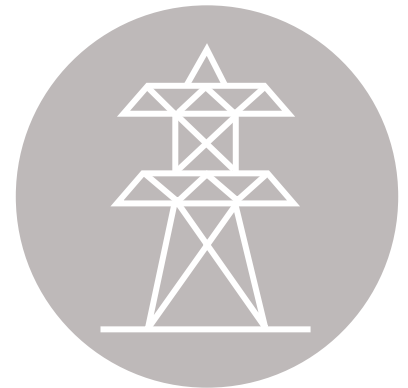
ACCESS AND MOVEMENT
(See page 20)



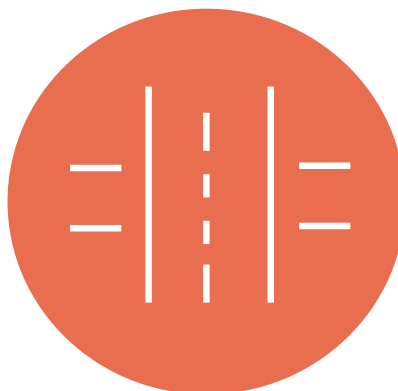
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
(See page 18)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
GROWTH AND TOURISM
(See page 26)



INFRASTRUCTURE
(See page 30)



THE MAIN STREET
(See page 28)

A photograph of a forest with tall, slender trees and green foliage. The text "Explore the Plan" is overlaid in white, bold font.

Explore the Plan



07 HERITAGE, CHARACTER & IDENTITY



The identity and character of the Echunga Township should in part be defined by a sense of community. Community groups, sporting clubs and community events should be supported where possible, acknowledging the important role they play in creating connected communities and facilitating social interaction and social inclusion. A well-functioning community network will assist in attracting new residents to the town, with modest population growth required to supporting the local primary school, community groups and businesses.

The built and natural character of the town is defined by its historic main street, recreation grounds, golf course and its rich and diverse rural surrounds. The presence of a number of local businesses and rural enterprises in and around the town provide it with an identity which is both unique and authentic, with one example being the presence of a well-established equine industry.

Notwithstanding this, the town and its facilities are not clearly legible to passing traffic with a need to improve the sense of arrival into the town. This problem is further exacerbated by a 'by-pass' issue associated with Battunga Road which presently diverts most passing and tourist traffic away from the main street and town centre. Strategies such as establishing defined entrance statements, more informative signage and streetscape improvements should be pursued to address this issue.

The recreation grounds, primary school and golf course are all important features of the town, however they are geographically isolated from the majority of the town. This issue is further exacerbated by the existing town boundaries and zoning which do not currently recognise this land, along with the CFS Station within appropriate zoning.

Actions

1. Recognise the identity of the Echunga Township by acknowledging and supporting both social and recreational activities which support the creation of a cohesive and inclusive local community.
2. Support the creation and implementation of both Council and industry led strategies to better recognise and support the many local businesses and rural enterprises which help to define the Echunga Township and its surrounds, including the equine industry.
3. Implement strategies to improve the arrival into the town, providing signage and entrance statements to more clearly define historic character and entrances into the town. **A**
4. Provide more appropriate zoning for areas of the township currently within the Primary Production Zone as to better reflect its use e.g. primary school, golf course and recreation ground. **B**
5. Celebrate both Peramangk and European heritage and culture of the town and its rural surrounds through initiatives such as interpretive signage and public art displays.
6. Continue to recognise and preserve the town's historic buildings, providing policy framework for the retention and protection of these important buildings whilst also providing financial support to property owners through the continuation of Council's heritage incentive scheme.



- X Specific proposal
 X General strategy
 Focus area
 Existing Township Boundary
 Recreation Land Currently Outside Township Boundary
 Contributory Heritage Item
 Local Heritage Place



1. Echunga Main Street



2. Historic Jupiter Creek Gold Diggings



3. Hagen Arms Hotel in Echunga

08 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES



A connected and inclusive community is an important and necessary feature of any rural township. An increase in the number of people living alone and a disconnect between essential services and those in vulnerable situations can often lead to issues such as social isolation and loneliness, both of which have a significant impact on community wellbeing.

Community groups and local sporting clubs play an important role in creating a connected community. 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.

In Echunga, local community groups should be supported to continue to fill this important role in the community along with the many sporting clubs which utilise the Recreation Grounds. Providing physical spaces and facilities where community members can come together is important for continuing to build a connected community.

