

Media Release



29 July 2022

CEO Resignation

The Chief Executive Officer of the Adelaide Hills Council, Mr Andrew Aitken, announced his resignation earlier this week.

Mr Aitken has been at the helm of the Adelaide Hills Council for almost ten years, having served across three terms of Council and two Mayors, and has steered the organisation on a strategic and community focussed course through the extraordinary events of three major bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adelaide Hills Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom said “While Mr Aitken’s resignation is very sad, he has been a wonderful, transformational CEO for the Adelaide Hills Council and has enhanced our reputation in the community.”

“I know there will be tears among his colleagues, mine included, but he leaves the organisation in a very good place. He took us from a closed door culture to one where his door was always open to both Council staff and elected members.”

“On a personal note we have had an incredibly successful professional partnership despite being quite different personalities and frequent workaholics. I admire his style of leadership characterised by authenticity, empathy, humility and mutual respect.”

“I totally understand why he needs to make this move now. It is a brave decision to step into a new, unknown, career journey. There is never a good time for an exceptional CEO to leave an organisation but he has my full support and our best wishes.”

“Andrew leaves us much like the way he arrived ten years ago - quietly, respectfully and full of optimism for the future of the organisation and the Adelaide Hills Community.”

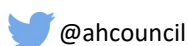
“We thank Andrew for his dedication and wish him and his family the very best on this exciting path. I hope that in whatever new direction he takes, that he makes sure to have fun as he has worked extraordinarily hard for a decade.”

Mr Aitken said the role of CEO of the Adelaide Hills Council and the engaged community it serves has been one that he has cherished dearly.

“It’s been the best part of ten years since I gained this position, and I remain incredibly grateful for the opportunity and for the support I’ve received in undertaking this role,” said Mr Aitken.

“I will so very much miss the fabulous, progressive and professional people I work with every day. They are a source of energy, inspiration, compassion and joy that epitomises the culture that is Adelaide Hills Council.”

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Adelaide Hills Council official

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“The hard work and commitment to bring about success by everyone at the Council has been remarkable, and has often been attained in the face of adversity. This has all been achieved in a constructive, engaging and respectful manner as part of a productive working environment built on trust.”

“As difficult a decision it is to leave, the time is right for me to now pursue other opportunities and interests. This is both a daunting and exciting prospect, but it’s one I’m looking forward to.”

The Council will meet in August to decide the process for recruiting a new CEO.

##Ends##

Media contact

Jennifer Blake, Manager Communications, Engagement and Events
8408 0430 | 0437 114 698