



NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next ordinary meeting of the Barossa Bushgardens Committee will be held on Wednesday 24 June 2026 in the Barossa Bushgardens, 653 Research Road Nuriootpa, commencing at 1:00 PM.

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 17 June 2026 at 1:00 PM

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

Nil

3. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

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4. DEBATE REPORT

4.1	Finance Report - as at 31 May 2026	23
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5. CONFIDENTIAL AGENDA

Nil

6. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS**7. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 19 August 2026 at 1:00 PM

8. CLOSURE

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.1 CORRESPONDENCE

**Author: Barossa Bushgardens NRC Co-ordinator
26/42249**

On 3 June 2026, representatives from Environment Centres across the Greater Adelaide Environment Network (GAEN) came together to reflect on the current realities facing centres, revisit previous advocacy efforts, and consider how the network might contribute constructively to the forthcoming stakeholder engagement process being convened by Green Adelaide.

Kim Thompson, Sarah Barrett and Doreen von Linde attended the workshop where connections were made and discussions held to strengthen the network and look for future funding requirements and opportunities.

A summary of reflections from the workshop is attached.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Building on What Matters - Discussion Paper

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.



Building on What Matters

Reflections from the Greater Adelaide Environment Network Preparatory Workshop

Purpose

On 3 June 2026, representatives from Environment Centres across the Greater Adelaide Environment Network (GAEN) came together to reflect on the current realities facing centres, revisit previous advocacy efforts, and consider how the network might contribute constructively to the forthcoming stakeholder engagement process being convened by Green Adelaide.

The workshop was designed as a space for connection, reflection and preparation. It provided an opportunity for participants to step back from the immediate demands of running centres and consider both the current operating environment and the future opportunities that may emerge through the broader engagement process.

This paper captures the key themes, insights and emerging positions arising from that conversation. It is intended as a discussion paper rather than a final position statement and is offered as a basis for further reflection and refinement.

Current Reality: Building on What We Already Know

The workshop began by revisiting themes from the GAEN Prospectus (2022), recognising that considerable work has already been undertaken to articulate the value and contribution of Environment Centres across the region.

Participants agreed that many of the core messages from the Prospectus remain highly relevant today.

Environment Centres continue to provide significant environmental, educational, social and wellbeing benefits within their communities. They leverage substantial volunteer effort, community participation, partnerships and external funding, generating considerable value from relatively modest public investment.

Participants also reaffirmed the importance of Environment Centres as trusted community institutions. Their strength lies not only in the programs they deliver, but in the relationships they cultivate, the local knowledge they hold, and their ability to connect people to place, community and environmental action.

The workshop reinforced the view that Environment Centres remain uniquely positioned to engage communities in ways that government agencies and larger organisations often cannot. Their local presence, community trust and grassroots nature continue to be among their greatest strengths.

Participants also recognised the enduring value of GAEN itself as a mechanism for collaboration, learning, resource sharing and collective advocacy.

While much of the Prospectus continues to resonate, participants noted several areas that may benefit from refreshing.

The original advocacy successfully articulated why Environment Centres matter, but there remains an opportunity to provide greater specificity around future funding models, partnership



arrangements, the role of GAEN, and the practical support required to sustain and grow the impact of centres.

Participants also reflected on how operating conditions have changed since the Prospectus was developed. Rising costs, increasing governance expectations, volunteer recruitment challenges, succession planning pressures and growing demands on coordinators have all become more pronounced.

These changing conditions provided an important backdrop to the discussions that followed.

The Reality of Running Environment Centres

A significant portion of the workshop focused on the often-invisible work required to sustain Environment Centres.

Participants described a complex web of responsibilities including facility management, governance, volunteer coordination, program delivery, communications, fundraising, grant management, financial administration, compliance and stakeholder engagement.

Much of this work is undertaken by a combination of part-time coordinators and dedicated volunteers.

While centres continue to achieve remarkable outcomes, participants reflected on the increasing challenge of balancing growing expectations with limited capacity.

