

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 25 July 2023
AGENDA BUSINESS ITEM**

Item: 18.1

Responsible Officer: Greg Georgopoulos
Chief Executive Officer
Chief Executive

Subject: Confidential Item

For: Decision

SUMMARY

The South Australian Government Premier and Cabinet Ministers will be attending the Adelaide Hills area on Wednesday 23 August and Thursday 24 August 2023 as part of the Country Cabinet program. Our current understanding is that the community forum will be located in Mt Barker on Wednesday, while more formal Cabinet proceedings will be in the Adelaide Hills on Thursday.

Country Cabinet visits are an opportunity for members of the community, the Premier and government to discuss the challenges and opportunities unique to our region. As such the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer have been invited to present to Cabinet during the Cabinet meeting. Councils' approval is therefore being sought to accept the opportunity to present to Country Cabinet.

In anticipation of your approval a collation of some of the key issues for the region has been prepared for Council consideration. See **Appendix 1**.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves:

1. That the late report be received and noted.
2. Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except:
 - Chief Executive Officer, Greg Georgopoulos
 - Director Community Capacity, David Waters
 - Director Development & Regulatory Services, Natalie Armstrong
 - Director Infrastructure & Operations, Peter Bice
 - Director Corporate Services, Terry Crackett
 - Governance Support, Melissa Grimes
 - Minute Secretary, Pam Williams

be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 9: (Confidential Item) in confidence.

The Council is satisfied that it is necessary that the public, with the exception of Council staff in attendance as specified above, be excluded to enable Council to consider the report at the meeting on the following grounds:

3. Section 90(3)(j) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is information the disclosure of which:
 - (i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official (not being an employee of the council, or a person engaged by the council); and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Accordingly, on this basis the principle that meetings of the Council should be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential.

4. Subject to the CEO, or his delegate, disclosing information or any document (in whole or in part) for the purpose of implementing Council's decision(s) in this matter in the performance of the duties and responsibilities of office, Council, having considered Agenda Item 9.1 in confidence under sections 90(2) and 90(3)(j) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, resolves that an order be made under the provisions of sections 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* to retain the Items in confidence as detailed in the Duration of Confidentiality Table below:

Duration of Confidentiality NB: Item to be reviewed every 12 months if not released	
Item	
Report	Until the announcement has been made, but not longer than 30 June 2024
Related Attachments	Until the announcement has been made, but not longer than 30 June 2024
Minutes	Until the announcement has been made, but not longer than 30 June 2024

Pursuant to section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council delegates the power to revoke the confidentiality order either partially or in full to the Chief Executive Officer.

5. That the Mayor and CEO be nominated to speak to Country Cabinet on behalf of Council.

1. BACKGROUND

Council has recently been advised that the Premier and Cabinet Ministers will be visiting the Adelaide Hills for their next Country Cabinet on Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 August. The Premier and Ministers will spend time within the region visiting local residents, business and organisations to discuss the challenges and opportunities unique to the region.

On Wednesday 23 August from 5pm the Premier will host a community BBQ and forum at the Mount Barker High School where members of the public will be welcome to attend. Active promotion of this opportunity will commence the week beginning 7 August 2023.

The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of both Adelaide Hills Council and Mount Barker District Council have been invited to jointly present to the Strategic Cabinet Meeting on Thursday 24 August at the Onkaparinga Valley Football Club. This will comprise of 20 minutes for the joint presentation, followed by Q&A to give the Premier and Cabinet Ministers the opportunity to further understand what has been presented.

In preparation for this presentation, a summary of some of the key issues for the Adelaide Hills area has been collated for Council consideration and included in **Appendix 1**. While ongoing infrastructure improvements are critical to our region's future prosperity, ensuring regulation and policy are appropriate to deliver the social and economic priorities for our region is also important. As such the areas for consideration have been collated into the following areas:

- Infrastructure
- Policy
- Key Projects

Given the short timeframe available, it is considered that only two or three key priorities will be able to be presented. Council's input into what those key priorities are will be further explored at the next available workshop.

