

# OUR PLAN FOR MOUNT BARKER

ADVOCACY PLAN



Andrew Stuart  
Chief Executive Officer

Rowan Voogt  
Acting Mayor



**MOUNT BARKER**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

The most liveable region  
in South Australia

# About this plan

This plan is a summarised version of Council's endorsed Advocacy Plan 2025, which sets out our long term priorities to support Mount Barker's continued growth.

As we approach the state election, we are keen to hear from our community about what matters most to them. Your feedback will help inform Council's ongoing advocacy and ensure our priorities continue to reflect the needs of our growing district.

As Acting Mayor of Mount Barker, I see firsthand the impact that rapid growth is having on our community. While this growth brings opportunity, it also places increasing pressure on roads, schools, health services, public transport and community facilities.

The need for investment in transport, education, health, wastewater and community infrastructure is well known and long standing. Any election commitments or infrastructure announcements for our district are welcomed and help move us in the right direction.

To find a full copy of Council's endorsed Advocacy Plan follow this link: [Advocacy Plan 2025](#).

Rowan Voogt  
Acting Mayor

Mount Barker is one of the fastest growing areas in South Australia, with this growth planned for and understood for more than a decade.

Council has consistently advocated for the timely and coordinated delivery of infrastructure to ensure growth is supported as intended. These priorities are clearly set out in Council's endorsed Advocacy Plan 2025.

This plan is a summarised version of the endorsed Advocacy Plan and provides an overview of Council's current advocacy priorities for the Mount Barker district.

Council's administration will continue to implement its adopted plans and advocate for the infrastructure required to support our community now and into the future.

Andrew Stuart  
Chief Executive Officer



# COUNCIL'S ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

**1**

**Laratinga Water Recovery Plant Upgrade and Trunk Infrastructure**

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**2**

**Improved public transport services**

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**3**

**Investment in road upgrades and connectivity**

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**4**

**Funding for recreational and community facilities**

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**5**

**Securing educational and health services investment**

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**6**

**Policy change to support sustainable development**



**FUNDING ASK** \$48 million

# Laratinga Water Recovery Plant

## Laratinga Water Recovery Plant Upgrade (LWRP) and trunk infrastructure

### Our ask: \$48m co-funding

Mount Barker operates the largest wastewater business in South Australia outside of SA Water, managing essential services for a rapidly expanding population. Despite this, we receive no government funding to support these operations.

Laratinga Water Recovery Plant Stage 1 (LWRP) – the existing Mount Barker wastewater treatment plant is beyond the end of its useful life and under capacity for the inflows currently received. A new plant based on bio-reactor treatment process to achieve regulatory compliance including water quality requirements has been included in the Long Term Financial Plan and will be constructed adjacent to the existing site forecast for completion during the 2026/27 financial year.

#### WASTEWATER

- Total project cost \$168m+

#### PROJECT STATUS

- Construction ready
- Budgeted in Long Term Financial Plan



# Public Transport

## Our ask: State and Federal Government funding to expand public transport network

Whilst the frequency of bus services from Mount Barker and Hahndorf to the Adelaide CBD has improved, we are seeking strengthened intra-town connections within our District which are non-negotiable if we are going to keep pace with the district’s rapid growth.

Keo Ride has already proven itself as a game changer—it connects residents to jobs, schools, and essential services. However, we need to connect our outer townships with dedicated public transport services as well.

Council is doing its part, actively expanding our trail network to reduce dependence on private vehicles. We need the State and Federal Governments to step in now with targeted funding.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Dedicated intra-town public transport
- Rapid public transport to Adl CBD
- Additional Park ‘n’ Rides

### PROJECT STATUS

- Requires State and Federal funding

# Road Network

## Our ask: State and Federal Government cofunding for road upgrades

Our advocacy is focused on securing funding for the next wave of road infrastructure required to support Mount Barker’s continued growth. Priority projects include the Adelaide Road corridor, Wellington Road and Flaxley Road upgrades, the completion of Heysen Boulevard, and addressing capacity constraints at the bottom of the Freeway.

We are in ongoing discussions with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and both State and Federal governments, making a clear case for investment in these projects to unlock housing, improve safety and manage increasing congestion. These upgrades are essential to ensure the road network can support current demand and the significant population growth projected over the coming decades.

Council is also focused on securing funding and co funding transport interventions identified in the Ministerial Deed to accelerate delivery and ensure infrastructure keeps pace with development.

### ROADS

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mount Barker                                                                                                                                                                                         | Hahndorf                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heysen Blvd completion</li><li>• Adelaide Road corridor upgrade</li><li>• Wellington Road corridor upgrade</li><li>• Flaxley Road corridor upgrade</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Balhannah / Mount Barker Road intersection upgrade</li><li>• Pine Avenue / Mount Barker Road intersection upgrade</li><li>• Bypass</li></ul> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Echunga and Meadows                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strathalbyn / Churchill Road intersection upgrade</li><li>• Meadows roundabout</li></ul>                                                     |

### PROJECT STATUS

- Varies from planning required to construction ready.



# Recreation and Community

## Our ask: \$9m towards Summit Sport and Recreation Park Stage 2A

Our growing population demands more recreational and community spaces, and Stage 2A of the Summit Sport and Recreation Park (SSRP) is a key part of that vision. Our advocacy is focused on securing funding for two new synthetic soccer pitches and supporting facilities within the existing SSRP.