Several recurring themes emerged:

- Rising operating costs and financial pressures
- Increasing governance and compliance requirements
- Difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteers
- Ageing volunteer and membership bases
- Coordinator workload pressures
- Limited capacity for strategic planning and renewal
- Growing expectations from communities, funders and partners

Participants noted that while existing funding often supports core operations, it rarely creates sufficient capacity for innovation, organisational development, succession planning or long-term resilience.

Despite these challenges, there was also strong recognition of the many strengths that continue to exist within the network.

Participants highlighted the dedication of coordinators and volunteers, strong community relationships, successful programs, productive partnerships and the significant contribution centres continue to make across the region.

The workshop reinforced that Environment Centres remain highly valued by the communities they serve and continue to represent an important part of South Australia's environmental and community infrastructure.



Emerging Positions

While the workshop was exploratory in nature, several areas of broad alignment appeared to emerge.

Environment Centres create value far beyond their funding

Participants reaffirmed the central proposition of previous advocacy efforts: that Environment Centres deliver substantial value relative to the level of investment they receive.

Their contribution extends beyond environmental outcomes alone, encompassing education, community development, wellbeing, social connection, volunteer engagement and community resilience.

The current operating model is under increasing strain

Participants expressed a shared view that the current model is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain.

The challenge is not simply one of funding, but rather the cumulative impact of rising costs, governance requirements, volunteer fatigue, workforce pressures and the growing complexity of operating community organisations.

As a explicit example of this, the decision by Green Adelaide to only increase funding this coming year by 2.4%, where inflation (CPI) is ~4.6% and the recently announced SCHADS award rate increase is ~4.75% reflects, clearly demonstrates the challenge faced by Environment Centres.

Environment Centres should be recognised as long-term community infrastructure

A recurring theme throughout the workshop was that Environment Centres may be more appropriately understood as community infrastructure rather than simply recipients of grants or project funding.

Participants reflected on the role centres play as trusted places, relationships and capabilities embedded within local communities.

This perspective may offer a useful lens through which to consider future investment, partnership and support arrangements.

It was also noted that some partners or funders are very particular about what they are willing to support. In particular, the Department for Environment and Water has previously only being willing to support environmental outcomes, despite the co-benefit almost always being present for social, health and wellbeing measures delivered by many Environment Centre projects.

There is value in strengthening partnership approaches

Participants expressed an interest in moving beyond transactional funding relationships and exploring more collaborative partnership models.

This included opportunities to work more closely with Landscape Boards, local government and other stakeholders to deliver shared outcomes.

Collective action through GAEN remains important

The workshop reinforced the value of the network itself.



Participants highlighted the importance of connection, knowledge sharing, mutual support and collective advocacy, particularly at a time when many centres are navigating similar challenges.

Seeds for Further Exploration

One of the strengths of bringing Environment Centres together is that it creates space for ideas and possibilities to emerge that may not be visible when organisations are focused on their day-to-day operations.

Several themes surfaced during the workshop that participants felt warranted further exploration. These should not be interpreted as settled positions, but rather as opportunities for ongoing conversation and inquiry across Environment Centres, and GAEN, and potentially through the engagement process with Green Adelaide and other stakeholders.

Ministerial Leadership and System-Level Advocacy

Participants recognised that some aspects of the long-term sustainability of Environment Centres extend beyond the influence of individual centres, GAEN or Green Adelaide.

In particular, there was discussion about the potential need for ministerial leadership in relation to:

- long-term funding certainty for Environment Centres
- recognition of Environment Centres as an enduring part of South Australia's environmental and community infrastructure
- support for the continued evolution of GAEN as a coordinating network

Participants noted that Environment Centres occupy a unique position in that they are both funded partners and independent community organisations. As such, they retain the ability to engage directly with ministers and advocate for issues that affect the future of the sector.

There is recognition that any such advocacy would benefit from being coordinated, constructive and focused on long-term outcomes rather than historical grievances.

GAEN, in its current form, may have a role in helping to convene and coordinate these conversations, ideally through the Steering Committee. Equally, individual centres with established relationships may also play an important role in fostering constructive dialogue.

Exploring the Future Role of GAEN

The workshop generated considerable interest in exploring the future role of GAEN.

Participants reflected on the value the network already provides through connection, collaboration and collective advocacy. There was also curiosity about whether the network could play a more formal role in supporting centres over time.

