NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next ordinary meeting of the Barossa Bushgardens Committee will be held on Wednesday 17 December 2025
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa, commencing at 1:00pm.

Martin McCarthy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS
COMMITTEE

A G E N D A

Welcome by the Chair

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

Apologies

Nil

Not Present

Nil

Leave of Absence

Nil

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of previous meetings – for confirmation:

2.1.1 Barossa Bushgardens Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 1:00pm

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

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5. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Nil

6. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

7. NEXT MEETING

To be determined.

8. CLOSURE

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.2.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93715

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

Meeting Date	Resolution/Action	Status	Actioning Officer
6 August 2025	Bush Play Group	Investigate potential for promotional opportunities Alicia (Comms Team) has recently attended a Bush Playgroup and taken photos. Promotional material production is ongoing. - COMPLETE	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 Staff is working with the Risk and Safety Team Leader to develop a formal process for internal WHS Audits through SkyTrust.	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager

		- COMPLETE	
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 - COMPLETE	Kate Jenkins Trevor Waldhuter
15 October 2025	Review of Terms of Reference	Agenda item for February 2026 S41 Committee meeting	Senior Environmental Officer
15 October 2025	Request for additional funding to enable the development of a Masterplan	Agenda item for 17 December 2025 S41 Committee meeting - ON HOLD	Senior Environmental Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93717

The following correspondence has been received (copies attached):

Date	Sender	Action
12 November 2025	Cath Mossop (Green Adelaide)	Note incoming correspondence
25 November 2025	Ross Oke (on behalf of GAEN)	Note incoming correspondence

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Correspondence - Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee meeting 17 December 2025

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

Chris Kruger

From: Doreen Von Linde
Sent: Monday, 1 December 2025 10:25 AM
To: Chris Kruger
Subject: Correspondence 2 for S41 Committee Meeting: Draft letter to Minister Hood
Attachments: GAEN Prospectus.pdf; Letter to Minister Hood MP - GAEN 2025.docx; Local-Environment-Centres Labor Policy Commitment.pdf

Doreen Von Linde
Barossa Bushgardens NRC Co-ordinator
E: Dvonlinde@barossa.sa.gov.au | T: 08 8563 8331

From: Ross Oke <ross.oke@secondnature.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 2:06 PM
[redacted]
Cc: 'Mossop, Catherine (DEW)' <catherine.mossop@sa.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Draft letter to Minister Hood

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Hi all,

I hope this finds you well and look forward to catching up tomorrow.

Please find attached a draft letter to Minister Hood, seeking her commitment to ongoing support for environment centres. Also attached is the Labor policy commitment (pre 2022 SA election) and the GAEN Prospectus.

The GAEN Steering Committee has discussed this matter and agreed to prepare the correspondence as a key strategy for us leading up to the election next year. I intended to have the steering committee review the letter prior to circulating it to all centres and also to have it to you in time for you to review prior to our meeting tomorrow. My apologies that this hasn't occurred.

However, can we please allocate sufficient time to discussing this tomorrow? If you are in a position to endorse it at the meeting, that would be terrific. I understand that some of you may need time to confirm broader support from your committee members, depending on your individual procedures.

The nub of this matter is that the government committed to redressing an anomaly caused by the changes to NRM boundaries. Whilst it is an election commitment, in order to "fix this mess", ongoing arrangements are required.

See you tomorrow,

Ross

Ross Oke

General Manager

Second Nature Conservancy Inc.

PO Box 674, Strathalbyn, SA 5255

Ph: 08 8536 5600

[redacted]

Web: https://www.secondnature.org.au/

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GREATER ADELAIDE ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Working together for a more sustainable future.

7 November 2025

Hon Lucy Hood MP
Minister for Climate, Environment and Water
Minister.Hood@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Confirmation of ongoing commitment of financial support for environment centres in Greater Adelaide

On behalf of the Greater Adelaide Environment Network (GAEN), congratulations on your Ministerial appointment. We appreciate that many important matters are demanding much of your time and energy.

GAEN represents nine community-managed environment / natural resource centres located throughout the Greater Adelaide Region. Two are within the Green Adelaide region and seven cover the region extending from the Barossa south to Goolwa and Normanville (within the Hills & Fleurieu and Northern & Yorke regions). Each centre works with local communities to take positive actions to support and improve our environment and landscapes.

At the 2022 SA State Election, we welcomed SA Labor's commitment (attached) to guarantee financial support for the part-time operation of our centres, with the former Minister's actions being to provide this funding via the Green Adelaide Landscape Board's annual business plan. Over the last few years, we have worked very constructively and positively with the Board's staff to enable the delivery of activities that contribute to the achievement of elements of Green Adelaide's 5-year Landscape Plan.

Our centres have operated in the Greater Adelaide region for decades and are well-established local and regional hubs. We deliver diverse programs of events, activities and volunteering opportunities, aimed at engaging communities to become more informed and active in biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and climate change adaptation.

Recognising the structural changes (to management boundaries) that precipitated dire circumstances for eight environment centres and committing to redress this anomaly with a strong policy commitment, is a credit to the SA Labor Government.

Released in early 2024, the Report on the Independent Review of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 also notes that; "Several boards have had to narrow their focus to reflect the lower funding base they receive because of boundary changes that occurred with the transition from the NRM Act to the Landscape Act. Specific funding arrangements exist between Green Adelaide and its neighbouring boards in order to maximise efficiency in undertaking activities that naturally cross the administrative boundaries of those boards. This includes for local environment centres, water monitoring assets, and coastal officers residing in the neighbouring regions."

To provide the certainty our centres need to continue to serve our communities, we seek confirmation of your ongoing commitment to these vital funding arrangements for environment centres within the GAEN.

We are happy to provide further information or meet with you or your representative(s) at any time to discuss this matter and look forward to hearing from you. An overview of GAEN's collective impact and potential is provided in the following appendix and attachments. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Oke
On behalf of the Greater Adelaide Environment Network
E: ross.oke@secondnature.org.au
P: [redacted]

Appendix: Summary of achievements, reach and potential
Attachments: SA Labor Policy – Local Environment Centres
GAEN Prospectus

Appendix – Summary of achievements, reach and potential

Annual Achievements

From July 2024 to June 2025, environment centres of the Greater Adelaide Environment Network (GAEN) collectively delivered:

1) 737 learning and development events and activities delivered to 17,432 participants
2) free, inclusive community hubs and meeting places for over 203 community groups and other organisations
3) opportunities for 493 volunteers contributing 30,954 volunteer working hours ($1.44M in kind)
4) awareness raising about local environmental issues, Green Adelaide and Adelaide National Park City, via –
    a. 106 mailouts/newsletters to 10,198 recipients, and
    b. 2145 social media posts to 39,412 followers
5) $273,355 dollars of leveraged contributions from alternative sources, and
6) programs with 149 partners, including 37 with First Nations community and businesses.

Our Reach

The **Greater Adelaide Environment Network (GAEN)** comprises:

OUR Peri-Urban CENTRES:	***OUR REACH (electoral areas)***
• ***Hills Environment Centre*** – *(H&F)*.....	***Morialta, Kavel (part), Heysen (part)***
• ***Strathalbyn Environment Centre*** – *(H&F)*.....	***Finniss, Heysen (part), Hammond (part), Kavel (part)***
• ***Willunga Environment Centre*** – *(H&F)*.....	***Mawson, Kaurna (part)***
• ***Fleurieu Environment Centre*** – *(H&F)*.....	***Mawson, Finniss (part)***
• ***Barossa Bushgardens*** – *(N&Y)*.....	***Schubert, Morialta (part)***
• ***Gawler Environment Centre*** – *(N&Y)*.....	***Light, Schubert (part)***
• ***Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre*** –..*(N&Y)*	***Schubert (part), Hammond (part) Morialta (part)***
OUR Urban CENTRES:	
• ***Adelaide Sustainability Centre*** - *(GA)*.....	***Adelaide***
• ***Port Environment Centre*** - *(GA)*.....	***Port Adelaide***

Our Potential

A copy of the GAEN Prospectus is attached and provides an overview of our vision, aims, value proposition, reach and impact.

To continue our work to inspire communities to take action for the betterment of landscapes and the broader environment, we value the government's commitment to continue funding our centres to secure staff, resources and premises. Beyond this, we see great opportunities for enhanced programs and initiatives that extend action further into communities and areas not yet served.

Within the peri-urban areas of Greater Adelaide a small increase to bring **annual funding to around $1.3 million** would enable the current nine Centres to thrive and the network to expand, providing:

- ***Increased hours for full-time operation to enhance the reach into communities***
- ***Enhanced program delivery for Boards***
- ***More native plants for biodiversity, habitat for endangered species and carbon capture***
- ***Support for Adelaide as a National Park City***
- ***Additional environment centres to respond to community needs and enthusiasm***
- ***Increased partnering opportunities***
- ***Help for communities to live more sustainably and adapt to a changing climate***
- ***Support for bushfire recovery and other responses***

We propose a bold initiative based on ongoing core funding (possibly five-year Service Agreements aligned with Landscape Boards' Five-Year Landscape Plans) and welcome the opportunity to explore with you how we can make this happen.

Greater Adelaide Environment Network Prospectus

Introducing the Greater Adelaide Environment Network

Working together for a more sustainable future.

The Greater Adelaide Environment Network (GAEN) is a newly formed alliance of nine community-based Environment (or Natural Resource) Centres operating across the Greater Adelaide area.

The GAEN brings together a wealth of experience and local connections under a new collaborative and coordinated framework. We are excited about the impact that GAEN will achieve for our environment and our communities through this new collaboration and focus.