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. In addition to the valuable role played by organised sport, it is important to recognise the changing way in which younger generations are choosing to be active. Continuing to provide opportunities for informal indoor and outdoor recreation activities is important to ensure young people remain engaged and active.

Actions

7. Continue to support the role and function of community and sporting groups, acknowledging the important role they play to encourage social interaction and inclusion.
8. Continue to support local community events which provide an opportunity for the community to come together and which helps to cement the identity of the town and creates a sense of community.
9. Advocate for a broader range of in-home and transport services to operate throughout the town so that the elderly and disabled can continue to remain within the Echunga community.
10. Provide information to the Echunga community on the housing support services available throughout the district, connecting those experiencing housing difficulties with the appropriate services.
11. Continue to provide facilities which cater for informal recreation activities to engage younger residents and support community groups which perform this role.
12. Where possible support the role, function and growth of the Echunga Primary School to continue to provide desirable local education options for the town.



09 ACCESS AND MOVEMENT



Pedestrian movement throughout urban areas is important because it promotes both active healthy lifestyle options and greater opportunities for social interaction. In Echunga it is important that there be good pedestrian links to the primary school, recreation grounds and other community land located to the north-west of the town.

Improvements to the safety and efficiency of pedestrian movement throughout the town are required, with many key pedestrian routes not provided with adequate or well linked footpaths. A more safe and efficient pedestrian route is required to better link the town to the primary school and Recreation Grounds, with this route being identified as a primary pedestrian link. Improved pedestrian linkages throughout the remainder of the town are also required to better service the existing residential areas of the town. It is however important that priority be given to establishing footpaths in locations of high use and along roads with high traffic volumes.

Improvements to the pedestrian crossing adjacent the primary school to increase the visibility and safety of the crossing should be pursued. This includes investigating the extension of the 60km/h zone on the approach to the crossing north to the intersection of Dolman, Anderson and Echunga Roads.

An existing, highly trafficked road network connects Echunga with Mount Barker, Hahndorf, Meadows and Mylor. This road network congregates at a number of key points within the Echunga Township, with a both busy and important intersections located throughout the town. Many of these roads are under the care and control of the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI).

There is presently a large number of heavy vehicles which pass through the Church Hill Road and Strathalbyn Road intersection. The significant slope of Church Hill Road and the close proximity of the Hagen Arms Hotel to the intersection with the Strathalbyn Road creates traffic conditions which are not ideal. Council is willing to assist with a DPTI led solution to the issues associated with this

intersection, with one possible solution being the realignment of the intersection and the creation of an inner kerb and footpath.

At the north-western end of the town a large proportion of traffic passes through the two intersections at the Battunga, Strathalbyn, Echunga Roads. Whilst the function of this vehicle movement is in itself not an issue, the increased use of Battunga Road creates a 'by-pass' issue for the town, limiting the number of vehicle passing through the town and its main street businesses. Work is required to better identify the business activity that occurs in the town centre, creating greater interest and appeal to those who may otherwise not visit the town centre

Actions

13. Improve the quality of pedestrian and cycling links throughout the town, identifying locations for creating new infrastructure for more safe and efficient movement. **A**
14. Advocate for a DPTI led review and upgrade of Adelaide Road/Church Hill Road intersection to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety whilst accommodating an improved interface to the heritage listed Hagen Arms. **B**
15. Improve way finding signage throughout the town to encourage greater visitation to the main street.
16. Advocate for improved public transport services and associated infrastructure throughout the town. **C**
17. Undertake improvements to the school crossing to improve the safety and visibility of the crossing and investigate the extension of the 60km/h speed limit the Dolman Road Echunga Road intersection. **D**
18. Investigate and review the existing trail network within and around Echunga as to inform potential for improvements to increase usability.



X Specific proposal C General strategy Focus area Primary Pedestrian Links Secondary Pedestrian Links



1. Northern Entrance to Echunga Main Street
 2. Echunga Main Street Facing North
 3. Adelaide/Church Hill Road Intersection and Hagen Arms Hotel

10 OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES



Echunga's open space and recreation land is defined by a highly visited public golf course and a vibrant well-functioning recreation ground. These two spaces provide opportunities for healthy and inclusive recreation activities and serve as important sites for civic and community events.

With the exclusion of the golf course, open space land within the town has a total area of approximately 13 hectares and represents approximately 19.6% of the town's area. A rate of supply which is in excess of the 12.5% State standard for the supply of open space.