Potential areas for exploration included:

- network coordination
- shared services (finance, web content, social media, policies and procedures etc)
- collective advocacy
- partnership development



- capacity building and support

There was interest in exploring the feasibility of establishing a more formal GAEN entity and investigating what functions, governance arrangements and operating models may be appropriate.

Participants emphasised that any exploration of this nature should be collaborative, centre-led and shaped by the needs and aspirations of the network itself.

A potential next step may be investigating whether funding could be secured to undertake a feasibility study into future models for GAEN.

Environment Centres as Delivery Partners

The idea of Environment Centres acting as delivery partners was revisited throughout the workshop.

Although the specifics of how partnerships might look was not discussed in detail, there was a desire to better understand what this might mean in practice and how it could create mutual value for Environment Centres, government agencies, Landscape Boards and local government and other stakeholders.

Environment Centres may be particularly well positioned to support activities that rely on community trust, local relationships, volunteer mobilisation and place-based engagement.

At the same time, participants recognised that additional capability, capacity and support may be required if centres are to take on more substantial delivery roles. In part to demonstrate credibility and sufficient capacity for delivering desired outcomes.

Importantly, the strengthening capability and 'professionalisation' should not come at the expense of the grassroots, community-led qualities that make Environment Centres effective and trusted in the first place.

This tension was recognised as an important area for ongoing exploration.

Investing in Renewal

Participants observed that much of the current effort within Environment Centres is directed towards maintaining operations and responding to immediate demands.

Far less time and capacity is available for organisational renewal, succession planning, capability development, strategic thinking and innovation.

There was interest in exploring how future support arrangements might create greater space for centres to invest in their long-term resilience and evolution.

It was recognised that alongside funding constraints described earlier, without sufficient support to invest in renewal, Environment Centres may begin to see real declines in their ability to sustain long term.

Continuing the Conversation

Beyond the specific themes and ideas explored, participants reflected on the value of simply coming together as a network.

For many, the workshop provided a rare opportunity to step back from the day-to-day demands of running Environment Centres and engage in a broader conversation about the future. Participants



noted that while the challenges facing centres are real, it was equally important to create space to recognise strengths, identify opportunities and consider what might be possible through collective effort.

Several participants described leaving the workshop with a renewed sense of energy and optimism. There was a feeling that, despite the pressures facing individual centres, there remains significant potential within both Environment Centres and the network as a whole.

Participants expressed an appetite to continue the conversation and explore some of the questions that had emerged more deeply. There was recognition that many of these questions cannot be resolved quickly and will require ongoing dialogue, reflection and collaboration.

Importantly, participants also reflected on the opportunity presented by the broader stakeholder engagement process. While there remains an understandable awareness of past frustrations and unfinished conversations, there was a shared desire to approach the next phase with a constructive and future-focused mindset.

The workshop highlighted a willingness to engage positively with the process, build relationships across stakeholders and contribute meaningfully to shaping future outcomes. Participants recognised that the tone and spirit with which Environment Centres and GAEN engage may be just as important as the specific positions they bring forward.

Maintaining this sense of momentum, curiosity and shared purpose was identified as an important opportunity as the broader engagement process continues.

Questions We May Need to Explore Together

The workshop raised a number of questions that may help inform future conversations across Environment Centres, GAEN, Green Adelaide and other stakeholders.

- What are Environment Centres uniquely positioned to contribute that other organisations cannot?
- What would a genuinely sustainable partnership and funding model look like? (Getting specific)
- What functions are best delivered by individual centres, and what functions might be better supported collectively through GAEN? (How do we balance the benefits and challenges of both centralised models vs decentralised approaches?)
- How can capability and credibility be strengthened without losing the grassroots qualities that make Environment Centres effective?
- What would it look like for Environment Centres to be recognised as essential community infrastructure?

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.2 PARTNER PROJECT UPDATES

**Author: Barossa Bushgardens NRC Co-ordinator
26/42251**

Updates are provided for the Committee's information:

Bush Playgroup

Bush Playgroup continues to grow! Zac welcomed the highest number of families a couple of weeks ago with over 40 people attending the popular play sessions. Zac is looking to 'retire' at the end of the year and has been contacted by someone who is interested in taking the playgroup over.