Our collective impact, which extends back over the past 25 years, has been significant, with over 20,000 participant attendances and over 400 events held annually. With a commitment to develop community skills and resilience, our centres conduct workshops and information sessions on everything from local biodiversity and sustainable land management practices, to recycling and waste diversion. We run annual native plant sales, coordinate revegetation projects, support community gardens, run sustainable living festivals and a wide variety of other innovative environmental and community development initiatives.

GREATER ADELAIDE ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

January 2022

Our vision is to collectively/collaboratively care for our environment into the future.

Our mission is for the connections and partnerships that we have formed between local communities and agencies to continue to attract investment, to foster gains in knowledge and drive actions that support sustainable development. Such work will lead to the wise use of natural resources, healthy ecosystems and resilient communities..

Our aim is to realise this through a model of delivery that supports and empowers communities to deliver the outcomes set out in state and regional landscape plans while simultaneously building community health, wellbeing, connections and resilience.

Investment in the GAEN will have a multiplier effect as we can leverage and harness collective impact.

GAEN's value proposition

As a collective, the GAEN members commit to:

- providing direct connection and extension of agency to community through extensive, well established and trusted local and regional community networks;
- leveraging relatively small investments to create valuable and impactful local outcomes;
- building an agile and responsive system that, enables the rapid implementation of new initiatives;
- fostering knowledge transfer and build capacity;
- coordinating the collective community volunteer network to address environmental and social issues;
- informing, enthusing and leading behaviour change for environmental good and to underpin sustainable economic development; and
- encouraging and supporting stronger connections with Traditional Owners.

What we can offer – the beginning of a new alliance and partnership

a) A partnership with government that balances financial prudence and accountability alongside community independence.

b) Our volunteer-based organisations seek and promote partnerships that mobilise and empower outcomes while providing direction. This will support innovation and independence while coordinating and encouraging efficient and effective delivery of services.

c) Our focus is on continuing to provide services that promote knowledge, behaviour change, commitment and capacity within communities. These are all essential to effect changes towards more sustainable use of natural resources, conservation of biodiversity and living sustainably.

d) Our network of environment centres encompasses significant community capacity, social capital and knowledge, having been invested in for many years via a range of funding partners. GAEN will harness its social capital and extension skills to provide a framework to achieve not only contracted deliverables and outcomes, but also significant economic and social outcomes.

e) We add value to the wider land management sector by building relationships and networks at the local community level. These relationships and networks enable us to mobilise quickly to implement new initiatives, trial new ideas, assit in responding to disasters, and act as 'thought leaders'.

f) By fostering the health and effectiveness of community networks and relationships, communities themselves can overcome challenges and problems and manage their natural resources in an effective and sophisticated manner. The GAEN does this by:

- harnessing local volunteers to tackle local land management issues and conserve flora and fauna;
- teaching people environmental management skills such as plant propagation, revegetation and weeding;
- supporting stronger connections with Traditional Owners;
- helping communities adapt to the impacts of changing climate;
- promoting solutions to minimise waste and live sustainably.

Highlights across the GAEN region

Community nurseries

Local native plants grown by volunteers for revegetation and sustainable gardening projects.

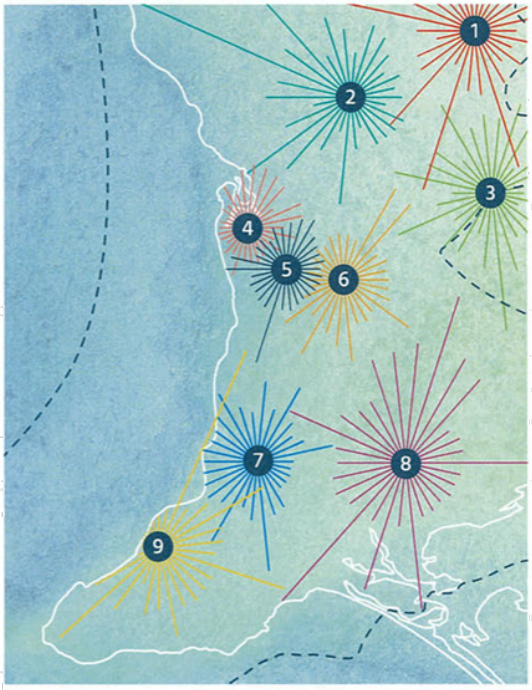
- Barossa Bushgardens.
- Fleurieu Coast Community Nursery.
- Mount Pleasant NRC Nursery.
- Strathalbyn NRC: Alexandrina (Goolwa) and Mount Barker Community Nurseries.

Biodiversity and nature education

- Gawler Understorey Project: over 55,000 native plants to restore regional vegetation.
- Aldinga Washpool project: YACCA youth working with Kaurna stakeholders to restore this significant site.
- Barossa Bushgardens: environmental education and activities for schools and kindergartens.
- Tree Trails in Willunga, Kangarilla and McLaren Vale: highlighting the importance of trees in our environment.
- Quiet Green Achiever Awards (Hills): acknowledges the dedication of environmental volunteers annually.
- Mount Barker Wildlife Gardening: subsidised plant packs supported by Strathalbyn NRC and Mount Barker Council.

Sustainability and innovation

- Gawler Repair Café: skilled volunteers help community members to repair household items that would otherwise go to waste.
- Recreate: creative reuse centre, shop, materials depot and workshop space in Mount Pleasant.
- Sustainable Fleurieu Project: community education on reducing single use plastics and living sustainably.
- Hills Harvest Exchange: monthly community vegie swap with over 150 members – running for over nine years.
- Sustainable Living Mount Barker (Strath NRC) and Gawler Sustainable Living Festival (Gawler EC).
- Library of Things (The Joinery): enabling the community to access sustainable living items for a low-cost, reduce consumption and waste, and to show proof of concept for other organisations to start their own Library of Things.



1. Barossa Bushgardens
2. Gawler Environment Centre
3. Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
4. Port Environment Centre
5. Adelaide Sustainability Centre
6. Hills Environment Centre
7. Willunga Environment Centre
8. Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre
9. Fleurieu Environment Centre

Greater Adelaide Region

Land management and climate change

- Bushfire response Cudlee Creek: Mount Pleasant, Hills and Strathalbyn centres growing plants, implementing on ground restoration projects, assisting Landscape Board staff and supporting land holders to rebuild after the fire.
- Eastern Fleurieu Community Environment Alliance (Strathalbyn): supporting 15 local on-ground volunteer groups from Mount Barker to Goolwa.
- On-ground revegetation, weed control and restoration projects across the region.
- Green roof demonstration at The Joinery: highlighting innovation in water sensitive urban design, urban cooling, local habitat provision, urban heat island mitigation and building insulation.

Investment

Continued investment of relatively small amounts of public funding will enable the GAEN to continue to leverage additional funds via other sources, including as co-contributions in cash or in-kind.

This amplifies the value and return on investments beyond the transfer of knowledge and changes to behaviour resulting from direct delivery of actions within service agreements. These gains have generally been achieved with modest amounts of funding and increased levels of investment are likely to see corresponding increases in returns.

Investment in the GAEN will have a multiplier effect, generating further investment from industry, partner organisations and public and private stakeholders. Government investment will catalyse projects and processes, garner momentum and attract further investment and stakeholder buy-in. Investment in these types of volunteer-based organisations has been shown to provide returns of between two and five times the original investment.[1]

In addition to securing core funding, the GAEN seeks to attract investments from a diverse range of funding streams that align with the wide range of services we provide to address the priorities of organisations such as the Australian Government, South Australian Government, local government, industry bodies, philanthropic organisations and individuals.

Social capital

The GAEN represents significant social capital that plays a central role in the healthy functioning of the local communities that our centres support.

In addition to enabling knowledge transfer and behaviour change to support better land management, our centres have notably contributed in many ways to fostering improvements in health and wellbeing. This includes directly supporting a number of Wellbeing SA policies. For example, volunteering and participating in activities based in natural and outdoor environments promotes physical activity and supports cultural, social, spiritual, emotional, physical, mental and financial wellbeing.

Our existing network is ideally placed to assist Wellbeing SA in achieving its mission to *"Build and maintain partnerships for investment and take action to reduce the preventable burden of disease and injury and promote health and wellbeing".* (Wellbeing SA Strategic Plan 2020–2025 pg. 11)

We are closely connected with our communities. We are nimble and able to quickly mobilise participation in new initiatives. Our vital community network has grown through government investment over many years, demonstrating the value of strategic investment in local, community-based institutions. Top-down government stimulus can be a catalyst for bottom-up community development and the GAEN will welcome and support the development and participation of further community-led environment centres that may emerge or wish to participate in our alliance. Alliance members are actively supporting steps being taken to build on current initiatives occurring in Mount Barker for example.

Concepts such as bonding capital and bridging capital have been used to assist in identifying our strengths and how these can be harnessed to support the objectives of government agencies in partnering with us to connect with communities and to take advantage of strategic opportunities. In the process of forming the GAEN, the centres involved have embarked on a process of strategic business planning to identify opportunities to achieve multiple objectives, across sectors, and to diversify revenue streams and expand their reach and effectiveness within communities. This process has been supported with resources from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and Green Adelaide.

Further gains that will flow from investment in GAEN

By facilitating greater sharing of current best information and preserving institutional memory and local knowledge, environment centres cultivate improved 'land literacy' and stewardship.

This has translated into many centres being regarded by regional boards and state and federal agencies as 'go-to' organisations to facilitate the rapid roll out of crucial programs.

An increased understanding of and connection to land is also something that carries with it inherent value. We are also ideally placed to assist businesses in meeting corporate social objectives through community and environmental volunteering opportunities.