The RSL Garden of Remembrance at the intersection of Strathalbyn Road and Echunga Road has an area of approximately 2.8 hectares and presently includes the RSL Memorial and Garden, an informal car-park and an army tank. These uses are contained within 0.5 hectares of the land, the remaining 2 hectares are underutilised.

A concept plan on the opposite page has been prepared to show how this space might be better utilised. The plan seeks to better identify the most appropriate distribution uses within the space and to determine new facilities that could be provided such that it functions as a civic and passive recreation area for visitors and residents.

Other community land such as that where the Scout Hall is located along Strathalbyn Road should continue to be provide for a range of community focused service groups. Presently the land is used by Scouts SA and is the club rooms for the Echunga Howlers Rovers. There is also the potential to provide for other compatible service clubs on this land, one of which may be the establishment of a mens' shed group.

Similarly the Echunga Memorial Institute functions as an important meeting location for the community, hosting a range of social and recreation activities and events. These activities play an important role in creating an inclusive and supportive community environment. This plan seeks to support the continuation of these activities within this building.

Actions

19. Establish the RSL Garden of Remembrance land at the intersection of Echunga Road and Strathalbyn Road as a public reserve in order to encourage greater use and functionality (see concept plan).
20. Continue to support the Echunga Memorial Institute Committee to provide a range of community activities provided by local interest groups to encourage and support improved social inclusion outcomes for the community.
21. Continue to support the use of the Scout Hall land at the intersection of Echunga Road and Strathalbyn Road for use by a range of social and recreation groups.
22. Support the community to manage and protect native vegetation conservation areas including Echunga Cemetery and Stringybark Reserve along Berry Road.
23. Work with the Primary School, church and community groups to identify opportunities to share their facilities for community use.

RSL Garden of Remembrance Concept Plan



10 OPEN SPACE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES - RECREATION GROUND



The Echunga Recreation Grounds are supported by a number of active community sporting clubs, including football, cricket, netball, and tennis clubs. The recreation grounds feature a high quality main oval and a smaller secondary oval, two netball courts and four high standard tennis courts. The buildings on the land includes a well-established club rooms and some smaller buildings which support the netball club and the secondary oval. The ovals are irrigated by recycled waste water and the main oval is provided with a high standard of lighting.

There is an expressed desire to expand the existing club rooms to provide additional change rooms to better facilitate football match days. The existing netball courts will be resurfaced and additional space required around each court to improve the use and safety of the courts.

The facilities at the recreation ground support a range of community events and functions such as the All British Day and club events. These events along with the sporting clubs provide an important and necessary role in the creation of a supported and connected community and social inclusion. The clubs and events should continue to be supported in their role for this purpose.

Actions

24. Support the continued use of the Recreation Grounds by sporting and community groups to increase participation and social inclusion.
25. Continue to support community events such as the All British Day to occur within the Recreation Ground.
26. Support the Recreation Grounds Committee to secure funding for improvements to existing netball courts, including widening and resurfacing the playing surface. **A**
27. Support the Recreation Grounds Committee where possible to improve the visibility and appearance of entrance to the Recreation Grounds e.g. entrance statement and signage. **B**
28. Seal the road surface around the northern end of the main oval to improve access. **C**
29. Provide for overnight RV parking, including provision for and RV dump point at the rear of the existing football club rooms. **D**
30. Extend the existing football club rooms to provide for women's and umpire change rooms. **E**
31. Resurface existing tennis courts to improve the playing surface and improve public accessibility. **F**
32. Refurbish existing public toilet to provide for disabled facilities and access. **G**
33. Continue to support the Kidman Trail trail-head site at the southern end of the Recreation Grounds. **H**
34. Install fitness stations around the oval to improve opportunity for informal exercise.



11 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH AND TOURISM



The Echunga Township is home to a business community well-represented by a number of service and trade industries. There are presently ten to fifteen business premises within the town centre, including retail, hospitality, electrical and communications, mechanical and storage and personal service industries.

Surrounding Echunga there is a diverse range of rural and agricultural enterprises with a strong focus on specialist primary production activities and an array of animal breeding and management services. These, together with the businesses located within the township, support a burgeoning and unique local economy.

The town centre, and in particular the main street, continue to support and provide for a growing local economy. Businesses that provide localised services for residents and those that support the growth of the local tourism industry should be supported where possible, with the Hagen Arms hotel noted as being an important site for residents and visitors.

The institute building is partly used for commercial purposes with two commercial tenancies at the front of the building. The use of the building for this purpose should continue to be supported where possible, acknowledging the economic benefit to the management of the Institute.