Barossa Community Labyrinth

Staff are working with Louise Mason and Ginenne Eylander on organising events at the Labyrinths, including the Winter Solstice Walk on 21 June and one or two events to be held during Nature Festival. A concrete table setting has been placed under the shelter, moved across from Penrice Road by the Depot. Staff are currently looking at organising mosaic workshops to enhance the visual aesthetics of the table.

Seeding Natives

A verbal report will be presented.

Nurture and Natter Program

Participants (clients and carers) enjoy Monday mornings at the Bushgardens. The mood around the table is always very enthusiastic and the clients enjoy the work they are doing in the nursery. It is great to have volunteers that support Reta in delivering the program and bringing their happy personalities to share.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.3 MARKETING INITIATIVES AND SALES OPPORTUNITIES

**Author: Barossa Bushgardens NRC Co-ordinator
26/42252**

Autumn Plant Sale Day 9 May 2026

A successful day with 102 people walking through the gate (17 non-residents and 85 Barossa residents).

The majority of people collected their 5 free plants but also purchased other plants (Barossa residents bought an extra 788 plants). Sales for the day were \$1836.70. We had 6 volunteers helping out on the day.

The Australian Plants Society also joined us in showcasing native plants in pots.

Plant Giveaway

The Plant Giveaway commenced in May and will continue until the allocation for 500 residents is reached. To date 393 residents have utilised the offer and approximately half of the residents are purchasing additional plants over and above their allocation of five free plants.

Staff have reported a very positive response from residents.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.4 RISK MANAGEMENT/WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Author: Barossa Bushgardens NRC Co-ordinator
26/42254**

Discussions were held with Depot staff in regard to reducing the risks involved with bringing in bought plants from other nurseries i.e. risks of pests and diseases.

Now that the large Carobs have been removed, there is space for more benches and to move Depot plants into this area, to create separation from general Bushgardens stock and also assist in ease of access to the plants for the Depot team.

There were also discussions about the moving of old stock and using this stock before purchasing and ordering new stock.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.5 VISITATION TO THE BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS

**Author: Barossa Bushgardens NRC Co-ordinator
26/42257**

During April and May staff and volunteers organised or facilitated 40 events/sessions, including workshops, tours and educational sessions with students.

During this time 902 children and adults participated in activities held at the Bushgardens.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.6 FRIENDS OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS UPDATE

**Author: Barossa Bushgardens NRC Co-ordinator
26/42258**

The Friends of Barossa Bushgardens met with volunteers, S41 Committee and staff and discussed ways on how to move from a S41 to another type of governing structure. The workshop highlighted the need for the Friends to still be connected to the community on a grass roots level. It was great to get input from everyone on the table.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

3.7 STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

**Author: Barossa Bushgardens NRC Co-ordinator
26/42259**

The actions within the Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan are provided in Attachment 1. The status/progress comments are provided to 15 June 2026

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Barossa Bushgardens Strategic Plan - Progress Report June 2026

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	Plant sale held in May. Lots of preparation before hand with Volunteers filling the Community Nursery to capacity, signs created, etc. Plant Giveaway started in May with volunteers continuing to fill Community Nursery. Volunteers have propagated Autumn species. Potted up Dianella and other species. Weeded plants. Plant orders slowly being collected. More plant orders continue to come in. Volunteers continue to input data on spreadsheet i.e. packaged seed ready for storage, plants potted, etc.
b) Maintenance of a regional Seed Bank and Database	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	Seed being cleaned and packaged ready for storage. Purchased seed from places like Blackwood seeds to fill gaps but to also increase our genetic diversity. Continue to collect any seed i.e. saltbush that may be ready.
c) Development and maintenance of a Plant Collection Database.	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	Database updated as plants are planted into the gardens.
d) Improve the commercial capacity of the nursery, including inclusion of a council nursery operation.	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	A new Poly tunnel has been approved for purchase in the new financial year. Now that the Carobs have been removed and there is ample space for more plant benches, discussions were held with Depot team to move Depot plants to this section.
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	Emerging weeds have been mostly controlled with organic herbicide while volunteers continue to manually weed areas that may have been missed or are unsuited for chemical control.
b) Review and update the Masterplan identifying key	Ongoing	Manager, I&ES	Low	Nothing to report.

