



# **Your Adelaide Hills, Have Your Say**

## **Strategic Plan 2016-2020**

**Stage 1 Engagement: What we discovered**

**6 April – 8 May 2016**

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## Executive Summary

A strategic plan is a vital document for the Adelaide Hills Council as it provides vision for Council's future direction and guides us to achieving our goals and great outcomes for our community.

The development of Council's new four year strategic plan (2016-2020) provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our previous goals, focuses and achievements, as we look ahead to create the future.

As we reflect on the findings from the first of three consultation stages, we can see four areas emerging that are important to our community. The ability to CONNECT, with each other, services and the landscape; the vision to EXPLORE new ideas and opportunities for the region; the need to build an environment that enables us to PROSPER and to look after the precious PLACES that form the Adelaide Hills.

This document summarises what the community told us in the first stage of engagement. We look forward to continuing to talk with you as we shape the future of the Adelaide Hills.

## Engagement Framework

A community led engagement framework has been developed and followed through the development of the Plan.

A variety of presentation formats will be used throughout the consultations to encourage broad and considered feedback to Council, in particular the Council's engagement website and social media platforms.

The engagement for the strategic plan consists of three stages:

### **Stage 1 – April/May 2016: Discover**

Big picture thinking, where we explored the community's aspirations for the district. A series of conversations were held where people shared their vision for the Adelaide Hills and also contributed around four topics Places, Prosper, Explore and Connect.

### **Stage 2 – June/July 2016: Discuss**

The chance to talk in more depth on 8 key topics identified in stage 1 engagement.

### **Stage 3 – August/September 2016: Decide**

Council presents the draft plan to the community for comment and refinement.

## Who we heard from

We spoke to rate payers, residents, businesses, stakeholder groups and visitors to our district.

We met in person at:

- **2** Community Events: Stirling laneways and Gumeracha Medieval Fair
- **6** Workshops with Advisory groups
- **240** Conversations at Community Listening Posts

We connected online via:

- Social media campaigns
- E-communications
- Online at [engage@ahc.sa.gov.au](mailto:engage@ahc.sa.gov.au)

There were over:

- **4,490** visits to the engagement website
- **1324** contributions

## Some of what we discovered

'Become a centre for 'GREEN' businesses'

Kathryn

'Grants to young, innovative people'

Jeanette

'Keep community events, they're amazing'

Stirling Laneways

'Care for the natural environment and build resilience to impacts of climate change'

Amelia

'Would love to see it as a place to hold more events, more music festivals (like groovin the moo), a fair for teenagers (like a Royal Adelaide Show for teenagers).'

In-person feedback

## Key Topics and Themes

A number of common topics emerged from the consultations, these topics were:

- Infrastructure
- Sustainability
- Play and Recreation
- Youth
- Tourism
- Arts and Culture
- Partnerships
- Agility

These topics will be discussed in more detail with the community in the second stage of engagement.

The topics above fit within a number of broad themes being considered for inclusion in the Strategic Plan. The themes are defined below.

### Functional towns and Villages

**‘We need future planning for public transport for the next 50 years.’**

#### **Lovethehills**

Robust towns and villages improve the quality of life for the community through the provision of local services, facilities and activities. These central gathering places provide an economic and social focus for communities with connections and linkages to the surrounding landscape. The overall function of these towns and villages is critical for sustainable communities within the Adelaide Hills Council District. Well-constructed infrastructure and transport networks, accessible footpaths and trails, urban planning flexibility, diverse services and retail hubs are essential to ensure community liveability in towns and villages.

### Thriving Eco Systems

**‘So many roadsides are so choked up with weeds, smothering the beautiful native plants and wildflowers. I've noticed the roadside native grasses program and would like Council to expand this program, also to reduce the bushfire fuel load that the thick grassy weeds create...’**

#### **Clint**

The native flora and fauna of our region contribute to the character of the Adelaide Hills, and many of the ecosystems and the services they provide are essential to our productivity, economy, health and sense of wellbeing. Our plants and wildlife continue to face a number of challenges, including weed invasion, habitat fragmentation, risk of fire, and climate change. Through weed and habitat

management, supporting the community in their activities to protect and support biodiversity and improving our knowledge, we will work together to improve local biodiversity and support ecosystems and the services they provide to enable them, and ourselves, to thrive.

These unique places are maintained and restored through weed management; working in partnerships; building community capacity; sustainable landscape preservation/practices; land use planning; connectivity linkages; and quality habitat.

## Resilient Environments

**'Make all Council buildings carbon neutral and support residents to reduce carbon emissions'**

### **Stirling Laneways**

The environment is continually changing influenced by climate, economic considerations and human induced impacts. There is the necessity to ensure ongoing conservation of a robust environment and community with the ability, flexibility and capacity to adapt to change and secure a sustainable future. Council will provide leadership in striving towards more efficient use of resources, reduction in energy and water use, conservation of biodiversity, reduction of waste, decrease in mileage and use of local provenance food.

## Unique Landscapes

**'Need to retain the Hills natural beauty. It is so unique and we need ways to be innovative but still keep the beauty.'**

### **In person feedback**

Landscapes are not only beautiful but functional, productive and sustainable. The Adelaide Hills Council District landscape character is a mosaic of native vegetation, rivers and creeks, built form, heritage and primary production areas. The contrast and diversity of these landscapes is what makes the area unique to attract tourists, residents and business enterprises.

## Vibrant Tourist Experiences

**'Low cost accommodation for bike riding tourists'**

### **Stirling Laneways Festival**

Tourism is one of the Adelaide Hill's key economic advantages. Proximity to Adelaide, seasonal climate, diverse experiences, a strong epicurean offering and natural beauty all in our favour – there is enormous opportunity for tourism growth in the region.

## Supporting Economic Infrastructure

**'Wider roads with room for cyclists or off-road paths for cyclists in the northern Adelaide Hills should be a priority.'**

### **Gumeracha is Great**

Careful stewardship of the hundreds of millions of dollars of physical infrastructure that connects and protects our community is a key responsibility of Council. Safe and efficient road, drainage, waste water and footpath networks are critical to the productivity of business, and for the amenity of residents. Existing assets will be maintained and renewed in a timely manner, and opportunities for new infrastructure that benefits community and business will be considered against the broader goals of increased connectivity, opening opportunities for tourism or improved risk management.

## Active Engaged Lifestyles

### **'Make sure 'nature play' is a focus for all new play space developments'**

#### **Algator**

An active lifestyle improves community wellbeing. An 'active' lifestyle means incorporating physical activity into daily life – cycling, walking, and gardening- as well as competing in a sport or participating in an activity class or similar pursuit for pleasure and fitness. Active lifestyles are supported by places – sport and recreation facilities, public open space, parks and playgrounds.

## Agility/responsiveness

### **'Cut down on red tape'**

#### **In person feedback**

Agility is about the Council's ability to respond to changing needs and emerging trends. Strategies, policies, processes and systems must be current and relevant to community needs. The organisation must operate with flexibility and a preparedness to change.

## Next Steps

Stage 2 engagement commences on Tuesday 14 June 2016 for a period of 3 weeks; where 8 key topics will be discussed in more detail with the community. The findings from this engagement will be collated and will assist Council in formulating the draft Plan ready for comment in the final stage of engagement in August.