Community events such as the All British Day and the Tour Down Under should continue to help to support and strengthen the local economy and attract increasing numbers of visitors to the town. Where possible these events should use the services of local businesses to ensure the economic benefit of such events is distributed throughout the local economy.

With an estimated workforce of almost 1,000 residents and an employment rate of almost 98%, Echunga accounts for almost 6% of the Mount Barker district's employed residents.

There does, however, remain a shortage of local employment opportunities for residents with a large proportion of the local workforce traveling outside of the region to find employment. The largest areas of employment for residents include health care and social assistance (11.1%), education and training (10.3%) and construction (10.3%).

Actions

35. Develop and promote touring routes throughout the Adelaide Hills which connect visitors to Echunga.
36. Continue to support major community events which contribute to the local economy and support existing local businesses.
37. Continue to provide support to local businesses by providing access to Council's Economic Development Officer and linking the business community with education and professional development programs.
38. Investigate the effectiveness of the existing Local Centre Zone policies, and consider alternative policies that encourage a broader range of commercial and residential development such as that within the Township Zone. **A**



X Specific proposal
 X General strategy
 Focus area
 Local Centre Zone



1. Hagen Arms Hotel

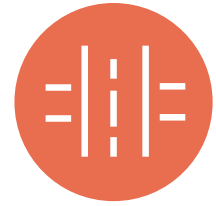


2. Farm Gate Services Shop/Cafe



3. All British Day Annual Car Event in Echunga

12 THE MAIN STREET



The Echunga main street extends from the Adelaide Road and Church Hill Road intersection to the intersection with Battunga Road and is approximately 500 metres long.

The streetscape of the main street is wide and open and is lined with a mixture of both commercial and residential land uses. The main street features a number of small activity nodes such as that around the general store, the institute and post office and the Uniting Church. These areas have the capacity to provide for a greater pedestrian experiences with the opportunity to create areas for activity points and seating areas. There are a number of heritage buildings which along the main street and their presence should be celebrated and acknowledged through the use of interpretive signage.

More recently, improvements have been made to the main street as a result of work undertaken by the Echunga Community Association. This work has included a general tidy up of maintenance issues on the street along with the introduction of a number of planter boxes at key locations along the street. This work forms part of a great and valuable first step towards improving the main street and any future plans should aim to building on the work completed so far.

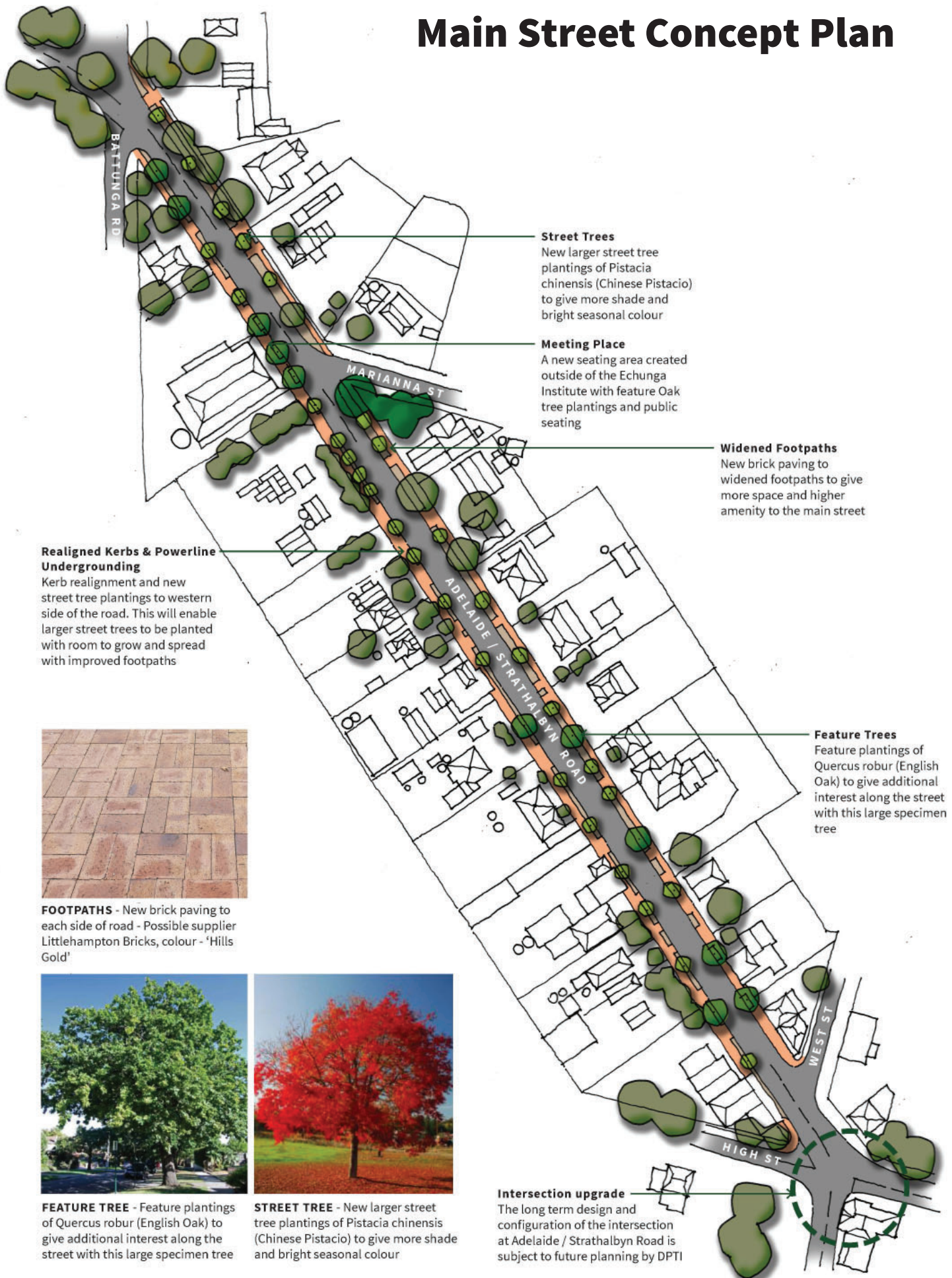
Notwithstanding this, the urban treatments along the main street require rejuvenation, with many of the existing street trees, kerbing, footpaths and street furniture in need of replacement. The staged replacement of these elements of the street will over time help to improve the function and visual appearance of the main street, whilst also retaining its important and unique historic character. The concept plan opposite identifies examples of treatments that could be undertaken to improve both the function and visual appearance of the main street.

