

Media Release

13 April 2022

Council details election candidate wish list for the Hills

The Adelaide Hills Council has delivered a list of strategic priorities to candidates in the upcoming Federal election.

Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom said, “We believe these priorities need to be progressed on behalf of our community, our visitors and our region as a whole.”

“We take our role in progressing such priorities seriously and, in doing so, are making election candidates aware of their importance.”

“A commitment to deliver on such priorities now, provides the greatest opportunity to enhance the social, economic and environmental prosperity for our local community, our state and our nation.”

Please see the priorities list below.

ENDS

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State and/or Federal Priorities for AHC and the region 2021-22 (as at 11 April 2022)

	Project/Action	Location	Description	Cost Estimate
1	<u>Passenger and Freight Transport:</u> support State Govt in its commitment to the actions outlined in the Infrastructure SA report	District and Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast commuter passenger transit between Mt Barker/Strathalbyn and the Adelaide CBD. Improve public transport in the Hills in the shorter term through rapid bus transit along the South-eastern Freeway and establish new and expanded park and rides (consistent with the recent Infrastructure SA Mount Barker Mass Transit Study outcomes). Further to the above, expand the park and ride at Crafers thereby overcoming associated commuter parking problems. Northern Freight Train Bypass to improve the efficiency of freight movement and connect with the national rail network - and potentially free up existing rail corridor for longer term commuter passenger transit options (see above). Continue to support safer and better trafficable roads through Black Spot; Special Local Roads; and Supplementary Local Roads funding. 	<p>\$200 - \$500m (to be confirmed)</p> <p>\$4.5 - \$6b (to be confirmed)</p>

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2	Health: commit to improving GP, ambulance and hospital services in the region	District and Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attracting and retaining GPs in Gumeracha. Following a resolution of Council in October 2021, our Mayor has written to the Hon the Premier requesting that the South Australian Government takes all actions possible (and advises Council and its community precisely what those actions will be) to ensure that rural and regional communities can attract and retain doctors and other health professionals. Re-open Gumeracha Hospital Emergency Department (that was closed due to COVID-19). Expand and enhance the ambulance service throughout the district and region. In particular, allocate additional ambulance crews based in the Adelaide Hills: Aldgate, Mt Barker and Woodside. 	
3	Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs): review the SA FAGs formula to make it more equitable and increase the total Commonwealth funding for these grants	State-wide	Adelaide Hills Council is very grateful for this annual funding which enhances our ability to provide much needed services to our communities, spread over almost 800km ² and over 50 separate townships and urban areas. As communicated with the SA Grants Commission over the past 3 years, we (as a member of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association) respectfully request a review of the FAGs formula as it applies to SA and would welcome an overall increase in this funding by the Commonwealth Government.	

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4	<u>Mobile phone blackspots and NBN coverage:</u> lobby Federal Government for increased funding	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prioritise overcoming mobile phone black spots and enhancing NBN coverage in remote and high bushfire danger areas of the Hills. To prioritise the issue of mobile phone availability during emergencies. In particular, the significant issue of mobile towers failing about 4 hours after mains power is due to insufficient battery powered back-up. 	
5	<u>The Great Australian Wine Trail:</u> invest in this initiative for tourism infrastructure	Region	A joint council and RDA initiative in the region with Barossa Council taking the lead on this proposed project. (Flyer attached).	Still to be costed
6	<u>Bushfire mitigation and response:</u> improve fire-fighting co-ordination and resourcing (including aerial capability)	State-wide	Adelaide Hills Council acknowledges and welcomes the more recent announcements (following the Black Summer Bushfires) of greater collaboration between State and Federal Governments regarding improved co-ordination of efforts in this regard. In particular, we recognise the benefits (as a district with one of the highest bushfire risks in the country) of improved fire-fighting resourcing, including the ability of fire-fighting services across the country to have easy and timely access to aerial fire-fighting capability.	

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	Project	Location	Description	Cost Estimate
7	<u>Disaster Funding Arrangements:</u> make equitable the application of mechanisms for this LG funding	State-wide	<p>Overcome the shortcomings for SA councils in the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements, including eligibility thresholds and criteria, processes to be followed and the quantum of cost recovery available. These mechanisms are inconsistently applied across the country and SA councils are disadvantaged as a result.</p> <p>Adelaide Hills Council notes and supports the following resolution made at the LGASA Ordinary General Meeting held on 8 April 2022: That the Ordinary General Meeting requests that the LGA advocates that the State Government undertakes an urgent review of the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGDRRA) with a focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making the LGDRRA simpler and more definitive in terms of the support that will be provided to councils in the event of a natural disaster; 2. Significantly reducing the current thresholds for cost reimbursement to levels consistent with other State jurisdictions; 3. Ensuring that the significant internal costs borne by councils during and after a natural disaster are acknowledged and can be recovered in the funding frameworks; 4. Providing clarity on the eligibility of both the short-term and long-term costs relating to the clean-up of damaged verge trees and road clearance; and 5. Further clarity on the ability to recover direct counter disaster operations costs from Control Agencies and the merits of removing this ability so that the LGDRRA can be an all-encompassing funding framework. 	

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	Project	Location	Description	Cost Estimate
8	Amy Gillett Bikeway: complete Stages 4 and 5	District and Region	To complete the Amy Gillett Bikeway by constructing the final stages from Mt Torrens to Mt Pleasant. This stage also links to the proposed Great Australian Wine Trail (see above) – once Stage 4 of the project has been completed.	Still to be fully costed
9	Commonwealth Home Support Program: increase federal funding to support desired independent living outcomes		Increase federal funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Program to enable more and adequate services to be provided to those who need them most and reduce existing waiting lists. We are seeking future funding levels for home support services to enable residents to remain living independently and respectfully in the community.	
10	Croft Road: upgrade and seal this road to promote this regional tourism and recreational facility	Lenswood	To upgrade and seal part (1.7km) of Croft Road as Forestry SA upgrades the Fox Creek Bike Park in Cudlee Creek Forest. The existing road is unsealed and runs through the middle of orchards and vineyards. With the expected increase in traffic, the maintenance burden on the road will increase, as will the dust nuisance. Some minor widening, drainage improvements and sealing will ensure safe and environmentally sound access to the Bike Park.	\$960k

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	Project	Location	Description	Cost Estimate
11	<p><u>Woodside Recreation Ground and Adelaide Hills War Memorial Swimming Centre:</u> fund improvements to this important regional swimming facility and associated community recreation space</p>	Woodside	<p>To enhance these outdoor community recreation facilities with the construction of a children’s splash pool and associated facilities.</p> <p>Upgrade facilities at the swimming centre = \$200k Play Space Upgrade = \$500k Skate Park / Ramp = \$250k Community Green Space Upgrade = \$250k</p>	See Description
12	<p><u>Woodside BMX:</u> grant Adelaide Hills Council this land for continued community recreational use</p>	Woodside	<p>Highly utilised bike park used by the residents of the district currently under lease to Council. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) has declared the land surplus. We seek that this land be granted to AHC for community purposes and upgrades to community facilities, such as facilitating an off road path for the Amy Gillett Bikeway which passes the site, open community space, public toilet, shelter and provision of drinking water.</p> <p>Seeking federal funding to assist the purchase and upgrade of this facility that supports the Amy Gillett Bikeway.</p>	<p>DIT valuation of land \$2.25M Community facility upgrades \$400k</p>