



AGENDA

MEETING TITLE:	City Centre Project - Community Reference Group	TIME:	5:00pm – 6.00pm
DATE:	Tuesday 20 May 2025		
LOCATION:	Mount Barker District Council (6 Dutton Road, Mount Barker)		
ATTENDEES:	Chair Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure		
	Mayor David Leach - yes		
	Community Members Jessica Anderson - online Ryan Davis - yes Clare Dorey - yes Dave Hemmings - yes Richard Jones-Parry - online James Sexton – yes, Chair of Business Mt Barker Hugh Steele - apology		
	Project Leader Eloise Langford		
	Communications and Engagement Lead Ian Hildebrand		
	Project Support Paula Overy		
	Guests Luke Gray, Alex Oulianoff, Natalie Armstrong,		

APOLOGIES:

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NO.	AGENDA ITEMS	Discussion/Action
1.	Welcome (Phil)	
2.	Introduction of members (All)	- James Sexton, Chair Business Mt Barker, work with most developers, willing to put in time - Clare Dorey – Community, sport, mum lived in MB 3 yrs. Looking for positive improvement in the city centre - Dave Hemmings – advocate for paths and trails, ensure accessibility for all. Committee member of MBDRA and Friends of the Library - Ryan Davis – lived in MB 4yrs, business owner, parent. Observed that MB can be a bit fragmented and looking to bring people / business together – interested in co-working space - Jessica Anderson – lived in MB for 2.5yrs – motivated to integrate the centre and done right.

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		Richard Jones-Parry – MBDRA. Lived in MB since 2007. Wanting to make site interesting and “controversial”. MB needs to have something that creates a space worth visiting.
3.	Purpose of the Group (Ian)	Refer slide 5 Refer also the TOR sent out with letters of engagement Purpose limited to council owned / developed infrastructure Best ways to reach groups that Council may not be able to. Helping council to progress the 30% design to 70%/100% Feeding back with factual information Questions: James: Roughly what is the budget that Council has to spend? Next phase council has committed ~\$1m to progress the design. Beyond that there are provisions in the LTFP but too early to put exact figure on the total spend. Town Square element is ~\$7m with \$2m in grant funding received.
4.	Background on the City Centre Project (Luke)	Project Objectives Project background – timeline (2016 MBDRA proposal for the site) Questions: Clare: what is CLA? Luke clarified – Community Living Australia James: Noted previous applications for development including Woolworths (BigW), Masters. Noted that the site has been proposed for development since 1952 – inc the stormwater drain down Morphet Street. Clare: has the site been empty for that long? Yes Clare: Who owns the land? Natalie responded that the two parties are Council and Burke Urban Investments (BUI). Dave: Project objectives don’t appear to be on the website. Ian to send out presentation as well as add objectives to the website.
5.	Current Project Status and Activities (Eloise)	Questions James: is the cottage being sold to BUI – Yes Clare : Is the cottage heritage listed? No, as there are add-ons but BUI will respect the elements of the cottage Clare: Since 2021, there has been 2 other hotels announced, is another hotel feasible? Natalie responded that BUI will look at the options for developing the site and the timing of the stage 2 is dependent on commercial feasibility. Jessica: when was community consultation in 2021 done? Ian noted it was Nov/Dec. YourSay responses to be sent out. Dave: Are results of the consultation on the YourSay webpage? Council report noting key elements that have been included into the current concept. Other elements have changed but the town square has remained consistent. Phil: results of engagement to be made available to CRG Dave: Is the Civic Building Council Offices? Luke responded that the intent is to create a commercial building to attract new investment. On the table is “what does the civic element look like?” Not intended to be a full relocation of existing Dutton Rd office. Commercial tenants are a priority and will determine how much Council may underwrite. Council presence is to give confidence to the commercial tenants

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		Ryan: Is Council seeking to go out to the market for the co-working space? Luke noted that we are intending to seek a market approach Phil noted that Council does not have full control as BUI have responsibility for delivery. Representatives from BUI will attend future meetings
6.	On boarding activities (Ian)	Noted 6pm
7.	Any Other Business (All)	Phil: what other information would be liked? Clare: Meeting frequency – Quarterly Dave: Would like to see the different levels of buildings (architects elevations) and include on the website. What is the extent of the CRG / project? Phil responded it is the block rather than the entire CBD works. Clare: how does the Community know who is on the CRG? Ian noted that member's names are now on the website. Proposal to include photos on the website.
8.	Next Meeting (Phil)	September TBC Engagement plan to be presented Phil noted that some elements may be in confidence as still working through commercial negotiations with partner. Meeting closed 6.10pm