1. The Multiple Benefits of Landcare and Natural Resource Management. Australian Landcare Council. 2013.

Government Policy Frameworks

The South Australian Government has implemented a new framework for managing the state's land, water, pest plants and animals, and biodiversity across the state.

"A key priority of landscape boards is to support local communities and landowners to be directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's landscapes with an emphasis on land and water management, pest animal and plant control, and biodiversity. This includes providing greater funding and partnership opportunities with local community organisations to deliver on ground works and projects."[2]

This commitment to place "community at the centre" and devolve responsibility to the local community level recognises that locals often possess a unique understanding and insight into their distinct circumstances, and thus know very well what solutions are needed.

A Regional Landscape Plan, prepared by each Landscape Board, identifies priorities and guides the strategic actions and investments in each region. The GAEN is ideally positioned to work with and support the three boards that span the Greater Adelaide area in realising their visions.

A particularly exciting opportunity exists for the GAEN to support the establishment of **Adelaide as a National Park City (NPC)** – a goal that Green Adelaide supports through its Regional Landscape Plan and Annual Business Plan. The GAEN is a complementary tool to realising the aims of the Adelaide NPC to increase community connections to nature and foster awareness of the importance of biodiversity and natural spaces in the urban context. As a movement rather than a static concept of a national park, the Adelaide NPC aims to enhance human wellbeing and connection between people in addition to improving the nature of our cities.

As highlighted in the map on page 3, our extensive reach, established networks and significant capacity provide a ripe platform to assist in bringing this bold vision to fruition. We are ideally placed to support the ongoing development of the Adelaide NPC concept, including across the Adelaide hinterland – the Barossa Valley, Northern Adelaide Plains, Mt Lofty Ranges and the Fleurieu – that provides Adelaide's framing bio-geographical landscape.

National Park City nature experiences on the city fringe

National Park City London provides Escape Routes to nature experiences on the city fringe, and there is great potential for GAEN centres to develop similar projects based on our current work, providing opportunities to volunteer and to learn about local biodiversity, natural history, and Indigenous history and culture. A few examples are:

- **Gawler River Eastern Floodway Project:** After a decade of clearing major pest plants, 2500 locally indigenous seedlings have been planted to create new understorey for the red gum forest along the Gawler River. This precinct forms part of the proposed Gawler to Sea hike/bike trail.
- **Tree Trails in Willunga, Kangarilla, McLaren Vale and Yankalilla areas:** A number of volunteer-led Citizen Science projects where Information tags have been placed on selected trees within in these localities.
- **Coastal conservation and habitat revegetation:** Ongoing volunteer efforts to increase coastal vegetation and the habitat for important fauna along the metropolitan and Fleurieu coastlines.
- **Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park (with newly-included Washpool area):** About 340 hectares of land including one of Adelaide's last remaining coastal freshwater and estuarine lagoon systems, Aldinga Washpool. The washpool is a habitat for a wide range of native birds and swamp plants and is also of considerable spiritual and cultural significance to the Kaurna people, including significant archaeological sites.

2. https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/Landscape-SA
3. https://sdgs.un.org/goals

Sustainable Development Goals

Managing and conserving Australia's biodiversity and natural resources is at the heart of investments in conservation and land management.

The concept of ***natural capital*** describes a stock of natural resources – geology, soils, air, water, vegetation and living organisms that, through 'ecosystem services' provide people with benefits and value. The challenge that practices and systems of sustainable development aim to overcome is how to optimise the benefits of ecosystem services whilst preserving or improving the condition of the natural capital that underpins them.

Progress on Landscape SA objectives, which align broadly with UN Sustainable Development Goals[3], requires cooperation and participation from landholders and communities. The GAEN, with its social capital and its knowledge dissemination faculties, provides the framework for achieving this.

Disaster Resilience and Response

In addition to taking action to improve the resilience of our environment, networks such as the GAEN contain important social capital, making communities more capable of responding to stressful situations such as disasters.

They provide social infrastructure that assists in the effective and efficient delivery of disaster responses and recovery processes. The immediate and ongoing response to the Cudlee Creek fire is one example where GAEN member organisations have played an important role in this regard.

GAEN member organisations have been praised for their contributions to the individual and collective health and welfare of participants and communities. There are strong connections between resilience, health and welfare, relationships and community involvement. We look forward to continuing to make a significant contribution to the health and resilience of our environment and our local and regional communities.

What our partners are saying

"With over 22 years of experience, they are recognised as leaders in the protection and sustainable management of our local vegetation and natural resources; and their project outcomes speak for themselves."

Alexandrina Council
Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre
05/03/2021

"As an organisation active in land management, climate change adaptation and sustainable living initiatives, GEC presents opportunities for young people to get active in building a secure and sustainable future."

"Through participation in GEC workshops, planting days, festivals, educational activities, and the GEC committee, young people are able to have their say and gain valuable community leadership skills."

Gawler Youth Advisory Committee
Gawler Environment Centre
10/03/2021

"The Barossa Bushgardens NRC has a rich history of environmental activism, community action and conservation/ natural resources leadership. These community operated centres provide an integral resource to community across South Australia."

The Barossa Council
Barossa Bushgardens
11/03/2021

For more information contact:

Matt Robertson
[redacted]

GREATER ADELAIDE ENVIRONMENT NETWORK

Environment:

For the Future

Local Environment Centres

Source: South Coast Environment Centre

South Australian Labor

Gawler Environment Centre

ENVIRONMENT CENTRES:

Growing community action

The Marshall Liberal government cuts to local environment centres

Community run and largely volunteer based environmental education and action centres across South Australia are being forced into heartbreaking decisions to close their doors for good after the Marshall Liberal government decided not provide ongoing funding.

The South Coast Environment Centre in Victor Harbor has recently closed its doors, and several other centres are deciding their fate, with the future not looking bright for many. Other centres at Mount Pleasant, Willunga and Gawler have also raised concerns about their ongoing viability.

These environment centres provide critical environmental education programs at the grassroots level, including to thousands of school children, and are community hubs where locals can meet, learn practical skills and encourage others to live more sustainably.

Funding was previously provided through ongoing grants by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Natural Resource Management Board, which was split into several new Landscape Boards under changes made by David Speirs, Minister for Environment and Water. This has directly led to environment centres in the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula being cut off from funding.

Acknowledgment of country

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.

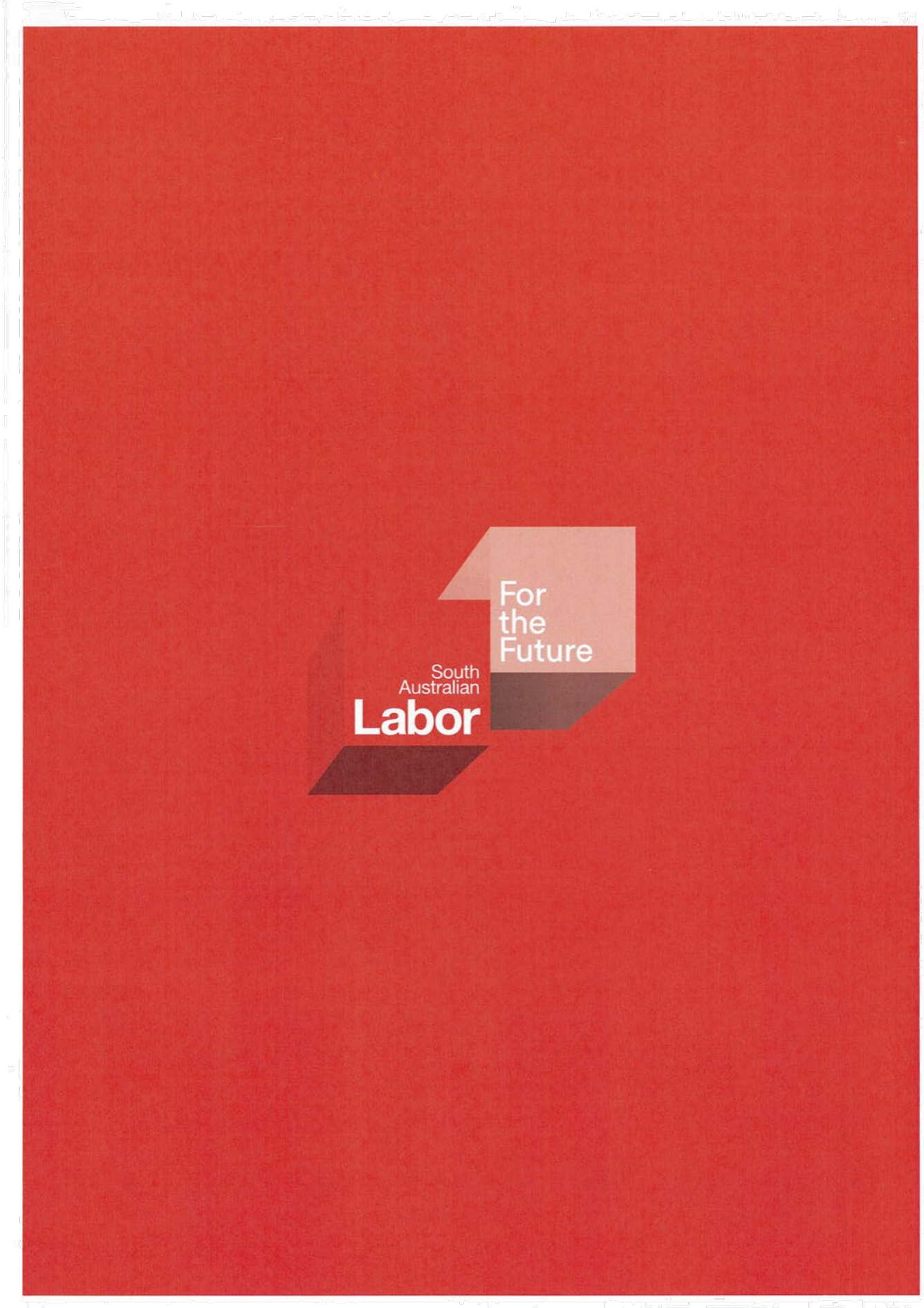
Guaranteed support for environment centres

