



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS COMMITTEE

held on Wednesday 7 May 2025 commencing at 1:00pm
in the Heysen Room, The Barossa Council, 43-51 Tanunda Road,
Nuriootpa.

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

Louise Mason (Acting Chairperson), Trevor Waldhuter, Bryce Lillecrapp, Cr Kathryn Schilling, Kate Jenkins,

Council Staff – Glen Carter (Manager, Infrastructure and Environmental Services), Kim Thompson (Senior Environmental Officer), Doreen Von Linde (NRC Coordinator), Penny Devlin (Nursery Manager) and Chris Kruger (Minute Taker).

Apologies

Andrew Fairney (Seeding Natives)

Guests

Carly Hennessy (Manager, Community Services)

Sarah Barrett

Leave of Absence

Nil

Community Governance and Funding Model Presentation

Carly Hennessy presented the Community Governance and Funding Model Build Out, which is the overarching system by which Council and community collaborate to shape decisions, priorities and services. Whilst the project is in its infancy, extensive consultation will be held with both S41 Committees and Advisory Groups to form the Wellbeing Network (Core Governance Group).

Next steps include working with Regional Development Australia to build a sustainable Governance Structure by collaborating with community and key stakeholders.

A series of Workshops will be developed with Council-led/supported community groups.

ACTION: Carly Hennessy to be invited to attend Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee meeting to be held on 18 June 2025.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of previous meetings – for confirmation:

MOVED K Jenkins

That the Minutes of the Barossa Bushgardens Committee held on Wednesday 19 February 2025 at 1:00pm, as circulated, be confirmed as true and correct records of the proceedings of those meetings.

SECONDED T Waldhuter

CARRIED

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

2.2.1 FRIENDS OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS UPDATE **25/24160**

At the last FoBB meeting on 4th March, the group agreed to keep paying for the volunteer shirts. The Friends are also working on a membership drive and fund raising, including the development of a membership process with the help of BBG staff.

On 21st May, the Friends are supporting an event, organised by Ngadjuri Elder Quenten Agius, with a BBQ for 70 Aboriginal students from across Australia.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

3. Matters for Information
- 3.1 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
- 3.2 Partner Project Updates
- 3.3 Correspondence
- 3.4 Marketing Initiatives and Sales Opportunities
- 3.5 Strategic Plan Progress Report

3.6 Risk Management/Work Health and Safety

3.7 Visitation to the Barossa Bushgardens

Nurture and Natter Program

The Committee discussed the enormous value of the Nurture and Natter Program that has been running for several years at the Barossa Bushgardens, providing an important outlet for dementia patients and their carers.

Unfortunately funding is yet to be confirmed for the 2025-2026 financial year (approximately \$10,000) but it is hoped that funding can be secured to enable this valuable program to continue.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52pm for a short break.

The meeting recommenced at 3:02pm.

4. DEBATE REPORT

4.1 THE RUSSELL JOHNSTONE INAUGURAL AWARD 2025 25/26994

MOVED K Jenkins

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee:

- (1) Auspice the Russell Johnstone Inaugural Award
- (2) Develop Terms of Reference outlining criteria, process and award details

SECONDED T Waldhuter

CARRIED

PURPOSE

To seek approval to implement the Russell Johnstone Inaugural Award to recognise a Barossa individual environmental champion.

REPORT

Background

Russell Johnstone, as Chair of the S41 Barossa Bushgardens Committee of Council supported Doreen von Linde, Natural Resource Coordinator in the Green Adelaide Environment Network (GAEN), which is the network of Environment Centres throughout metropolitan Adelaide and the wider region, including the Barossa Bushgardens, Gawler Environment Centre and Mount Pleasant Resource Centre.

A suggestion was made by a member of GAEN for an award to be initiated for Russell Johnstone, following his death in December 2024, similar to the [Quiet Green Achievers Award](#) through the [Hills Environment Centre](#) to recognise and acknowledge a Barossa individual who is making a difference in our environment. They wanted to have the award presented at their annual Awards ceremony on 5 June 2025 – World Environment Day as Minister Close was going to be in attendance.

The Barossa Bushgardens staff and volunteers would prefer that Russell is recognised here in the Barossa, specifically at the Barossa Bushgardens where much of his work was dedicated.

Introduction

A meeting with Lynette & Natalie (Russell's wife & daughter) was arranged to ask their approval and they both are extremely supportive of the Russell Johnstone Award and feel very grateful that Russell's work will be celebrated annually through this legacy, and here in the Barossa.

