



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS COMMITTEE

held on Wednesday 6 August 2025 commencing at 1:00pm
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa.

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

Sarah Barrett (Chairperson), Louise Mason (via Teams), Trevor Waldhuter, Kate Jenkins, Andrew Fairney (via Teams), and Cr Kathryn Schilling

Council Staff

Doreen Von Linde (NRC Coordinator), Kim Thompson (Senior Environmental Officer), Penny Devlin (Nursery Manager), Ben Clark (Director, Infrastructure and Environmental Services), Benn Kromwyk (Manager, Infrastructure and Environmental Services) and Chris Kruger (Minute Taker).

Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome

Sarah Barrett welcomed all and thanked Louise Mason for her work as Deputy Chairperson following the passing of Russell Johnstone.

Apologies

Bryce Lillecrapp

Not Present

Nil

Leave of Absence

Nil

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 7 May 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 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

25/14856

The following actions from previous minutes are in progress as detailed below:

Meeting Date	Resolution/Action	Status	Actioning Officer
14 June 2023	Future direction of S41 Committee – Manager, Works and Operations to seek input from key stakeholders to enable the development of a Discussion Paper, examining operating models of like-minded organisations. A report to be presented to a future S41 Committee Meeting.	To be placed on hold and removed as Action item until further notice	Senior Environmental Officer
19 February 2025	Seek funding assistance from Community Helpers to assist with the provision of the	Complete Funding provided by Council.	NRC Coordinator Senior Environmental Officer

	Nature and Natter Program beyond 30 June 2025.		
6 August 2025	Bush Play Group	Investigate potential for promotional opportunities	NRC Coordinator
6 August 2025	Annual Sponsorship packages	Develop Sponsorship package in conjunction with Friends of Barossa Bushgardens	Senior Environmental Officer
6 August 2025	WHS Audit processes	Agenda Item for next S41 Committee meeting	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager
6 August 2025	Russell Johnstone Award To be held Saturday 25 October 2025	Assist with Award Design Ascertain available funding for the provision of books for nominees	Kate Jenkins Trevor Waldhuter

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
- 3.2 Correspondence
- 3.3 Strategic Plan Progress Report
- 3.4 Partner Project Updates
- 3.5 Marketing Initiatives and Sales Opportunities
- 3.6 Risk Management/Work Health and Safety
- 3.7 Visitation to the Barossa Bushgardens
- 3.8 Reconciliation Day 2025 Summary
- 3.9 Friends of Barossa Bushgardens Update
- 3.10 Russell Johnstone Award
- 3.11 Acknowledgement and Thanks to Glen Carter

4. DEBATE REPORT

4.1 FINANCE REPORT - AS AT 31 JULY 2025 25/44000

MOVED Cr Schilling

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee received and notes the Finance Report as at 31 July 2025, as provided in Attachment 1.

SECONDED T Waldhuter

CARRIED

PURPOSE

To provide progress on budget income and expenditure as at 31 July 2025.

REPORT

Discussion

The BBG team are working with the Finance team to realign the budgets to reflect the appropriate natural accounts where expenditure is, particularly regarding Doreen's Environmental Education (4005) and BBG site (4115) budgets. Amongst other tasks this will include moving Kim's salary & oncosts and staff training from the 4005 budget line. This should improve our ability to report more accurately into the future.

A request has been made through the Manager and Director of IES to increase the nursery budget to reflect the increase in production from \$12369 to \$25000 – these adjustments should be completed after Q1 if approved by Council..

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Barossa Bushgardens Finance Report - July 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.

Legislative Requirements

Local Government Act 1999

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.

4.2 BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS MASTERPLAN 25/54167

MOVED K Jenkins

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee endorse a request to Council for an additional sum of \$25,000 as part of the Quarter One budget adjustment process, to create a Capital Works budget line.

The additional funds will be used to fund an updated Masterplan by a suitably qualified Consultant to reposition the Barossa Bushgardens as a regional destination and site for future activation and visitation.

SECONDED T Waldhuter

CARRIED

PURPOSE

To commit funding for an updated Barossa Bushgardens Masterplan to drive social, economic and tourism outcomes aligned with the Local Economic Development Plan and 2024-2029 Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan.

REPORT

Background

In May 2025 Council adopted the 2024-2029 Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan, outlining a range of strategic priorities to deliver the vision for the Bushgardens as a biodiversity, community and visitor precinct.

An update of the Masterplan is identified as a key priority in the Plan to ensure the Bushgardens is best positioned to meet its potential as a visitor destination.