Presently there are overhead power lines which run along the southern side of Adelaide Road. The presence of these power lines has and will continue to limit the establishment of healthy and appropriate street trees along this side of the main street. A State funded scheme run by Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) provides opportunities for overhead power lines to be undergrounded where appropriate. Council and the community should advocate for this project to be rolled out in Echunga.

Actions

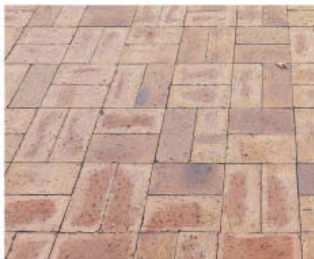
39. Undertake improvements to the main street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements (see concept plan opposite).
40. Improve the efficiency of on-street parking at key activity points, with one example being to investigate the relocation of the existing bus stops to provide additional parking adjacent the Post Office and General Store.
41. Advocate for a Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) program to underground the overhead power lines on the southern side of the main street, allowing for an improved streetscape and street tree design.

Main Street Concept Plan



Realigned Kerbs & Powerline Undergrounding

Kerb realignment and new street tree plantings to western side of the road. This will enable larger street trees to be planted with room to grow and spread with improved footpaths



FOOTPATHS - New brick paving to each side of road - Possible supplier Littlehampton Bricks, colour - 'Hills Gold'