Discussion

The Barossa Bushgardens team would like to gain the support and subsequent approval for the Russell Johnstone Inaugural Award to accept nominations and present the winner to be announced on Tuesday 3rd June, 2025 at the Barossa Bushgardens Reconciliation Day event – *Connect on Country*.

This Reconciliation event is a replicate of last years, whereby for the first time we were able to have all three First Nations representatives present and working together at the Barossa Bushgardens, ascribed by Russell. Last year we had 90 Year 6 students from local primary schools participating and whilst this was a great day, Quenten Agius was keen to have only Aboriginal students engaged this year.

This event is bringing together 100 Aboriginal high school students from Gawler, Two Wells, Eudunda, Kapunda and Nuriootpa to meet our First Nations Presenters, Quenten Agius (Ngadjuri), Courtney Hunter-Hebberman (Peramangk) and Jamie Agius (Kurna) and participate in cultural learning, experiences and planting in the gardens.

Summary and Conclusion

Russell brought many skill sets to our team, especially in the leadership role he held, however, we value most his ability to support us to build deeper relationships and connections with our First Nations people. He was passionate about reconciliation and truth telling and was able to help us navigate the sensitive issues with confidence. The Russell Johnstone Award will be an annual award to keep his legacy alive and commemorate his contributions to the environment and for our First Nations peoples.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Proposal - The Russell Johnstone Inaugural Award 2025 

Supporting references

Nil.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Supporting a sustainable Barossa.

Strategic Outcome

- We support actions that manage our environment for future generations.
- We sustainably manage our resources and encourage sustainable practices.

Corporate Plan

CS17 Natural Resources - Regional development and management of the environment including natural resource management to ensure the region is managed sustainably and the environment is protected and enhanced

CS19 Social Inclusion - Advocate and work in collaboration with core service providers to ensure vulnerable people have increased access and inclusion.

Legislative Requirements

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Nil.

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil.

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

It is envisaged that any costs associated with implementing the Memorial Award would be minimal and be funded from the existing approved budget.

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil.

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Nil.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required.

4.2 ELECTION OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS S41 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON 25/39121

MOVED B Lillecrapp

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee:

- (1) Endorse the appointment of Sarah Barrett to the voluntary position of Chairperson, Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee commencing 1 July 2025.
- (2) That the appointment be approved by resolution of Council.

SECONDED K Jenkins

CARRIED

PURPOSE

To seek Committee endorsement of Sarah Barrett to the voluntary position of Chairperson, Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee, commencing 1 July 2025.

REPORT

Background

Following the decline of Russell Johnstone's health during 2024 and his consequent passing in December, the S41 BBG Committee would like to acknowledge and thank Louise Mason for stepping into the role as Chair of the S41 BBG. Louise has shown extraordinary leadership during this time and we are very grateful for her commitment to ensure the business of the BBG was maintained during this time.

Louise has indicated her preference not to continue in the role as Chairperson, but is happy to remain as Deputy Chairperson.

Discussion

Following discussions with various members and stakeholders, the Barossa Bushgardens staff and the Committee of the Friends of Barossa Bushgardens were pleased when Sarah Barrett expressed her interest in the role of Chairperson for the Barossa Bushgardens Section 41 Committee. At this stage, no other individuals have expressed interest in taking on the role.

Sarah has had a long association with the Barossa Bushgardens, including the Natural Resource Co-ordinator from 2013 - 2017. During this time, she sourced funding for several programs, including the original Nature and Natter initiative. Fortunately for us, she is stepping down as Chairperson of the Landcare Association of South Australia to focus her energy and time locally in The Barossa Council region where she lives and works.

Sarah has been involved in Landcare for 30 years, working and volunteering to improve conservation and restoration on agricultural properties, chairing the Barossa Reconciliation Group and was one of the inaugural Northern and Yorke Landscape Board members, appointed in 2020 replacing the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board in leading a back-to-basics approach to managing the natural resources in the region.

In 2024 Sarah received the Women in Landcare Award for South Australia, recognising her personal and professional passion for rural communities and contributions to Landcare. Since 2022, she is the lead consultant for Sustainability Strategy at Pinion Advisory where she provides environment services, on-farm production, agri-business and economic management for private business and industry bodies.

In accordance with Clause 3.4 of the Terms of Reference, if there are more nominations than required, voting will be conducted by secret ballot. This procedure will apply to any additional nominations received prior to and during the meeting scheduled for 7 May 2025.