The last update of the Masterplan occurred in 2020 and the recommendations for improvements were largely cosmetic and/or have been completed. A more substantive refresh of the Masterplan is needed by a landscape architect, applying a broader strategic lens to the form and function of the Bushgardens.

This project aligns with the re-prioritisation of the Barossa Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP) and specifically, the key Action to "reposition Barossa Bushgardens as a destination for visitors".

Discussion

While Barossa Bushgardens has traditionally been viewed as a community and biodiversity resource, the re-prioritisation of the LEDP has created an opportunity to re-consider how the Bushgardens is positioned in the marketplace.

The Barossa Bushgardens offerings as a biodiversity hub are comparable to the highly successful Arid Lands Botanic Garden of Port Augusta. Investment in the visitor experience has not kept pace with these emerging opportunities. Several recent pieces of strategic work have highlighted the need for the Bushgardens to mature its visitor experience. This is well-timed given the renewed focus and interest on First Nations heritage and the cultural tourism opportunities that will emerge as a result of the Barossa Creative Industries Centre.

An updated Masterplan should reconsider how visitors locate and navigate in and around the open space precinct (ie visual and physical wayfinding and signage), and how precinct design can support diversification and potential commercialisation of the offerings at the Bushgardens, such as events, tours and interactive/digital storytelling. Stronger linkages are also needed to link key walking/cycling destinations beyond the precinct, such as Coulthard Reserve, Big 4 Caravan Park, Nuriootpa Linear Park and Barossa Farmers Market.

The Masterplan should also take a long-term view of a potential future Cultural Centre as part of a phased approach, subject to a cost benefit analysis and funding.

This strategic lens is needed to ensure the Bushgardens not only remains sustainable and relevant but becomes a regional economic driver alongside its traditional function as a natural resource precinct. Other priorities identified by staff include improvements to the existing Volunteer and Natural Resource Centre to provide better functionality and separation of functions (visitors, volunteers, nursery production and staff).

Actions, Timeline & costs for implementation

Stage 1 – 2025/26		
Engage with internal & external stakeholders to develop scope for Masterplan	S41 BBG Committee; Friends of Barossa Bushgardens; Tourism & Events team; Works and Operations; Community Development Team	Internal
Develop Masterplan	Landscape Architect	\$25k
Stage 2 – 2026/27		
Update all Signage (Interactive, directional, Places of Interest, Gardens); Update maps and brochures Pathway development Community Nursery		\$30k
Stage 3 2027/28		
Design & implementation – Natural Resource/Volunteer Centre		Approx. \$80k-\$100k
Stage 4 – 2028-2029		
Design & implementation – First Nations Cultural Centre (co-design)	Shed structure with internal cladding	Approx. \$1-\$1.5 million

Summary and Conclusion

An update of the Masterplan will ensure the Barossa Bushgardens is well-positioned to embrace emerging cultural tourism opportunities as a regional visitor destination. A cohesive design framework will elevate the Barossa Bushgardens beyond its traditional role as a biodiversity and community hub by ensuring the design takes a holistic view of current and future activations and opportunities at the site.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

- Attachment 1 barossa bushgardens report_June 2025_Adelaide University Internship
- Attachment 2 Barossa Bushgardens Urban Design Framework 2020 Update

Supporting references

Nil

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 Economy

Implementing economic development strategies to support future growth opportunities and a diversified and resilient economy showcasing the Barossa rural and regional character.

Strategic Outcome

- We are a destination of choice.



Our Places

Our places and spaces enhance the liveability, retain rural and regional character and diversity of our communities.

Strategic Outcome

- Our places are planned, managed, and sustainable.
- We have connected transport infrastructure and networks.
- We plan for and deliver infrastructure to enhance our places.



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.

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.

Low Risk

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.

Low Risk

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.

Low Risk

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.

Low Risk

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.

Low Risk

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to consultation with the Friends of Barossa Bushgardens and Section 41 Committee, it is recommended that the update to the Masterplan involve key internal stakeholders beyond the Bushgardens cohort, such as Economic Development, Tourism, Events, Works and Operations and Community Development, to ensure the design takes a holistic view of current and future activations at the site.

5. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Nil

6. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

7. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 1:00pm

8. CLOSURE

Sarah Barrett declared the meeting closed at 2:46pm.

Confirmed at Barossa Bushgardens Committee Meeting on 15 October 2025

Date:.....

Chairperson:.....