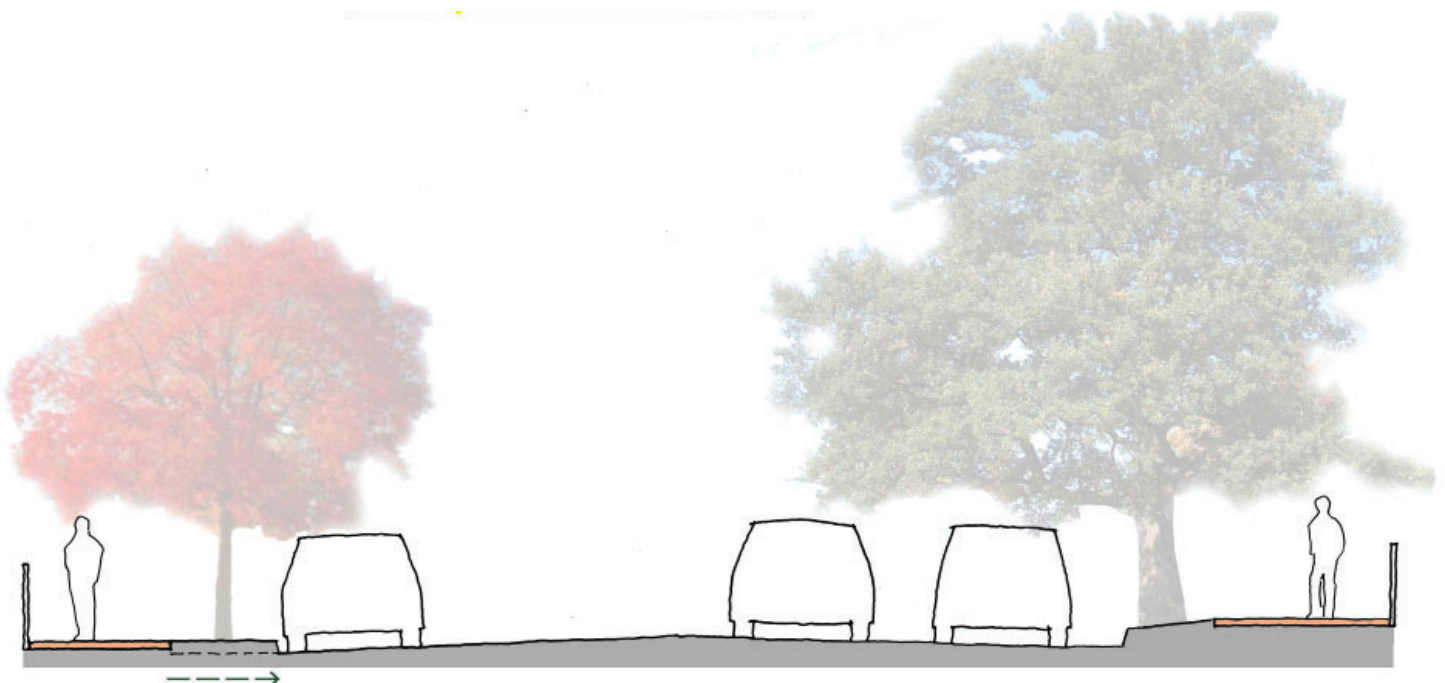
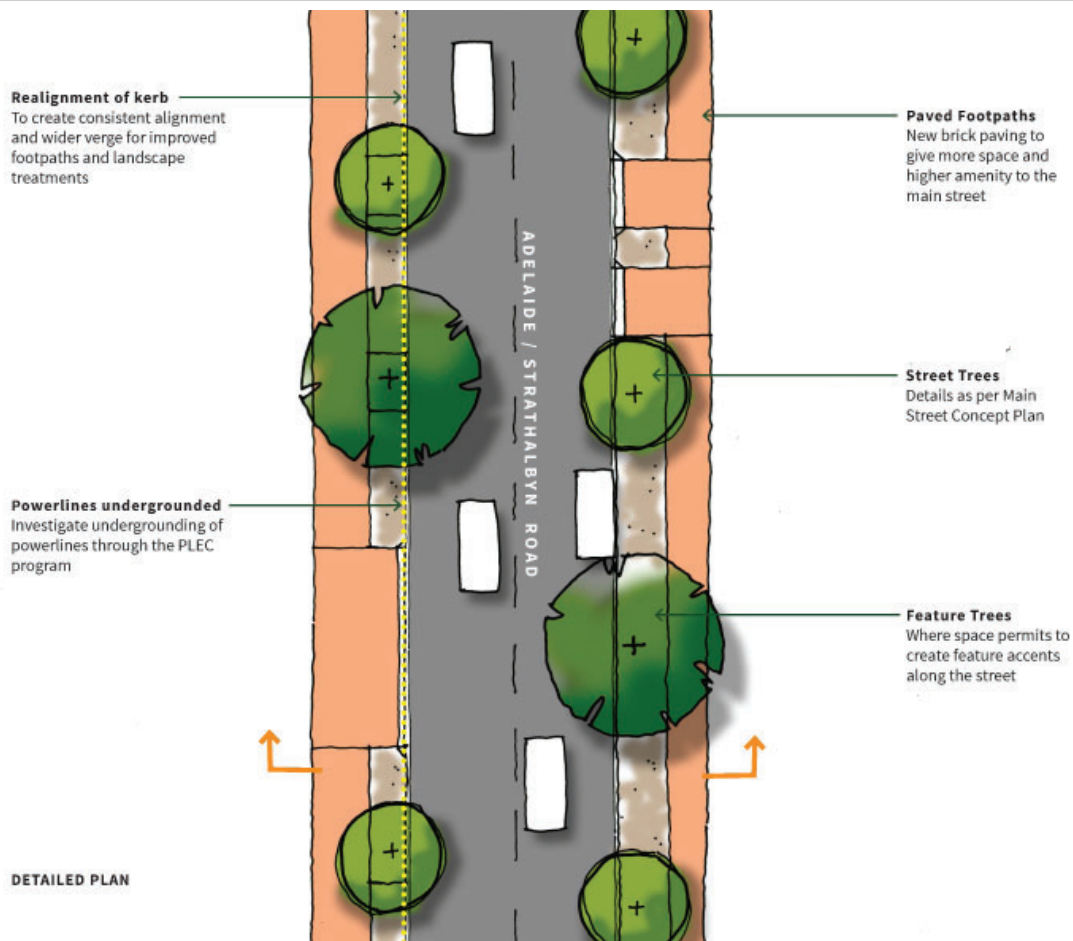
FEATURE TREE - Feature plantings of *Quercus robur* (English Oak) to give additional interest along the street with this large specimen tree