This development will provide much-needed space for our residents to stay active, promote healthy lifestyles, and strengthen community connections. We're actively engaging with government, sporting bodies, and private partners, making the case for why these investments will benefit the entire region and support long-term growth.

### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY

- Summit Sport and Recreation Park (SSRP) Stage 2A project cost \$18m

Other advocacy projects:

- SSRP Stage 2B
- AFL sized oval and associated infrastructure - project cost TBA
- Hahndorf Main Street Upgrade estimated cost \$30m
- Pioneer Women's Trail extension
- Female friendly facilities at all recreation grounds.
- DDA compliant community facilities.

### PROJECT STATUS

- SSRP Stage 2A detailed concept
- Hahndorf Main Street detailed design 100% complete
- Other projects require further planning

# Education and Health

## Our ask: Expansion of funding to a new public high school

As our community rapidly grows, so does the need for high quality education and healthcare services that can keep up with the pace of development. We support the construction of the new hospital and primary school, but it's clear that more investment is needed, particularly in education. With a new classroom of school children arriving every two months, the pressure on our existing schools is mounting, and the need for a new high school is becoming critical.

We are advocating for increased state and federal investment not only in local schools but also in all further education and healthcare facilities to meet both current demand and future growth..

### PROJECT STATUS

- Public primary school announced
- Hospital expansion announced
- No public school sites announced and construction program unknown



# Policy Change

## Our ask: Dedicated funding for high growth areas

Mount Barker's rapid growth presents both opportunities and challenges, particularly in managing development while preserving environmental sustainability.

We are advocating for key policy changes that promote sustainable urban planning, prioritise green infrastructure, and ensure the conservation of our natural landscapes. This includes inclusion of Mount Barker requiring to meet the minimum green star ratings for new developments alongside the rest of the state.

We are also advocating for dedicated funding for high growth areas across Australia. Currently the federal and state funding models require us to compete with low growth but high rate based Council's creating unfair advantages.

## PROJECT STATUS

- Advocacy to State and Federal Ministers ongoing



# Projects \$2m or less

Below is a list of all our projects \$2m or less that require co-funding from government and private partners. We welcome all funding no matter how big or small if it achieves Local, Regional, State or Federal objectives.

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## **1. Hahndorf Bike Park (Tara-Illa) Stage 2**

Total project cost = \$100k (est)  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **2. Macclesfield Recreation Ground new fencing**

Total project cost = \$100k  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **3. Nairne Recreation Ground improvements to second oval**

Total project cost = \$100k  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **4. Hahndorf Recreation Ground oval drainage**

Total project cost = \$125k  
Project status = planning yet to commence

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## **5. Hahndorf Recreation Ground hard court upgrade**

Total project cost = \$125k  
Project status = construction ready

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## **6. Hahndorf Recreation Ground second playing surface**

Total project cost = \$200k  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **7. Hahndorf Recreation Ground oval upgrade**

Total project cost = \$250k  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **8. Nairne Recreation Ground lighting upgrades**

Total project cost = \$250  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **9. Gardner Street / Gum Tree Drive intersection upgrade**

Total project cost = \$700k  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **10. Hutchinson Street (Mann to Hampden) upgrade**

Total project cost = \$750k  
Project status = planning yet to commence

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## **11. Bald Hills Road PLEC**

Total project cost = \$1m  
Project status = planning yet to commence

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## **12. Druids Avenue Corridor Road safety upgrades**

Total project cost = \$1.3m  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **13. Meadows Oval expansion / drainage**

Total project cost = \$1.3m expansion / \$60k drainage  
Project status = concept plan complete

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## **14. Childs Road upgrade, Littlehampton**

Total project cost = \$1.55m  
Project status = detailed design commenced

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## **15. Callington Pedestrian Bridge**

Total project cost = \$2m  
Project status = detailed design

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## **16. Telecommunications black spots**

Total project cost = TBA  
Project status = planning to commence

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## **17. Youth space/s**

Total project cost = TBA  
Project status = planning commenced

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Note: total project costs are estimated based on information known at the time of publishing the original advocacy plan in 2025 and are subject to change.

# What We Have Done



## Laratinga Water Recovery Plant

- Directly advocated to the Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Member for Mayo.
  - Federal government grant lodged in 2024 with no outcome received.
  - To date, no funding commitments have been received.
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## Public transport and roads

- Directly advocated to the Premier, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and relevant Federal Ministers on key transport priorities.
  - Successfully secured funding for the Meadows roundabout, Wellington Road roundabout, Adelaide Road interchange, heavy vehicle bypass of Hahndorf Main Street, Bollen Road upgrades and Keo Ride.
  - Council will continue to advocate for mass rapid transit and improved intra-town linkages across the district.
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## Community infrastructure

- Directly advocated to the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing, Minister for Housing and Urban Development and the Minister for Housing.
  - Successfully secured funding for key projects including the Summit Aquatic and Leisure Centre and construction of new trails such as Byethorne Park to Nairne Main Street.
  - Council will continue to advocate for additional community, sport and recreation infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing population.
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## Education and health

- Directly advocated to the State Government, including the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education, for increased investment in health and education infrastructure in Mount Barker including an Urgent Care Clinic and a new public birth to year 12 school.
- Advocated for delivery of the new hospital and additional school capacity to meet the needs of our rapidly growing population.
- Council will continue to push for further education infrastructure, including a new public high school, and urgent care facilities.



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