Once Council provides approval for the Mayor and CEO to present at Country Cabinet and confirms the key issues of focus, administration will prepare a presentation to Country Cabinet on each of the key issues, the sought outcome/action requested from the government and any relevant reference documents, reports etc. to provide greater context and clarity.

2. ANALYSIS

➤ Strategic Management Plan/Functional Strategy/Council Policy Alignment

Strategic Plan 2020-24 – A brighter future

Goal 1 A functional built environment

Objectives B1 to B4

Priorities B1.1 to B4.5

Goal 2 Community wellbeing

Objectives C1 to C6

Priorities C1.1 to C6.4

Goal 3 A prosperous economy

Objectives E1 to E4

Priorities E1.1 to E4.4

Goal 4 A valued Natural Environment

Objectives N1 to N5

Priorities N1.1 to N5.2

- Goal 5 A progressive Organisation
 Objectives O4 We actively represent our community
 Priorities O4.3 Advocate to, and exert influence with, our stakeholders on behalf of our community to promote the needs and ambitions of the region.

➤ **Legal Implications**

Chapter 2, Section 7 of the *Local Government Act, 1999*, specifies one of the functions of a council to include:

- (g) *To promote its area and to provide an attractive climate and locations for the development of business, commerce, industry and tourism;*

Speaking to Country Cabinet assists Council in fulfilling this responsibility.

➤ **Risk Management Implications**

Speaking at Country Cabinet recognises the role of Council in the social and economic development of our region. Effective communication of the region's priorities will assist in mitigating the risk of:

Not being proactive in providing an informed role to support the local social and economic development leading to services and programs that are not aligned with the needs of the region.

Inherent Risk	Residual Risk	Target Risk
Medium (3D)	Medium (3D)	Low (2D)

The Strategic Plan is an existing control put in place to address the identified risk.

➤ **Financial and Resource Implications**

Some of the priorities tabled may not currently be included in Council's Annual Business Plan or Long Term Financial Plan. If the State Government decides to pursue any of the areas raised there may be a requirement for some Council resourcing (both staffing and financial) to support.

➤ **Customer Service and Community/Cultural Implications**

Improving communication between Council and the State Government is key for Council to raise some of the opportunities and concerns within our community where the State Government may provide a pivotal role in progressing or resolving.

➤ **Sustainability Implications**

The principle of sustainable development underpins all the objectives, priorities and actions being suggested.

➤ **Engagement/Consultation conducted in the development of the report**

Council Members and staff regularly communicate and engage with community members, businesses, organisations and other levels of government. The insights provided have been used to inform and prepare the list of priorities.

➤ **Additional Analysis**

The Department of Premier & Cabinet has notified that the presentation to Cabinet should be high level and specific:

- What are the challenges or barriers Council and or residents are facing?
- What are the opportunities for the Adelaide Hills Area?
- Are there critical services required? If yes, what are they?
- What value and support can the State Government provide?
- Is any funding required for any upcoming projects – e.g. infrastructure etc.

A copy of a PowerPoint presentation is required by 17 August ahead of the meeting date and to provide some pre-reading for the Premier.

3. OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

- I. To note and receive the report (Recommended)
- II. To not note and receive the report (Not Recommended)

4. APPENDICES

- (1) Priorities for AHC and the region

Appendix 1

Priorities for AHC and the region

Priorities for AHC and the region (as at 28 June 2023)

Project/Action	Location	Description	Cost Estimate
INFRASTRUCTURE			
<u>Passenger and Freight Transport:</u>	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 Infrastructure SA Mount Barker Mass Transit Study outcomes). Expand the park and ride at Crafers thereby overcoming associated commuter parking problems. Northern Freight Train Bypass to connect with the national rail network and potentially free up existing rail corridor for longer term commuter passenger transit options (see above). Addition of on/off ramps on SE Freeway to allow Hahndorf access and exit from the East. 	<p>\$200 - \$500m (to be confirmed)</p> <p>\$4.5 - \$6b (to be confirmed)</p>
<u>Mobile phone blackspots and NBN coverage:</u>	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. 	