STREET TREE - New larger street tree plantings of *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistacio) to give more shade and bright seasonal colour

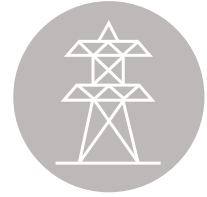
Intersection upgrade

The long term design and configuration of the intersection at Adelaide / Strathalbyn Road is subject to future planning by DPTI



SECTION

13 INFRASTRUCTURE



A number of key pedestrian footpath links are required to improve pedestrian safety throughout the town, with the primary footpath link connecting the main street to the primary school and recreation grounds. Additionally footpaths are required along parts of Angus Road, Churchill Road and Marianna Street to improve the safety of pedestrian movement through the town. These routes are shown on page 19 of this document.

Echunga is connected to a Council-owned and operated Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS) located north of the settlement and which adjoins the Echunga Golf Course. Treated wastewater from this system is used by the golf course to maintain greens and fairways and parts of the Recreation Ground. This continues to be the best and most appropriate reuse of this water and the benefits to the community and local economy are widely accepted.

Echunga is not connected to a mains water supply and therefore relies upon storm-water capture for water supply or existing bore water allocations for non-potable use. There is no intent by SA Water or Council to establish a mains water supply for Echunga for the foreseeable future due to cost restrictions.

The town centre is bisected by watercourses which typically run east to west, and these watercourses are contained predominantly within private land and are not covered by any formal drainage easement. The responsibility of the maintenance of this creek relies upon individual property owners. In more recent times, when land divisions have been proposed, Council has actively sought to formalise an easement to accommodate this watercourse to improve maintenance. Council will continue to seek improved management of watercourses when triggered by land division applications.

Echunga and its greater surrounds is currently serviced by the National Broadband Network (NBN) and is connected to mobile telephone networks.

Actions

42. Undertake a review of existing storm-water management within the township in the medium term.
43. Educate property owners on best practice management of creek lines within private ownership.



Implementation



14 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Action number	Action	Time frame
Heritage, character and identity		
1	Recognise the identity of the Echunga Township by acknowledging and supporting both social and recreational activities which support the creation of a cohesive and inclusive local community.	Ongoing
2	Support the creation and implementation of both Council and industry led strategies to better recognise and support the many local businesses and rural enterprises which help to define the Echunga Township and its surrounds, including the equine industry.	Medium
3	Implement strategies to improve the arrival into the town, providing signage and entrance statements to more clearly define historic character and entrances into the town.	Short
4	Provide more appropriate zoning for areas of the township currently within the Primary Production Zone as to better reflect its use e.g. primary school, golf course and recreation ground.	Medium
5	Celebrate both Peramangk and European heritage and culture of the town and its rural surrounds through initiatives such as interpretive signage and public art displays.	Ongoing
6	Continue to recognise and preserve the town's historic buildings, providing policy framework for the retention and protection of these important buildings whilst also providing financial support to property owners through the continuation of Council's heritage incentive scheme.	Ongoing
Connected communities		
7	Continue to support the role and function of community and sporting groups, acknowledging the important role they play to encourage social interaction and inclusion.	Ongoing
8	Continue to support local community events which provide an opportunity for the community to come together and which help to cement the identity of the town and create a sense of community.	Ongoing
9	Advocate for a broader range of in-home and transport services to operate throughout the town so that the elderly and disabled can continue to remain within the Echunga community.	Ongoing
10	Provide information to the Echunga community on the housing support services available throughout the district, connecting those experiencing housing difficulties with the appropriate services.	Ongoing
11	Continue to provide facilities which cater for informal recreation activities to engage younger residents and support community groups which perform this role.	Ongoing
12	Where possible support the role, function and growth of the Echunga Primary School to continue to provide desirable local education options for the town.	Ongoing
Access and movement		
13	Improve the quality of pedestrian and cycling links throughout the town, identifying locations for creating new infrastructure for more safe and efficient movement.	Medium