Summary and Conclusion

The Committee is to appoint a Chairperson in accordance with the Terms of Reference. A nomination must be approved by resolution of Council.

Sarah's extensive experience and expertise makes her an ideal candidate for the position and the S41 Barossa Bushgardens Committee would benefit greatly from welcoming Sarah back to the Barossa Bushgardens.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

Supporting references

Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee Terms of Reference.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Supporting a sustainable Barossa.

Strategic Outcome

- We support actions that manage our environment for future generations.
- We sustainably manage our resources and encourage sustainable practices.

Corporate Plan

- CS17 Natural Resources - Regional development and management of the environment including natural resource management to ensure the region is managed sustainably and the environment is protected and enhanced
- BS4 Council and Committees - Provision of support to Council and Committees through the provision of required information, agendas, and minutes. Council and Committees are provided with support to enable informed decisions

Legislative Requirements

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS
--

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Nil.

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil.

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

The position of Chairperson, Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee is a voluntary position and does not attract remuneration fees.

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil.

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key

stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Nil.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required.

4.3 **FINANCE REPORT - AS AT 30 APRIL 2025** **25/39233**

MOVED K Jenkins

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee receive and note the report.

SECONDED T Waldhuter

CARRIED

PURPOSE

To provide progress on budget income and expenditure as at 30 April 2025.

REPORT

Discussion

As at the end of April, the expenditure of most cost centres is progressing well.

Any minor budget adjustments completed in Quarter 3 are not currently showing in the report.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Bushgardens Budget Update as at 30 April 2025 

Supporting references

Nil.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Our Environment

Supporting a sustainable Barossa.

Strategic Outcome

- We support actions that manage our environment for future generations.
- We sustainably manage our resources and encourage sustainable practices.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Regular monitoring of financial performance ensures budget and expenditure are aligned to meet approved levels of service.

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil.

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

To enable effective and strategic decisions, a finance report is provided for noting.

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil.

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Nil.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required under Legislation or Council's Public Consultation Policy.

ACTION: Future Projects and Budget Implications to be added as a standing Agenda Item.

4.4 REVIEW OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

25/39278

MOVED L Mason

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee:

- (1) Endorse the revised Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan 2025-2030 as presented and recommend its adoption by Council.

SECONDED T Waldhuter

CARRIED

PURPOSE

The Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee and Bushgardens staff have continued review of the Barossa Bushgardens 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

REPORT

Background

It is a requirement that the Committee undertake a review of the Strategic Plan to ensure its relevance to the operations of the Barossa Bushgardens in accordance with the Terms of Reference set for the Committee in managing the Bushgardens on behalf of the Council.

Introduction

At its meeting held in October 2024, and February 2025, the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee and Bushgardens staff progressed the review of the Strategic Plan, and the final draft version is presented to the Committee for endorsement and is included as Attachment 1.

Discussion

The Plan has been updated to include the revised SWOT analysis and purpose identified for the Bushgardens. Each of the key Result Areas and Strategies have been revised.

While still subject to Council consideration, linkages to corporate actions have been included in the Plan to reflect the service areas that have been reviewed in relation to the Corporate Plan.

Summary and Conclusion

The Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan has been updated and is presented for endorsement by the Committee to have adopted by Council.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan for Committee review - May 2025 

Supporting references

Barossa Bushgardens Terms of Reference

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Our Environment

Supporting a sustainable Barossa.

Strategic Outcome

- We support actions that manage our environment for future generations.
- We sustainably manage our resources and encourage sustainable practices.



Our Council

We strive to be a leader in regional Local Government and are committed to delivering effective, efficient, and valued services to the community.

Strategic Outcome

- We have strong relationships, and where appropriate, partner with our community, industries, stakeholders, the Local Government sector and Governments.

Corporate Plan

BS4 Council and Committees - Provision of support to Council and Committees through the provision of required information, agendas, and minutes. Council and Committees are provided with support to enable informed decisions

Legislative Requirements

Nil.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. **SERVICE DELIVERY**

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Nil.

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil.

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

Delivery of the Strategic Plan is undertaken in accordance with the adopted Budget and resources for the programs and services delivered by the Barossa Bushgardens.

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil.

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Nil.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required by Legislation or Council Policy.

5. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Nil

6. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

7. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18 June 2025 at 1:00pm

8. CLOSURE

L Mason declared the meeting closed at 3:29pm.

Confirmed at Barossa Bushgardens Committee Meeting on 18 June 2025

Date:.....

Chairperson:.....