<u>The Great Australian Wine Trail</u>	Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A joint council and RDA initiative in the region with Barossa Council taking the lead on this proposed project. 	Still to be costed
<u>Amy Gillett Bikeway: complete Stages 4 and 5</u>	District and Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	\$4.5m
<u>Fox Creek Mountain Bike Park</u>	Cudlee Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of the MB track and the construction of a Visitor Information Facility. To upgrade and seal part (1.7km) of Croft Road. 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
<u>Former SA Water site, Old Mt Barker Road:</u>	Stirling District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We seek this land at 52 Old Mt Barker Road from the State Government for community purposes and upgrades to community facilities, more specifically the development of a tennis and netball hub to cater for clubs in the Stirling and Crafers region, including Crafers Tennis/Netball clubs, Stirling East Netball Club, Stirling Tennis Club; have overflow capacity for Aldgate and Bridgewater tennis/netball clubs; and serve as a regional home for the Hills Netball and Tennis Associations. 	Value of land unknown Hub development \$12M
<u>Adelaide Hills War Memorial Swimming Centre:</u>	Woodside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Woodside Recreation Ground is Council's largest and most key recreation asset and is also home to the Adelaide Hills (War memorial) Swimming Centre. Following increasing participation and ad hoc developments over the years, the WRG site lacks functionality in regards to traffic flow, parking, passive recreation opportunities, sport amenity, turf quality and linkages within the site and to the town. Prior to readdressing the sites masterplan, Council has engaged a consultant to undertake a Pool Feasibility Study, with findings to be presented in mid-late 2023. Informed by Pool Feasibility outcomes, the WRG sites masterplan will be readdressed. Funding for this is proposed in Council's 23/24 ABP. 	Yet to be costed
<u>Mill Square - Fabrik</u>	Lobethal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape, signage, multipurpose outdoor event space. Concept design has been undertaken as part of the facilities design of Fabrik. 	\$0.5m

<u>PLEC</u>	Woodside Lobethal Mt Torrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for undergrounding of power lines for Lobethal Stage 3 for construction following 2024-25 Woodside and Mount Torrens Stages be considered for future rounds 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
POLICY			
<u>Disaster Funding Arrangements:</u>	State-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly support the LGA advocacy that the State Government undertakes an urgent review of the Local Government Disaster Recovery Assistance Arrangements (LGDRRA) 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. 	
<u>Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs):</u>	State-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As communicated with the SA Grants Commission over the past 4 years, we (as a member of the Southern & Hills Local Government Association) have requested a review of the FAGs formula as it applies to SA. An overall increase in this funding by the Commonwealth Government would also help greatly. 	
<u>Waste collection</u>	Region wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory change to allow EPA to provide exemptions to the requirement to collect residual waste weekly for peri-urban areas, ie, those councils which straddle metropolitan boundary. 	
<u>Adelaide Hills Regional Plan</u>	Region wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise the uniqueness and distinction of peri urban from Greater Adelaide and undertake a separate regional plan. Incorporating support for zoning and character areas that support current amenity as well as boutique and eco tourism opportunities and accommodation, options for diversity of housing to accommodate affordable housing and ageing in place, ancillary or co-housing opportunities, infrastructure & services that enable people to live & be serviced by local, studies that provide data as to the level of primary 	

		production vs rural lifestyle living and the impact on food production and water quality	
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KEY PROJECTS			
<u>Decarbonisation</u>	Region wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives which allow the Council to lead by example in demonstrating decarbonisation in a highly visible and positive way. (ideas?) 	
<u>Dog and Cat Management</u>	State wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for a state or sector led solution to the holding and management of dogs & cats 	
<u>Expanded Transport Options</u>	Region wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore transport options to support tourism ventures in the AHC area (difficult to get public transport or taxi/uber services) 	