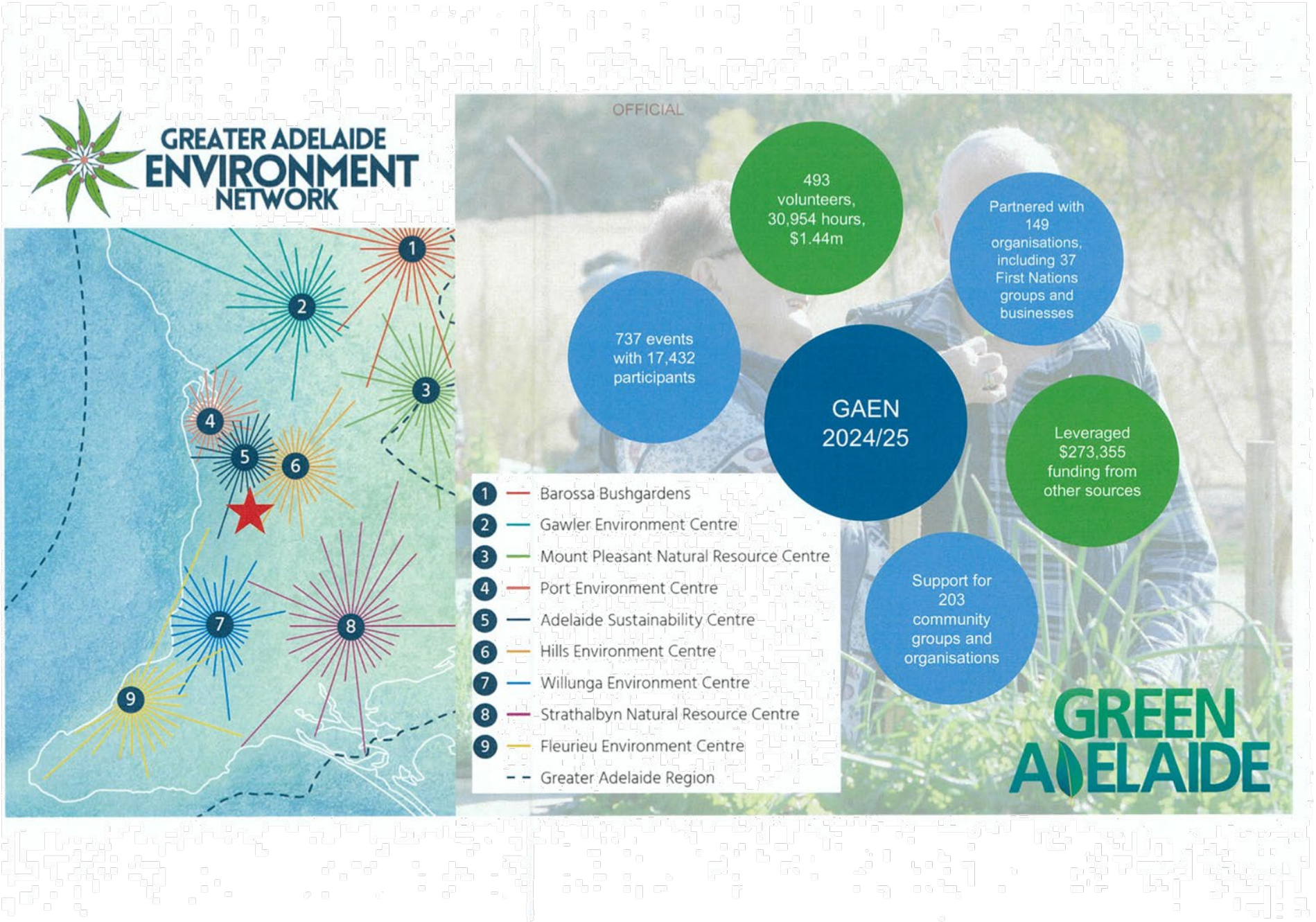
Labor understands the value of community led programs, especially in the regions.

The volunteers who have poured their heart and soul into these invaluable community assets have every right to feel betrayed by the Marshall Liberal government.

A Malinauskas Labor Government will fix this mess and give assurance to these centres so they continue their important work.

Labor will require the Green Adelaide Landscape Board to continue to fund the environment centres that were severed from financial support by the Marshall Liberal government's changes to natural resources management boundaries.


For
the
Future
South
Australian
Labor


GREATER ADELAIDE ENVIRONMENT NETWORK
OFFICIAL
493 volunteers, 30,954 hours, $1.44m
Partnered with 149 organisations, including 37 First Nations groups and businesses
737 events with 17,432 participants
GAEN 2024/25
Leveraged $273,355 funding from other sources
Support for 203 community groups and organisations
1 Barossa Bushgardens
2 Gawler Environment Centre
3 Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre
4 Port Environment Centre
5 Adelaide Sustainability Centre
6 Hills Environment Centre
7 Willunga Environment Centre
8 Strathalbyn Natural Resource Centre
9 Fleurieu Environment Centre
Greater Adelaide Region
GREEN ADELAIDE

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.2 STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93720

The actions within the Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan are provided in Attachment 1. The status/progress comments are provided to 30 November 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan - Progress Report December 2025

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

Action	By When	By Whom	Priority	Status/Progress
Key Result Area 1 **TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE THAT MEETS THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE REGION WITH CONSIDERATION TO THE CHANGING CLIMATE**				
Strategy 1 - Maintain and improve the Seed Bank				
CS17 - Natural Resources				
Output 1 - Sustainability Output 4 – Bushgardens Nursery				
a)Provision of nursery for the production and sale of native plants.	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	Nursery sales have slowed but stayed steady over the previous few months. Approx. 45 different species have been sown over the October/November period. We have taken cuttings from 24 different species and beginning to pot up them up as they germinate. Germination has been on the slow side due to the variations in weather.
b) Maintenance of a regional Seed Bank and Database	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	Seed collection began in September and is continuing. We have collected from around 35-40 different species so far. Some being collected in the field and some seed bought from places such as Succession Ecology, Trees For Life and Blackwood Seeds. Seed cleaning, weighing and documenting is ongoing. Seed in the cold room has been sorted through and collated making sure that it coincides with what we have on file. Older seed is also being discarded after we have tested viability.
c) Development and maintenance of a Plant Collection Database.	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	Staff have been inducted to the use of the Forestree App. The app is used to record plants at BBG, giving it exact GPS locations and the option to add some details about each plant. The app creates identification numbers that can be added when seed are collected from each plant. The NRC Coordinator is in the process of starting to record plants that are not annuals, e.g. trees and shrubs.
d) Improve the commercial capacity of the nursery, including inclusion of a council nursery operation.	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	Assistance is being sort through Graetz Irrigation in regard to improving the irrigation in the poly tunnel. Currently not working the best. Improvements are also being sort after as the WI-FI connected to both irrigation systems drops out

				occasionally. Existing scheduling is not affected.
Strategy 2 - Adopt and implement sound assets management principles				
CS3 - Assets				
Output 8 – Asset Maintenance and Operations – Open Space				
a) Management/Maintenance of native gardens and Bushgardens site	Ongoing	Nursery Manager NRC Coordinator	High	Weed control is ongoing with volunteers doing most of the mowing with some support from the depot when needed. Volunteers have started scouting the site for caltrop, a declared weed that the team controls manually by removing plants. Skeleton weed, another declared weed, is also being controlled manually and chemically, with chemicals being the only option to stop this weed from reemerging. A watering schedule for summer has been developed but not implemented yet, due to the increased amount of rain.
b) Review and update the Masterplan identifying key priorities for the next five years.	Ongoing	Manager, I&ES Nursery Manager NRC Coordinator	Low	
c) Seek to incorporate and access/linkages to Coulthard Reserve as part of the broader Bushgardens site.	Ongoing	Manager I&ES Director I&ES	Low	Staff are developing a highlights trail that aims to connect the BBG and Coulthard Reserve. The trail will lead visitors on a journey along the most interesting garden beds and will information and wayfinding signage.
d) Develop Guidelines for Curation of the Barossa Bushgardens	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	The Plant Collection Guidelines are in their final stages with minor edits still to be made before publication.
Key Result Area 2 **TO CONNECT PEOPLE TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**				
Strategy 1 - Improve links with the early years, primary, secondary and tertiary education sector				
CS17 - Natural Resources				
Output 3 – Environmental Education and Awareness				
a) Administer/conduct environmental education and awareness programs.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	High	2 October 2025 – Nature Play Festival (311 participants) 5 October 2025 – Bushgardens Zen (6 participants) 8 October 2025 – BBG Management Meeting (5 stakeholders) 9 October 2025 – Healing Country with Fire (28 participants) 14 October 2025 – combined Probus Club of the Barossa Valley Lunch (36 visitors) 14 October 2025 – Friends of Barossa Bushgardens

				Committee Meeting (7 members) 16 October 2025 – Bush Playgroup (26 children) 16 October 2025 – Keira Stone Pathology Communication Board Development meeting (2 staff) 19 October 2025 – Nuri Futures Women's Breakfast (230 women) 19 October 2025 – Bushgardens Zen (6 participants) 19 October 2025 – Endeavour Tours Garden tour (19 visitors) 22 October 2025 – Friends of Botanic Gardens Adelaide Tour Guides of Australia Conference event (45 visitors) 25 October 2025 – Russell Johnstone Award Ceremony (30 participants) 30 October 2025 – North Adelaide Special School (10 students) 30 October 2025 – Bush Playgroup (24 children) 4 November 2025 – Redeemer Lutheran School Project Presentation (4 students) 4 November 2025 – Pinacle Drinks Donation Presentation (1 staff) 6 November 2025 – Light Pass Primary School education session (45 students) 11 November 2025 – Toolbox Meeting (25 volunteers) 13 November 2025 – Bush Playgroup (26 children) 13 November 2025 – Friends of Barossa Bushgardens AGM (27 participants) 13 November 2025 – TAFE Plant Division Workshop (25 students) 16 November 2025 – Bushgardens Meditation (formerly Bushgardens Zen) (6 participants) 18 November 2025 – Adelaide National Park City Forum presentation (120 participants) 20 November 2025 – TBC Bus Tour (14 new staff) 26 November 2025 – GAEN Network Meeting (15 members)
b) Provide opportunities for students and researchers to support the delivery of the	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	Low	Staff worked with TAFE to organise a division workshop for students. Lecturers and 25 students visited the gardens to

Barossa Bushgardens outcomes.				dig up *Dianella revoluta* to be divided. Division is a propagation method where plants are split to create more plants. All divided plants have been added back into the gardens where they were dug up with additional plants used in the nursery for customer orders.
c) Organise suitable events to support the key objectives of the Barossa Bushgardens.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	Low	See Key Result Area 2 point a) New pilot project (Senior Sprouts) implemented in November and will run over 4 sessions.
d) Provide opportunities and access across a range of sectors (art, culture, First nations, public health and wellbeing) that align with the objectives of the Barossa Bushgardens.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	Low	The BBG has hosted part of a treasure hunt trail, organised in collaboration with Keira Stone Speech Pathology. Participants were guided to the nature play area where they had to find answers using a chat board/communication board. As a result of this, staff have been working with the business to create a permanent Communication Board for the nature play area. Communication boards are used by children that are non-verbal and contain images/signs that are used across Australia. The images help children communicate their needs and emotions. The board is another step in making sure that the BBG is accessible for as many people as possible. Supported new partner (Sarah Quast – Glass Hippo) in establishing a location within the gardens to run regular 'Art for mindfulness' classes.
Strategy 2 – support and promote sustainability				
CS17 – Natural Resources				
Output 1 – Sustainability Output 2 – Land, Water and Biodiversity Output 3 – Environmental Education and Awareness				
a) Support The Barossa Council's Sustainability Officer, programs and initiatives within the region.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	The NRC Coordinator attended Tea Tree Gully council's Muddy Hands Festival for new ideas on how to engage young people with sustainability and nature. One of the activities on the day was a recycling game with children having to feed the right waste (food) to monsters that had the colours of the waste bins.

				Following the event, TTG council has been contacted for the origin of the game which can now be replicated for use at TBC and BBG.
b) Develop, implement and support land, water and biodiversity initiatives and programs within the region.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	Low	Bethany Biodiversity Group Friends of Barossa Bushgardens AGM speaker Adrian Shackley – Adrian talked about various projects he is and has been involved with, in restoring degraded land. Supporting Northern & Yorke Landscape board in facilitating a Bioblitz session. Ongoing support with landholders, business and other government organisations in their revegetation initiatives.
c) Increase and improve collaborations with key stakeholders of the Barossa Bushgardens.				
Strategy 3 – Create and deliver social inclusion opportunities				
CS19 – Social Inclusion				
Output 4 – Social Support Groups				
a) Deliver, develop and facilitate disability support programs, activities and events.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	High	Nature and Natter program
b) Ensure the Barossa Bushgardens are developed and align with The Barossa Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Action Plan.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	High	See above Key Result Area point 2 d) Ongoing. New volunteers assisted by their support workers have recently joined our team to assist in the nursery.
Strategy 4 - Create and deliver community-oriented training opportunities				
CS10 – Economic Development				
Output 4 – Social Support Groups				
a) Form strong partnerships that link the Bushgardens to the wine and tourism industries.	Ongoing	Nursery Manager Project Officer	Medium	Ongoing
Strategy 5 - Engage with Aboriginal people				
CS19 - Social Inclusion				
Output 7 – Aboriginal Reconciliation				
a) Host Reconciliation Week event co-designed with our First Nations in association with The Barossa Council and in collaboration with Barossa Reconciliation Group.				Nothing to report
b) Engage and continue to develop relationship with Frist Nations Elders and the wider community.				A Healing Country with Fire event was held in October, with 28 people attending the workshop. The event started

				with a presentation, where Peramangk women, Courtney Hunter-Hebberman and Mandy Brown shared their cultural knowledge around the use of fire on country. The group shared a BBQ lunch with many networking opportunities before going for a walk through the gardens to connect with country and learn about some of the plants that are relying on fire for survival. The event was funded by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.
Strategy 6 - Increase profile of the Bushgardens				
BS3 - Communications and Engagement				
Output 3 – Community Engagement Output 5 – Online / Website support				
a) Prepare editorial articles for the local newspapers and subscribers.				A column was printed in The Leader Newspaper in October and an e-newsletter sent out to around 750 recipients.
b) Update information/educational materials and maintain and update website and social media platforms	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	Information about garden beds is currently being added but not visible for website visitors. The information is hidden but can be seen when people scan QR codes on signage that will be displayed throughout the gardens. Other information, including events, is updated as needed.
d) Support the Friends of the Barossa Bushgardens (FoBB) to increase their profile and engage the wider community in core business of the Barossa Bushgardens..	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	
CS20 – Tourism				
Output 1 – Visitor Information and Resource Management Output 2 – Visitor Enquiries/Customer Service				
a) Increase interpretation signage to guide and enhance visitor experience.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	
b) Position the Barossa Bushgardens and Natural Resource Centre as a destination for visitors and as a community hub for social club meetings, gathers and tours..	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	Low	Staff and volunteers continue to promote the gardens including through presentations at gatherings, distribution of flyers and mentions on local radio stations. Regular visitors are visiting the gardens throughout the year – from areas within and around Adelaide, visitors from interstate and overseas head to the gardens to walk around and find out what we are all about.

				New local residents also come out for a visit.
Key Result Area 3 **TO RECRUIT, TRAIN AND RETAIN PRODUCTIVE VOLUNTEERS**				
Strategy 1 - Achieve stable and sustainable volunteer group				
CS22 – Volunteers				
Output 1 – External Volunteer Support Output 2 – Internal Volunteer Support Output 3 - Volunteering Promotion and Advocacy Output 4 – Community Engagement				
a) Provide support, training and development opportunities for Barossa Bushgardens volunteers	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Staff regularly consult with volunteers around training opportunities and needs. Information sessions are added to most toolbox meetings and can range from Take5 exercises and learning about fire extinguishers. At the next toolbox meeting, volunteers will learn about the contents of First Aid kits. This will help them get a better understanding on what to use for which kind of injury. The NRC Coordinator is currently looking to organise training for two volunteers to be able to use a chainsaw.
b) Attract new volunteers to support program delivery.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Four new volunteers have started at BBG. Two of these volunteers require different levels of support and have support workers attending with them.
c) Recognise and acknowledge volunteer contributions to the Barossa Bushgardens	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	
Key Result Area 4 **TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE**				
Strategy 1 - Develop and execute a new governance model				
BS2 - Business Transformation				
Output 2 – Continuous Improvement Project Management				
a) Documentation of tasks and processes for the Barossa Bushgardens.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	Ongoing
BS4 - Council and Committees				
Output 2 – Coordination: Council Committees and Working Groups				
a) Ensure the effective operation of the Barossa Bushgardens Committee in accordance with the Local Government Act, Terms of Reference, and Meeting Procedures.	Ongoing	Manager I&ES	High	Ongoing
b) Develop and execute a new governance model for the Barossa Bushgardens.	Ongoing	Manager I&ES Director I&ES	Low	
BS7 – Governance				
Output 1 – Governance and Policy Advice Output 4 – Legislative Reform				

Output 5 – Complaints Management Output 6 – Policy Framework Management				
a) Implement legislative reform, where applicable	Ongoing	Manager I&ES Director I&ES	Low	
Strategy 2 - Maintain a strong financial framework				
BS6 – Finance				
Output 2 – Budget Management and Financial Accounting				
a) Ensure effective Budget Performance	Ongoing	Manager I&ES	High	Ongoing
Strategy 3- Maintain effective internal controls to reduce risk				
BS5 – Risk and Safety				
Output 1 – Risk Framework Management Output 2 – Internal Audit Output 4 – Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Output 5 – Work Health and Safety Systems Management				
a) Identify and prepare Operational Risk Profile.	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	.
b) Identify and document processes to reduce threat of disease, animals, weeds and pests to nursery and gardens at Barossa Bushgardens	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Ongoing There is ongoing maintenance in and around the nurseries and gardens. Regular spraying around nurseries to reduce the threat of weed species. The removal of sick and/or unhealthy seedlings to reduce the threat of spreading disease to other plants. The removal of sick and/or unhealthy plants in the gardens to reduce the threat of spreading to other plants and that they are unsightly to visitors. Ongoing problem with rabbits.
c) Manage organisational risk in the delivery of core services	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	Ongoing
d) Ensure that identified Internal Financial Controls are effectively monitored and maintained	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Ongoing
e) Maintain and facilitate the ongoing testing and development of Council's Business Continuity Plan and associated Sub-Plans	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	
f) Maintain and champion the implementation of Councils WHS System	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Ongoing
g) Undertake WHS Compliance Inspections	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator	Medium	Site and Building Inspection completed on 12th November 2025.

		Nursery Manager		Regular inspections and reminders are now in place in Councils Skytrust program.
h) Implement, Review and Maintain Work Health Safety Improvement/Action Plan	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Staff are working on developing site/area specific task risk assessments, e.g. nursery inside, nursery outside, garden areas. These aim to replace current Take5's to make it easier for volunteers to use and access. The new task risk assessments reduce the need to write information, except when circumstances require written responses.
i) Participate in mandatory external WHS Audits	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Nothing to report
j) Maintain Chemalert Database for sites where chemicals used	Ongoing	Manager I&ES Nursery Manager	High	Updated November 2025
Strategy 4 - Maintain and explore new funding opportunities				
BS8 – Grants				
Output 1 – Grant Sourcing Output 2 – Grant Management				
a) Identify and develop funding opportunities to assist in delivery of projects and programs.	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	Ongoing
b) Prepare a prospectus to assist in promoting the benefits of the Barossa Bushgardens to potential funding partners	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	Nothing to report
c) Monitor and report on grant status and prepare acquittal reports.	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	Ongoing

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.3 PARTNER PROJECT UPDATES

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93722

Updates are provided for the Committee's information:

Bush Playgroup

Zac, the current playgroup coordinator, has committed himself to run Bush Playgroup for another year, but will have to find a person to take over the role.
He said the group is going well. It ebs and flows in regards to numbers and changing groups.

Barossa Community Labyrinth

Verbal report to be provided.

Seeding Natives

Verbal report to be provided.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.4 MARKETING INITIATIVES AND SALES OPPORTUNITIES

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93724

Barossa Bushgardens staff and volunteers are always looking to find ways to improve visitor experience. A new volunteer has been engaged to help with the updating of signage throughout the Community Nursery with better display methods to be used in the future.

Information signage is also being developed for the community garden.

Staff currently work on developing information signage for a 'Highlights Trail' that will guide visitors along a certain path throughout the gardens. Each of the 17 signs will have some pictures, a short description and a QR code that will lead to the Barossa Bushgardens website, where more detailed information about each garden can be found.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.5 RISK MANAGEMENT/WORK HEALTH SAFETY

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93725

Staff and volunteers have sorted out unnecessary chemicals to reduce the risk of negative exposure. ChemAlert has been updated with some risk assessments needing to be finalised. Overall, less chemicals are now stored at the site and the amount of harmful chemicals (Dangerous Goods – insecticide, fuel) has been reduced to a minimum. An Aerosol storage cage has been purchased to store up to 30 cans of aerosol safely.

The Nursery Coordinator has undertaken a site and building inspection (SkyTrust) with the help of the Risk Team, with several actions put into Skytrust.

Future actions include –
Installation of a soil bay – WHS issues with shovelling soil out of bags
Fixing lip on the floor heading out the back door – tripping hazard

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.6 VISITATION TO THE BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93726

During October and November, the Barossa Bushgardens had 1,067 people join workshops, events, tours, presentations and stakeholder meetings. During this time the Barossa Bushgardens hosted and organised 24 facilitation and networking events as well as workshops and awareness raising events.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.7 FRIENDS OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS UPDATE

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93728

The Friends of Barossa Bushgardens held their AGM on Thursday, 13 November 2025. 27 people joined the meeting and Adrian Shackley presented about his work in identifying local native plants from historical records as well as his involvement with biological surveys, restoration and protection of native grasslands. The members passed changes in the Constitution that had to be made due to changes with the Register of Environmental Organisations.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.8 RUSSELL JOHNSTONE AWARD UPDATE

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93729

The Russell Johnstone Award ceremony was held on Saturday, 25 October 2025. Seven worthy recipients were awarded on the day for their work in environmental protection and conservation, community education, sustainability and advocacy.

It was a fantastic event with lots of tears and happy moments and memories shared. Connections were made with potential for future collaboration. Details about each recipient can be found at Russell Johnstone Award | Barossa Bushgardens.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.9 SECTION 41 COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES - GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/98076

The Committee is referred to the attached Governance Summary as provided by Council's Manager, Governance and OMCEO for consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Section 41 Committees and Advisory Committees - Governance overview

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Barossa Bushgardens Terms of Reference

Section 41 Committees

Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) enables Councils to establish committees.

Section 41 Committees are smaller groups of people, established by Council, who are formally appointed to assist Council in the operation of its assets or activities. Committee membership may consist of or include persons who are not members of the Council (Independent Members) depending on the Committee's purpose.

The Barossa Council's Committee Structure has four Statutory Committess and three non statutory committees (Five of which are Section 41 Committees):

The roles and responsibilities of each Committee are varied but are established to provide advice to Council on matters within Council's responsibilities. Each Committee is governed by their own Terms of Reference (set of rules).

Committees are established with special interest areas, therefore allowing community members with expert knowledge and experience, or simply a keen interest and to provide advice.

The role of a committee is determined by the Council and should be documented in Terms of Reference.

Powers of committees

No separate legal identity

Council committees have no legal identity separate from the Council. Consequently, Council Committees generally cannot execute contracts or enter into other legally binding arrangements.

The exception to this is where a committee is acting pursuant to a delegation which enables the committee certain delegations e.g. financial

Delegations

Aside from specific non-delegable powers listed in section 44(3) of the Act, a Council may delegate any power or function of the Council under the Act or any other South Australian Act to a Council committee by resolution.

The non-delegable powers of Councils are the powers to:

(a) make a by-law or to determine that a by-law applies only within a part or parts of the area of the Council;

(b) declare rates or a charge with the character of a rate;

(c) borrow money or to obtain other forms of financial accommodation;

(d) **adopt or revise a strategic management plan of the Council;** *(Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan)*

(e) adopt or revise an annual business plan or budget of the Council;

(f) **approve expenditure of money on works, services or operations of the Council not contained in a budget adopted by the Council;**

(g) determine annual allowances under Chapter 5 of the Local Government Act;

(h) approve payment or reimbursement of expenses that may be paid at the discretion of the Council and for which the Council has not adopted a formal policy or made specific financial provision;

(i) **establish a subsidiary, or to participate in the establishment of a regional subsidiary;**

(j) make an application or recommendation, or to report or to give a notice, to the Governor or the Minister, being an application, recommendation, report or notice for which provision is made by or under the Local Government Act or another South Australian Act;

(k) **fix, vary or revoke a fee under sections 188(1)(d) to 188(1)(h) of the Local Government Act;**

(l) a power or function excluded from delegation by the regulations.

Powers to expend or receive funds

Committees have no lawful authority to commit or receive funds unless relevant powers are delegated by the Council pursuant to section 44 of the Act.

Possible internal controls that a Council may impose as part of such a delegation are requirements for:

- a monthly financial report to be submitted by the committee to the Chief Executive Officer that alerts the Chief Executive Officer to any over or under expenditure;
- a project report is submitted at the completion of each stage of the project that certifies each step has been completed to the satisfaction of the committee;
- any variation to the project in excess of a predetermined amount must be referred to the Council for approval.

The Council is required to keep records for the purposes of auditing revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities of the Council. This would include records of revenues and expenses of committees.

Committee Members

Appointment of Committee Members

Committee members are appointed by the Council. Committee members may be members of Council, employees of the Council or other persons. Depending on the role Committee members may be chosen because they bring particular attributes, skills, experience or expertise to the committee. Council may appoint a person to be a committee member on the basis of them being a representative of a local community group, regional organisation, school Council or any other relevant body.

Conflict of interest

A member of a committee must not make improper use of their position to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for themselves or for another person with whom they are closely associated.

They must make sure there is no conflict between their private interest and their role as a public decision maker. A member of a committee must comply with the obligations in sections 73, 74, 75 and 75A in respect of conflicts of interest in the same manner as a member of a Council. Failure to comply with this section in is an offence under the Act.

Committee meetings

Committee meetings are regulated by the Act and the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 (Meetings Regulations) and prescribes the basic requirements for Council and Committee meetings. Provisions in the Act include public access to meetings, voting and the need to keep minutes of meetings.

The Act also requires that each Council adopt meeting procedures to govern the conduct of its Council meetings and special Council meetings. Where the Act makes no provision for a particular matter, the conduct of a Council meeting is at the discretion of the Council.

All meetings are to be conducted using The Barossa Councils Code of Practice for Council Meetings which provides a consistent framework for the meeting processes and meeting structure in accordance with the Local Government (Procedure at Meetings) Regulations 2013.

Meetings are open to the public to ensure open, transparent and informed decision making, unless, in limited circumstances and where specific matters meet legislative tests and Council resolved, those matters can be discussed and determined in confidence. Confidential meetings are held when the subject matter triggers specified grounds under Section 90 (3) of the Act 1999, such as personal affairs, legal advice and commercial information.

Agenda

Notice of committee meetings must be provided on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer to each member of the committee at least three clear days before the date of the meeting. Notice must be in writing and:

(a) set out the date, time and place of the meeting; and

(b) contain, or be accompanied by, the agenda describing matters with reasonable particularity and accuracy.

Meeting procedures

A meeting procedure legislatively describes how a Council intends to govern the conduct of its meetings - including the processes and standards that it intends to apply. Non-discretionary and discretionary procedures are outlined in Council's Code of Practice for Council Meetings.

The Code includes items such as:

- Motions (Recommendations)
- Deputations
- Questions
- Voting
- Points of Order
- Divisions

All Committees are required to have a 'Presiding Member' or 'Chairperson', an Executive Officer (Staff Member) and a minute taker.

Reporting requirements

- Agendas and Minutes included in Council agendas
- Annual Report data
- Corporate Plan
- Confidential Orders register – if required
- Statistical information as required by Council and the Landscape Boards.

Subsidiaries

The Barossa Council is a party to three subsidiary entities;

Nuriootpa Centennial Park Authority which operates the Nuriootpa Centennial Park, Coulthard Reserve and Barossa Tourist Park on our behalf. Whilst there is a level of autonomy, the Authority is answerable to the full Council.

Northern and Yorke Local Government Association - a Local Government Association established to undertake regional approval to advocacy as well as specifically approving cross-organisational projects and strategies.

Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA) - established with 5 other Councils to assist the management of the floodplain and the risks associated with the catchment.

Advisory Groups

The Barossa Council has four Advisory Groups;

- Disability and Inclusion Access Advisory Group
- Aboriginal Reconciliation Barossa
- Barossa Regional Gallery Management Advisory Group
- Barossa Park Advisory Group

SECTION 41 COMMITTEES v's ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The primary difference is their **legal standing and reporting structure** within a Local Government framework in South Australia. A **Section 41 Committee is a formal statutory body** with specific powers and reporting requirements to the Council, while an **Advisory Group is an informal body** that reports to an Executive Officer (typically the CEO).

Section 41 Committee

- **Legal Basis**: Established formally by the Council under Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA).
- **Reporting**: Reports directly to the Council. Its minutes, often containing recommendations, must be submitted to the Council for formal consideration and ratification at Council meetings.
- **Powers**: Can be established to:
    - Assist the Council in its functions.
    - Inquire into and report on matters within the Council's responsibilities.
    - Provide advice to the Council.
    - Exercise delegated powers, functions, or duties of the Council (though many are advisory in nature).
- **Membership**: Can include both Council Members and community members with relevant expertise.
- **Accountability**: Subject to formal meeting procedures, conflict of interest provisions, and code of conduct requirements under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Advisory Group

- **Legal Basis**: An informal group formed by the Council, but **not** a committee formed under Section 41 of the Act. It does not have legal standing in the same way a Section 41 Committee does.
- **Reporting**: Provides advice and feedback to a specific Council Executive Officer (like the CEO), who in turn may present this information to the Council. The group does not report directly to the full Council.
- **Powers**: Does not have decision-making powers or the authority to commission work on its own initiative. Its role is purely advisory.
- **Membership**: Membership can consist of Council members and community members.
- **Accountability**: Operates under a Terms of Reference adopted by the Council and must comply with certain legislative provisions regarding information/briefing sessions (if Council members are present) but generally operates in a more informal manner than a Section 41 Committee.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- The Committees Terms of Reference requires review and endorsement by Council.

- The Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan 2024-2029 - Different versions (various dates):
  - Council website - Strategic Plan – CM 24/81903
  - Bushgardens website – CM 22 28475 Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan - .pdf
  - Council report - Attachment endorsed by Council - CM 25/40115 (See below)

2025/331

7.4.3 BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030
25/40110

MOVED Cr Greatwich

That Council adopt the Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan 2025-2030 as included within Attachment 1.

SECONDED Cr Schilling **CARRIED 2022-26/720**

- Specific areas of risk:
  - Clarity in documents that the Committee cannot 'oversee' or 'manage' the Barossa Bushgardens. This is a function for Council staff.
  - Council has not endorsed the Management Sub-Committee by resolution. If Council endorsed, the Management Sub-Committee will need to operate in the same way as the committee by way of making documents public.
  - The Committee has financial delegation of $2,000. Actioned by staff under their powers. Financial statements of the Barossa Bushgardens (Council) should not be provided to the Committee and placed on a public website eg salaries, insurances etc.

- Agendas and minutes:
  - Agendas require Director authorisation through Councils agenda management system
  - Reports do not appear in the correct section of the agenda eg listed as Development and Community Services
  - Motions do not have a resolution number (Minute number)

DEBATE REPORT

4.1 BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS S41 COMMITTEE - MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/79158

PURPOSE

To seek the approval of the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee Meeting Schedule for 2026.

RECOMMENDATION
That the Barossa Bushgardens Committee continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis, commencing February 2026 in the Barossa Council Chambers, at 1:00pm.

REPORT

Discussion
Historically, the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee meetings have been held on a bi-monthly basis, beginning in February each year. The meetings are held in The Barossa Council Chambers, commencing at 1:00pm.

The following Schedule of meeting dates in presented for Committee endorsement:

Wednesday 18 February 2026
Wednesday 15 April 2026
Wednesday 17 June 2026
Wednesday 19 August 2026
Wednesday 21 October 2026
Wednesday 16 December 2026

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

Supporting references
Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee Terms of Reference

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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
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.

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.

Nil.

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.

DEBATE REPORT

4.2 FINANCE REPORT - AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/93730

PURPOSE

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

RECOMMENDATION
That Barossa Bushgardens Committee receive and note the Finance Report as at 30 November 2025, as provided in Attachment 1.

REPORT

Discussion
Budgets have recently been realigned to reflect the appropriate natural accounts where expenditure is allocated to.

Q1 Budget adjustments have been approved by Council at its meeting held 18 November 2025.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Finance Report Attachment - Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee meeting 17 December 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.

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
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.

4115 – Site Expenditure

2526GLA As at Period 5	Current Actuals 2526GLA	Commitments 2526GLA	Actual + Committed 2526GLA	YTD Budget 2526GLF1	% of YTD Budget 2526GLF1	Full Year Current Budget 2526GLF1	% of Full Yr Budget 2526GLF1	Full Year Remaining Budget
61122 - Contractors - Cleaning Services	0	0	0	2150.25	0%	5160.6	0%	5160.6
61123 - Contractors - Recycling/Green Collection Svce	19.06	0	19.06	0	0%	0	0%	-19.06
61125 - Contractors - Fire Equipment Servicing	0	0	0	228.25	0%	547.8	0%	547.8
61126 - Contractors - Bldg Maintenance Services	484.15	0	484.15	1585.7	31%	3805.7	13%	3321.55
61137 - Contractors - Plant/Machinery Servicing	996.08	0	996.08	500	199%	1200	83%	203.92
61140 - Contractors - Other Services	6832.27	0	6832.27	3835.7	178%	9205.68	74%	2373.41
61145 - Contractors - Airconditioning Services	0	0	0	62.6	0%	150.23	0%	150.23
61182 - Contractors - Tagging & Testing	0	0	0	233.7	0%	560.84	0%	560.84
61203 - Direct Purchases - Canteen Purchases	419.61	0	419.61	550	76%	1320	32%	900.39
61206 - Direct Purchases - Assets < $5,000	2278.29	0	2278.29	1458.35	156%	3500	65%	1221.71
61209 - Direct Purchases - Vehicle/Machine Parts	61.05	0	61.05	125	49%	300	20%	238.95
61210 - Direct Purchases - Stationery	9.36	0	9.36	0	0%	0	0%	-9.36
61212 - Direct Purchases - Irrigation supplies	141.18	909.09	1050.27	341.65	307%	820	128%	-230.27
61213 - Direct Purchases - Weed/Pest Chemicals	51.47	0	51.47	62.5	82%	150	34%	98.53
61214 - Direct Purchases - Fertiliser	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0

61215 - Direct Purchases - Mulch/Loam	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
61216 - Direct Purchases- Plants/Shrubs	50.91	0	50.91	125	41%	300	17%	249.09
61220 - Direct Purchases - Loose tools	0	0	0	250	0%	600	0%	600
61223 - Direct Purchases - Other	1135.47	1204.12	2339.59	416.65	562%	1000	234%	-1339.59
61301 - Energy Costs - Electricity	1359.55	0	1359.55	3084.2	44%	7402.09	18%	6042.54
61302 - Energy Costs - Gas	0	0	0	115.15	0%	276.41	0%	276.41
61303 - Energy Costs - Fuel & Lubricants	545.27	129.45	674.72	416.65	162%	1000	67%	325.28
61304 - Water - Service Rates	164.6	0	164.6	130.6	126%	313.47	53%	148.87
61305 - Water - Usage Charges	2.36	0	2.36	1283.15	0%	3079.61	0%	3077.25
63012 - Bank Charges	140.95	0	140.95	0	0%	0	0%	-140.95
63100 - Insurance - Public Liability	1709.16	0	1709.16	1385.35	123%	3324.82	51%	1615.66
63104 - Insurance - Vehicle Insurance	0	0	0	492.94	0%	1183.05	0%	1183.05
63105 - Insurance - Buildings & Contents	1083.18	0	1083.18	0	0%	0	0%	-1083.18
63401 - General - Advertising	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
63402 - General - Telephone	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
63405 - General - Telephone Expenses	136.35	0	136.35	0	0%	0	0%	-136.35
63606 - IT - Internet Expenses	294.33	0	294.33	233.35	126%	560	53%	265.67
63808 - Subscriptions/Memberships	0	0	0	83.35	0%	200	0%	200
63811 - Entertainment Expenses	128.21	0	128.21	0	0%	0	0%	-128.21
90010 - Full Cost Attribution to External Services	6129.28	0	6129.28	0	0%	0	0%	-6129.28
	33271.41	**2242.66**	**35514.07**	**36816.46**	**96%**	**87635.39**	**41%**	**52121.32**

4120 - Green Adelaide

2526GLA As at Period 5	Current Actuals 2526GLA	Commitments 2526GLA	Actual + Committed 2526GLA	YTD Budget 2526GLF1	% of YTD Budget 2526GLF1	Full Year Current Budget 2526GLF1	% of Full Yr Budget 2526GLF1	Next Year Original Budget 2526GLB	Full Year Remaining Budget
41403 - Operating Grant - CWM Boards	-23848	0	-23848	-15000	159%	-60000	40%	-60000	-36152
61140 - Contractors - Other Services	1698	700	2398	0	0%	0	0%	0	-2398
61208 - Direct Purchases - Signs	2294	431.82	2725.82	0	0%	0	0%	0	-2725.82
61223 - Direct Purchases - Other	522.19	498.98	1021.17	833.35	123%	2000	51%	2000	978.83
61226 - Office Equipment consumables - Other	0	535.53	535.53	0	0%	0	0%	0	-535.53
63401 - General - Advertising	366.36	0	366.36	0	0%	0	0%	0	-366.36
90010 - Full Cost Attribution to External Services	5979.71	0	5979.71	0	0%	0	0%	0	-5979.71
	29.49	**2166.33**	**2195.82**	**-5182.9**	**-42%**	**-36765.6**	**-6%**	**-36765.6**	**-38961.43**

4105 - Nursery

2526GLA As at Period 5	Current Actuals 2526GLA	Commitments 2526GLA	Actual + Committed 2526GLA	YTD Budget 2425GLF3	% of YTD Budget 2425GLF3	Full Year Current Budget 2425GLF3	% of Full Yr Budget 2425GLF3	Next Year Original Budget 2526GLB	Full Year Remaining Budget
41547 - Commercial Activities - Seedling Sales	-23226.14	0	-23226.14	-17832.64	130%	-40000	58%	-29677	-16773.86
61140 - Contractors - Other Services	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0
61210 - Direct Purchases - Stationery	816.25	321.82	1138.07	333.25	342%	0	0%	0	-1138.07
61212 - Direct Purchases - Irrigation supplies	108.3	0	108.3	107.7	101%	0	0%	0	-108.3
61213 - Direct Purchases - Weed/Pest Chemicals	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	1700	0
61214 - Direct Purchases - Fertiliser	98.62	0	98.62	0	0%	0	0%	609	-98.62
61215 - Direct Purchases - Mulch/Loam	2141.88	0	2141.88	3526.78	61%	0	0%	3568.5	-2141.88
61216 - Direct Purchases- Plants/Shrubs	1232.05	124.36	1356.41	806.21	168%	0	0%	2500	-1356.41
61220 - Direct Purchases - Loose tools	0	0	0	362.16	0%	0	0%	0	0
61223 - Direct Purchases - Other	1286.71	215.93	1502.64	4817.57	31%	15000	10%	5000	13497.36
61226 - Office Equipment consumables - Other	0	0	0	54.32	0%	0	0%	0	0
63101 - Insurance - Income Protection Insurance	0	0	0	978.54	0%	0	0%	0	0
63102 - Insurance - Workers Comp Premium	0	0	0	618	0%	0	0%	0	0
90010 - Full Cost Attribution to External Services	11106.15	0	11106.15	0	0%	0	0%	0	-11106.15
	31786.08	**662.11**	**32448.19**	**21552.53**	**151%**	**44931.19**	**72%**	**112395.85**	**12483**

DEBATE REPORT

4.3 FRIENDS OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS - MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
25/98081

PURPOSE

The Minutes of the Friends of the Barossa Bushgardens (FoBB) Annual General Meeting held 13 November 2025 are attached for information.

RECOMMENDATION
That Barossa Bushgardens Committee:

(1) Receive and note the Minutes of the Friends of Barossa Bushgardens Annual General Meeting held 13 November 2025.

(2) Support the appointment of Greg Donovan as Friends of Barossa Bushgardens representative to the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee, to be endorsed by Council resolution.

REPORT

Discussion
The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Barossa Bushgardens (FoBB) held 13 November 2025, are attached for information.

As part of the Annual General meeting, nominations were called for the positions of Officer Bearers.

Kate Jenkins, who has filled the position of Chairperson for many years, nominated Greg Donovan for the position, which was accepted.

As Chairperson, Greg will now represent the Friends of Barossa Bushgardens on the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee, subject to the endorsement of Council.

Summary and Conclusion
A report will be presented to the January meeting of Council, seeking endorsement of the appointment of Greg Donavan as representative to the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Minutes - Friends of Barossa Bushgardens Annual General Meeting held 13 November 2025

Supporting references
Barossa Bushgardens Terms of Reference

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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
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.

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.

Nil.

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
THE FRIENDS OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS
held at the Barossa Bushgardens on Thursday 13th November 2025 at 1pm

1. WELCOME: Acknowledgement of Country

"I would like to begin by acknowledging the Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kaurna People, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay our respect for their cultural heritage, beliefs, and relationship with this land, and acknowledge that this land is of continuing importance to the Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kaurna People living today.

I also extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today."

2. PRESENT
Chris Hall, Trevor Waldhuter, Bryce Lillecrapp, Ray Duance, Kym Eglinton, Libby Eglinton, Andy Addison, Deb Hahn, Peter Hahn, Penny Devlin, Kate Jenkins, Jenny Gilbert, Lindsay Eglinton, Terri Bateman, Greg Donovan, Pat Pevic, Kathryn Schilling, Melissa Mengersen, Doreen von Linde, Bob Modra, Andrew Badenoch, Peter Jones, Gina McCullock

3. APOLOGIES
Louise Mason, Kim Thompson, Kristin Wohlers, Angela Heutzenroeder

4. GUESTS
Felicity Hage, Adrian Shackley, Lea Crosby, Stephen Anderson

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM

Moved Bob Modra
Seconded Trevor Waldhuter **Carried**

6. CHAIRPERSON REPORT
Kate acknowledged the work of the Friends Committee Members to help with the changes that needed to be made to the FoBB Constitution after the Register of Environmental Organisations does not exist anymore. Other initiatives the Friends supported includes the purchase of cushions for the Volunteer Centre and work shirts.

She thanked Bob for his continued participation at BBG morning teas, to find out wishes from volunteers. He also helped raise trolleys for the nursery to reduce the need for lifting trays. The group held a stall at Barossa Central to promote the organisation and attract new members. They also supported the Nature Connection for People living with Dementia event, Nature Play Festival, the mosaic table project and Bush School sessions. The Friends also supported the wetland planting at Barossa Park in Lyndoch and hosted a BBQ and raffle on World Koala Day.

The group sells books at the gardens, have developed processes for memberships and have upgraded to online banking and using a Square for sales. The Friends continue to work with the S41 Committee for a better government model.

Kate thanked the staff of the BBG for their continued support. Kate acknowledges and thanks the committee; Bob for his connection to volunteers, Trevor for his role as treasurer and his work with volunteers and students, Greg for his support to look after the gardens, Doreen who helps with minute taking and Penny that helps build this close relationship with

the Friends, making the group stronger. She also thanked the volunteers and Friends members.

Moved Kate Jenkins
Seconded Kathryn Schilling **Carried**

7. TREASURER'S REPORT
Fund Account: Opened $6,157.70
Closed at end of financial year **$8,374.72**

Trevor explained the different ways of how the Friends receive money throughout the year. He also mentioned the break-in's to the donation boxes and Deb Hahn suggested an alternative way to collect donations directly through the building wall.

Cash Account: Opened $1,131.07
Closed at end of financial year **$1,466.34**
Moved Trevor Waldhuter
Seconded Greg Donovan **Carried**

8. MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Life Membership: 47
Annual Members: 15
Volunteer Members: 46

The Friends are introducing a new membership option for three years at a reduced price of $25.

Moved Trevor Waldhuter
Seconded Bob Modra **Carried**

9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Adrian Shackley has accepted the role of temporary Chairperson.
All positions have been vacated.
Adrian Shackley has called for nominations to fill the positions on the Committee.

Chairperson:
Kate Jenkins has nominated **Greg Donovan** to the role of Chairperson.
Greg has accepted the nomination.
Moved Bryce Lillecrapp
Seconded Ray Duance **Carried**

Treasurer:
Bryce has nominated **Trevor Waldhuter** for the role of Treasurer.
Trevor has accepted the nomination.

Secretary:
Kate Jenkins has nominated **Teresa Schiller** for the role of Secretary.
Teresa Schiller has accepted the nomination.

General Members of the Committee:
Kate Jenkins would like to nominate herself to be a general member.
Trevor would like to nominate **Bryce Lillecrapp** to be a general member.
Kate would like to nominate **Chris Hoff** to be a general member.
Penny would like to nominate **Bob Modra** to be a general member.
Kate would like to nominate **Jenny Gilbert** to be a general member.

All nominees have accepted their nominations.

Adrian has handed the meeting back to Kate.
Moved Bryce Lillecrapp
Seconded Ray Duance **Carried**

10. GENERAL BUSINESS
Changes to the Constitution:
Adrian suggested to number dot points.
Grants have been added to point 16.1 to ensure they are covered as part of gifts or money received.
Other organisations have been added to the objectives to allow for a broader support to the community.

That the new constitution be adopted as amended.
Moved Greg Donovan
Seconded Ray Duance **Carried**

11. MEETING CLOSED at 2:06pm

12. GUEST SPEAKER: **Adrian Shackley**

Adrian has shared his extensive research into historical records of plant species that have been recorded in the past but are not currently found in the Barossa. He shared a list of nearly 270 plant species with BBG staff, providing opportunity for collaboration to reintroduce as many of these species as possible.

Adrian also spoke about some fantastic patches of remnant native grasslands, of which some have over 120 native plant species, and his research into the correlation of plants and insects found in these environments. It was a very interesting presentation and we are grateful for Adrian's time and appreciate the effort that has gone into his work.