Action number	Action	Time frame
14	Advocate for a DPTI led review and upgrade of Adelaide Road, Church Hill Road intersection to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety whilst accommodating an improved interface to the heritage listed Hagen Arms.	Long
15	Improve wayfinding signage throughout the town to encourage greater visitation to the main street.	Short
16	Advocate for improved public transport services and associated infrastructure throughout the town.	Ongoing
17	Undertake improvements to the school crossing to improve the safety and visibility the crossing and investigate the extension of the 60km/h speed limit the Dolman Road Echunga Road intersection.	Short
18	Investigate and review existing trail network within and around Echunga as to inform potential for improvements to increase usability.	Medium
Open space and community facilities		
19	Establish the RSL Garden of Remembrance land at the intersection of Echunga Road and Strathalbyn Road as a public reserve in order to encourage greater use and functionality (see concept plan).	Medium
20	Continue to support the Echunga Memorial Institute Committee to provide a range of community activities provided by local interest groups to encourage and support improved social inclusion outcomes for the community.	Ongoing
21	Continue to support the use of the Scout Hall land at the intersection of Echunga Road and Strathalbyn Road for use by a range of social and recreation groups.	Ongoing
22	Support the community to manage and protect native vegetation conservation areas including Echunga Cemetery and Stringybark Reserve along Berry Road.	
23	Work with the Primary School, church and community groups to identify opportunities to share their facilities for community use.	Ongoing
Open space and community facilities - The recreation grounds		
24	Support the continued use of the Recreation Grounds by sporting and community groups to increase participation and social inclusion.	Ongoing
25	Continue to support community events such as the All British Day to occur within the Recreation Ground.	Ongoing
26	Support the Recreation Grounds Committee to secure funding to for improvements to existing netball courts, including widening and resurfacing the playing surface.	Short
27	Support the Recreation Grounds Community where possible to improve the visibility and appearance of entrance to the Recreation Grounds e.g. entrance statement and signage.	Short
28	Seal the road surface around the northern end of the main oval to improve access.	Medium
29	Provide for overnight RV parking, including provision for and RV dump point at the rear of the existing football club rooms.	Medium
30	Extend the existing football club rooms to provide for women's and umpire change rooms.	Medium
31	Resurface existing tennis courts to improve the playing surface and improve public accessibility.	Medium

Action number	Action	Time frame
32	Refurbish existing public toilets to provide for disabled facilities and access.	Medium
33	Continue to support the Kidman Trail trail-head site at the southern end of the Recreation Grounds.	Ongoing
34	Install fitness stations around the oval to improve opportunity for informal exercise.	Short
Economic development, growth and tourism		
35	Develop and promote touring routes throughout the Adelaide Hills which connect visitors to Echunga.	Medium
36	Continue to support major community events which contribute to the local economy and support existing local businesses.	Ongoing
37	Continue to provide support to local businesses by providing access to Council's Economic Development Officer and linking the business community with education and professional development programs.	Ongoing
38	Investigate the effectiveness of the existing Local Centre Zone policies, and consider alternative policies that encourage a more broad range of commercial and residential development such as that within the Township Zone.	Medium
The main street		
39	Undertake improvements to the main street, with landscaping treatments, street trees, lighting, street furniture and footpath surfaces being the key elements (see concept plan opposite).	Medium
40	Improve the efficiency of on-street parking at key activity points, with one example being to investigate the relocation of the existing bus stops to provide additional parking adjacent the Post Office and General Store.	Short
41	Advocate for a Power Line Environment Committee (PLEC) program to underground the overhead power lines on the southern side of the main street, allowing for an improved streetscape and street tree design.	Long
Infrastructure		
42	Undertake a review of existing storm-water management within the township in the medium term.	Medium
43	Educate property owners on best practice management of creek lines within private ownership.	Ongoing



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL