



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS COMMITTEE

held on Wednesday 22 April 2026 commencing at 1:00 PM
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa.

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

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

Apologies

Kathryn Schilling, Bryce Lillecrapp, and Greg Donovan.

Not Present

Nil

Leave of Absence

Nil

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of previous meetings – for confirmation:

MOVED L Mason

That the Minutes of the Barossa Bushgardens Committee held on Wednesday 17 December 2025 and 18 February 2026 at 1:00 PM, as circulated, be confirmed as true and correct records of the proceedings of those meetings.

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

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

Meeting Date	Resolution/Action	Status	Actioning Officer
15 October 2025	Review of Terms of Reference	Agenda item for April 2026 S41 Committee meeting	Senior Environmental Officer
22 April 2026	Smart Cities Technologies – investigate ways of capturing visitor data	Pending	Senior Environmental Officer/Nursery Manager and NRC Coordinator
22 April 2026	Certificate of Appreciation to be awarded to Bryce Lillecrapp	Pending	Nursery Manager/NRC Coordinator
22 April 2026	Draft Barossa Bushgardens Advisory Committee Terms of Reference – for further review	Feedback/suggestions to be forwarded to Council's Governance officers	Senior Environmental Officer
22 April 2026	Clarification if Fobb could merge with Advisory Group	Pending	Director/IES
22 April 2026	Poly tunnel report to be provided to ELT for consideration	Pending	Senior Environmental Officer

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- 3.1 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes
- 3.2 Correspondence
- 3.3 Partner Project Updates
- 3.4 Marketing Initiatives and Sales Opportunities
- 3.5 Risk Management/Work Health and Safety
- 3.6 Visitation to the Barossa Bushgardens
- 3.7 Friends of Barossa Bushgardens Update
- 3.8 Strategic Plan Progress Report
- 3.9 Advisory Group Project Decision Making Process

4. DEBATE REPORT

4.1 NEW POLYTUNNEL PROPOSAL - BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS NURSERY

26/22277

MOVED T Waldhuter

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee:

- (1) Endorse the Project
- (2) Request that staff submit the proposal to the Executive Leadership Team for progression

SECONDED L Mason

CARRIED BB 2022-26/2

PURPOSE

The Barossa Bushgardens Nursery needs to upgrade the Polytunnel as the costs for repairs are prohibitive compared with the price of purchasing a new one. Included in this proposal is the full cost of the Poly tunnel kit, irrigation, benches, heat beds including labour for electrical work.

Demand for tubestock from vignerons, industry, other councils, community groups and general ratepayers has resulted in increased production and a fully functional Poly tunnel is integral to meeting the needs of the customers.

REPORT

Introduction

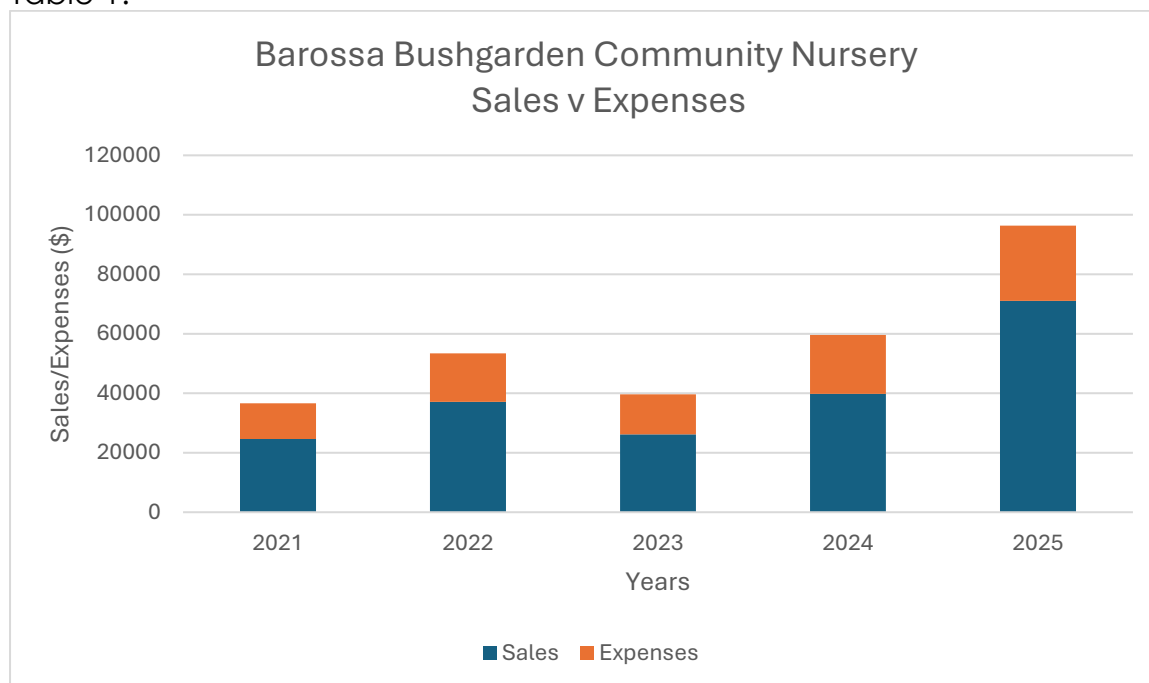
In nursery production a Poly tunnel is used to propagate plant species that are difficult to grow from seed. Additionally, the Poly tunnel provides a protected, warmer environment that extends the growing season, protects plants from frosts, heavy rain and can be used to reproduce specific characteristics of a plant, ie. Flower colours, brightness etc.

The upgrading of the poly tunnel will help the Barossa Bushgardens Nursery increase the diversity of plant species available for the community which aligns strategically with The [Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan 2024-2029](#) and the [Barossa Community Plan 2024-2044](#).

The Barossa Bushgardens nursery production and sales have increased significantly over the past five years as shown in Table 1. 2024 sales increased from 2023 by 70% and increased by 40% from 2024 to 2025 (excluding \$15k for Barossa Park plants). Income from Nursery sales for 2026 is forecast at \$50k. The

declining rainfall over the past 12 months and the extreme heat may influence the end of financial year income, however sales to date are on track.

Table 1.



Discussion

Issues with existing Polytunnel

- Holds heat – even with front and rear doors open, heat struggles to escape – seedlings burn.
- Needs reskinning
- Needs new heat beds – aged (>10 years), starting to falter
- Front door is ripped due to strong winds (Figure 1.) – this was replaced only 12 months ago



Figure 1. Current Polytunnel

Benefits to upgrade Polytunnel & associated infrastructure

- Taller than existing polytunnel and an extra metre wide
- Wind up walls to assist with escape of heat
- 10 year structural warranty
- Built to withstand 150km/hr winds
- Shade cloth cover for extra heat protection
- Sliding doors rather than roll up doors – front and rear
- Full steel frame
- [Polytunnel Kit 6.1m wide x 3.2m high x 1.6m windup walls - Sage Horticultural](#) Figure 2

Due to the increased width, the new Polytunnel will be installed along the western boundary of the Wholesale Nursery which will reduce the impacts from heat during summer (Figure 3). Water for irrigation is accessible; however, supply and installation of power will be required. This has been included in the total cost.



Figure 2. Sage Horticultural Polytunnel



Figure 3. New location in Wholesale Nursery

Total Cost

To upgrade the Barossa Bushgardens Polytunnel will cost **\$18,000** which includes freight, Polytunnel kit, irrigation, [benches](#) (4), [heat beds](#) and installation of power.

The Barossa Bushgardens Nursery Coordinator will require on-ground support from volunteers and Depot staff to:

- Dig and backfill trench across to new location for electrician

- move existing plant pots and irrigation (Council Carob trees) to new site (where existing Polytunnel is located)
- erect new poly tunnel
- install irrigation

Summary and Conclusion

Approval is sought to progress the purchase of a replacement polytunnel to assist with propagation of plant species that will help to meet the significant increase in demand for stock.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

Supporting references

Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Barossa Community Plan 2024-2044

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.

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.

The purchase of a replacement polytunnel will result in the increased ability to meet orders and sales targets.

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.

The Barossa Bushgardens nursery production is one of only two nurseries that provide local, native tubestock for the region (Kersbrook Landcare Nursery). Seed collection, propagation and the planting of native species is addressing one of the major consequences of the impacts of the changing climate – the loss of biodiversity.

3. FINANCIAL

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

The opportunity to grow a wider range of local native species including those that will be grown specifically in the polytunnel will increase income.

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.

The community expectation is that the Barossa Bushgardens can provide the full suite of local native species endemic to the Barossa and wider regions. The Barossa Bushgardens community and wholesale nursery is gaining a reputation within the region to be one of the most important assets for plant production and this is evidenced through the increased income generated by nursery sales for the past three years.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required.

4.2 FINANCE REPORT - AS AT 31 MARCH 2026
26/22513

MOVED A Philpott

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee receive and note the report.

SECONDED K Jenkins

CARRIED BB 2022-26/3

PURPOSE

To provide progress on budget income and expenditure as at 31 March 2026.

REPORTDiscussion

Staff are currently reviewing the Q3 data and will submit any required adjustments as needed.

Third Quarter reporting to 1 April 2026 has been submitted to Green Adelaide for their information.

Advice has recently been received from the SA Labor Team confirming that the Green Adelaide Board at its meeting held in December 2025 endorsed funding of all nine Natural Resource Centres in 2026-27. A workshop is expected to be held in the first half of 2026 with Centres, relevant Landscape Boards and Local Government, to determine a more sustainable funding model for the Centres moving forward.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Attachment 1 - Barossa Bushgardens Budget - April 2026

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.

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.

5. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Nil

6. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Draft Barossa Bushgardens Advisory Group Terms of Reference

The Group discussed the draft Terms of Reference, as provided by Council's Governance officers and noted suggested amendments.

MOVED S Barrett

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee provide feedback and draft proposed amendments to Council's Governance officers, and seek further review of the Draft Barossa Bushgardens Advisory Group Terms of Reference.

SECONDED T Waldhuter**CARRIED BB 2022-26/4**

Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee membership resignation

T Waldhuter advised the Committee of the verbal resignation of Bryce Lillecrapp from the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee.

Bryce commenced volunteering with the Barossa Bushgardens in 2013 and was an integral part of the maintenance team, heavily involved in maintenance, repairs and infrastructure system improvements, and well as valuable membership on both the Friends of Barossa Bushgardens and S41 Committees.

The Committee wishes to thank Bryce for his many years of dedication and support to the Barossa Bushgardens, and will be formally acknowledging his service in the near future.

MOVED T Waldhuter

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee:

- (1) Accept the resignation of Bryce Lillecrapp from the S41 Committee
- (2) Formally acknowledge Bryce's valuable contribution to the Barossa Bushgardens and present a certificate of appreciation.

SECONDED S Barrett**CARRIED BB 2022-26/5**

Friends of Barossa Bushgardens representation on S41 Committee

Kate Jenkins advised that Greg Donovan (Chair, Friends of Barossa Bushgardens) would be relinquishing his position on the S41 Committee and Kate Jenkins would now be representing the FoBB on the S41 Committee.

MOVED T Waldhuter

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee support the appointment of Kate Jenkins as Friends of Barossa Bushgardens representative to the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee, to be endorsed by Council resolution.

SECONDED L Mason**CARRIED BB 2022-26/6**

Nuriootpa High School Blue Gum Woodlands

Andrew Philpott advised that a recent Expression of Interest for Grass Root funding has been successful. Andrew will assist the High School with the implementation of the project and the Barossa Bushgardens will provide limited in-kind support.

7. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 1:00 PM

8. CLOSURE

declared the meeting closed at 3:08pm.

Confirmed at Barossa Bushgardens Committee Meeting on 17 June 2026

Date:.....

Chairperson:.....