priorities for the next five years.		Nursery Manager NRC Coordinator		
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	Fences have been removed in some areas and a new pathway is going to be installed by the end of June.
d) Develop Guidelines for Curation of the Barossa Bushgardens	Ongoing	Nursery Manager	High	Near completion.
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	See visitation document. Bushgardens Display during month of June in the Council foyer.
b) Provide opportunities for students and researchers to support the delivery of the Barossa Bushgardens outcomes.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	Low	Staff are accommodating two student placements during June and July 2026. Team Leader Environmental Services is working with TAFE lecturers and students on the installation and improvement of a road side reserve outside of Angaston.
c) Organise suitable events to support the key objectives of the Barossa Bushgardens.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	Low	Ongoing – see point a). Events organised include the Autumn Plant Sale Day and Plant Giveaway to encourage residents to plant native plants in their gardens/on their properties.
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	Ongoing – see point a). Staff provided the Volunteer Centre for events like the Aboriginal Health Division within the Women's and Children's Health Network Staff Wellbeing Day
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	Staff provided material support for a waste education event at Nuriootpa Highschool.
b) Develop, implement and support land, water and biodiversity initiatives and programs within the region.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	Low	Nothing to report.

c) Increase and improve collaborations with key stakeholders of the Barossa Bushgardens.				Ongoing
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 Group on Monday's is ongoing. Other events are organised as one-off opportunities as there is limited resourcing to organise regular programs.
b) Ensure the Barossa Bushgardens are developed and align with The Barossa Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Action Plan.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator	High	New signage currently being installed across the gardens are reduced in height to allow people in wheelchairs to read the signs.
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.				BBG staff have worked with local mosaic artist, Kristin Wohlers and Ngadjuri artist, Mel Agius to deliver three cultural mosaic workshops with Nuriootpa Community Children's Centre, Nuriootpa Primary School and the community. Workshop participants came from all backgrounds, including ten Aboriginal children, and completed 61 artworks. The artworks were displayed at the Bushgardens on Saturday, 30th May. The exhibition included a free community BBQ, fire pit with damper and a Welcome to Country delivered by Calvert Agius. Stories were shared about the Agius family that still have deep connection to country. Perry Agius and Vanessa Agius also joined the celebrations. Funding was provided by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and Reconciliation Barossa (The Barossa Council). The project was also supported by the

				Friends of Barossa Bushgardens and Barossa Regional Gallery.
b) Engage and continue to develop relationship with First Nations Elders and the wider community.				At a recent meeting with Mel Agius and Perry Agius, Mel highlighted that they feel not safe collecting plant material from the Bushgardens to produce traditional medicine. Mel feels that if no staff is available to join her during the collection process, people may judge her and possibly call the police. A discussion was held to alleviate this problem and ensure that Ngadjuri feel safe and welcome at the Bushgardens and staff proposed the possible development of a large medicinal garden in collaboration with Ngadjuri women. This was welcomed by both Perry and Mel.
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.				Bi-monthly column and e-newsletter published in April 2026.
b) Update information/educational materials and maintain and update website and social media platforms				BGG staff is working with the comms team to improve visitor experience to the website. Information about the recent Reconciliation Mosaic project has been added as well as information about garden beds that can only be accessed via QR codes from the garden signs.
c) Update signage (does this apply here?)				The old signposts have been shortened to allow wheelchair users to read the signs. Installation of new garden signage has started.
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..				The Friends and BGG staff and volunteers are collaborating across a range of activities. The Friends generally provide funding support for projects or to purchase assets for volunteers, making the group an important ally.
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	The old signposts have been shortened to allow wheelchair users to read the signs. Installation of new garden signage has started.

				New vegetable signs have been manufactured for the Food for the Soul Community Garden.
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	Improvements of gardens are ongoing with the wetland area behind the Reconciliation Circle nearly completed. The area is wheelchair accessible and educational with fun parts for children to enjoy, like colourful rock pavers and a bridge to one of the islands.
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	A Men's Health presentation was held by Dr. Bill Gransbury which most men attended. Seeds of Hope flyer emailed out to all volunteers after the loss of a current volunteer. Also, checking in with volunteers to make sure they are ok.
b) Attract new volunteers to support program delivery.	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Some recent starters have stopped coming to BBG due to different reasons. The site team is currently low on volunteers. New volunteer inducted recently and will be joining the nursery team.
c) Recognise and acknowledge volunteer contributions to the Barossa Bushgardens	Ongoing	NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Volunteers attended the National Volunteer Week lunch at the Vine Inn which they very much appreciated. Volunteers Shane and Kate were recognised for 10 years of service as were Louise Mason and Ian Baldwin that couldn't attend the event.
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	The NRC Coordinator has completed the development of site specific processes which can be found in container B14160. Ongoing for Nursery Coordinator.

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	
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	
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	Nothing to report.
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	Weed control in the gardens has started early with the use of organic herbicides to suppress most weed growth. A patch of declared Khaki Weed was found next to the driveway and has been removed. Staff and volunteers will keep an eye on the area. Discussions with Depot team re the risk of plants brought in from other nurseries. See Risk document.
c) Manage organisational risk in the delivery of core services	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	High	Nothing to report.
d) Ensure that identified Internal Financial Controls are effectively monitored and maintained	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Discussions were held recently with Finance around cash handling risks.
e) Maintain and facilitate the ongoing testing and development of Council's Business Continuity Plan and	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator	Medium	

associated Sub-Plans		Nursery Manager		
f) Maintain and champion the implementation of Councils WHS System	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Nothing to report.
g) Undertake WHS Compliance Inspections	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	Nothing to report.
h) Implement, Review and Maintain Work Health Safety Improvement/Action Plan	Ongoing	Manager I&ES NRC Coordinator Nursery Manager	Medium	WHS improvements are ongoing with staff consulting with volunteers whenever an issue arises or suggestions for improvements are made.
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	Chemalert Database update due in October 2026.
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	Staff have identified a grant to support a mosaic project for October 2026.
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	All current grants have been acquitted and reported on.

DEBATE REPORT

4.1 FINANCE REPORT - AS AT 31 MAY 2026

**Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
26/42261**

PURPOSE

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee receive and note the report.

REPORT

Discussion

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

Staff will review the budget and submit any required minor adjustments in Quarter 4.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Barossa Bushgardens Financial statements as at 31 May 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 Consultation Policy.

Bushgardens CC4115

2526GLA As at Period 12	Current Actuals 2526GLA	Commit ments 2526GL A	Actual + Committed 2526GLA	YTD Budget 2526GLF3	% of YTD Budget 2526GLF3	Full Year Current Budget 2526GLF3	% of Full Yr Budget 2526GLF3	Full Year Remaining Budget
61122 - Contractors - Cleaning Services	0	0	0	5160.6	0%	5160.6	0%	5160.6
61123 - Contractors - Recycling/Green Collection Svce	19.06	0	19.06	0	0%	0	0%	-19.06
61124 - Contractors - Waste Disposal Services	120	0	120	0	0%	0	0%	-120
61125 - Contractors - Fire Equipment Servicing	0	0	0	547.8	0%	547.8	0%	547.8
61126 - Contractors - Bldg Maintenance Services	1506.84	0	1506.84	3805.7	40%	3805.7	40%	2298.86
61132 - Contractors - Bldg Security Monitoring	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
61137 - Contractors - Plant/Machinery Servicing	1859.98	0	1859.98	1800	103%	1800	103%	-59.98
61140 - Contractors - Other Services	9811.04	1320	11131.04	9205.68	121%	9205.68	121%	-1925.36
61145 - Contractors - Airconditioning Services	0	0	0	150.23	0%	150.23	0%	150.23
61182 - Contractors - Tagging & Testing	0	0	0	560.84	0%	560.84	0%	560.84
61203 - Direct Purchases - Canteen Purchases	1463.13	0	1463.13	1320	111%	1320	111%	-143.13
61206 - Direct Purchases - Assets < \$5,000	4040.5	0	4040.5	3500	115%	3500	115%	-540.5
61209 - Direct Purchases - Vehicle/Machine Parts	61.05	0	61.05	300	20%	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	820	128%	820	128%	-230.27
61213 - Direct Purchases - Weed/Pest Chemicals	51.47	0	51.47	150	34%	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	183.61	0	183.61	300	61%	300	61%	116.39
61220 - Direct Purchases - Loose tools	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
61223 - Direct Purchases - Other	300.87	417	717.87	2500	29%	2500	29%	1782.13
61301 - Energy Costs - Electricity	3850.05	0	3850.05	7402.09	52%	7402.09	52%	3552.04
61302 - Energy Costs - Gas	0	0	0	276.41	0%	276.41	0%	276.41
61303 - Energy Costs - Fuel & Lubricants	924.89	0	924.89	1000	92%	1000	92%	75.11
61304 - Water - Service Rates	329.2	0	329.2	313.47	105%	313.47	105%	-15.73
61305 - Water - Usage Charges	2.36	0	2.36	3079.61	0%	3079.61	0%	3077.25
63012 - Bank Charges	334.99	0	334.99	0	0%	0	0%	-334.99
63100 - Insurance - Public Liability	3418.32	0	3418.32	3324.82	103%	3324.82	103%	-93.5

63104 - Insurance - Vehicle Insurance	0	0	0	1183.05	0%	1183.05	0%	1183.05
63105 - Insurance - Buildings & Contents	2006.22	0	2006.22	0	0%	0	0%	-2006.22
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	299.97	0	299.97	348.24	86%	348.24	86%	48.27
63406 - General - Internet Expenses	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
63408 - General - Vehicle Registration	105	0	105	0	0%	0	0%	-105
63501 - Travel - Accommodation	0	365.64	365.64	0	0%	0	0%	-365.64
63606 - IT - Internet Expenses	883.8	0	883.8	560	158%	560	158%	-323.8
63808 - Subscriptions/Memberships	0	0	0	200	0%	200	0%	200
63811 - Entertainment Expenses	128.21	0	128.21	0	0%	0	0%	-128.21
	46198.96	4702.12	50901.08	104732.92	49%	104732.92	49%	53831.84

Bushgardens Nursery CC4105

2526GLA As at Period 12	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	Full Year Remaining Budget
41547 - Commercial Activities - Seedling Sales	-	0	-49746.39	-40000	124%	-40000	124%	9746.39
	49746.39							
61140 - Contractors - Other Services	200	0	200	0	0%	0	0%	-200
61206 - Direct Purchases - Assets < \$5,000	3143	0	3143	0	0%	0	0%	-3143
61210 - Direct Purchases - Stationery	2014.99	0	2014.99	0	0%	0	0%	-2014.99
61212 - Direct Purchases - Irrigation supplies	108.3	0	108.3	0	0%	0	0%	-108.3
61213 - Direct Purchases - Weed/Pest Chemicals	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
61214 - Direct Purchases - Fertiliser	98.62	0	98.62	0	0%	0	0%	-98.62
61215 - Direct Purchases - Mulch/Loam	5858	1257.84	7115.84	0	0%	0	0%	-7115.84
61216 - Direct Purchases- Plants/Shrubs	1810.84	0	1810.84	0	0%	0	0%	-1810.84
61220 - Direct Purchases - Loose tools	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
61223 - Direct Purchases - Other	7700.11	4528.8	12228.91	15000	82%	15000	82%	2771.09
61226 - Office Equipment consumables - Other	28.59	0	28.59	0	0%	0	0%	-28.59
	105258.7	9077.74	114336.43	44931.19	254%	44931.19	254%	-69405.24

Bushgardens Green Adelaide CC4120

2526GLA As at Period 12	Current Actuals 2526GLA	Commitments 2526GLA	Actual + Committed 2526GLA	YTD Budget 2526GLF3	% of YTD Budget 2526GLF3	Full Year Current Budget 2526GLF3	% of Full Yr Budget 2526GLF3	Full Year Remaining Budget
41403 - Operating Grant - CWM Boards	-23848	0	-23848	-60000	40%	-60000	40%	-36152
61140 - Contractors - Other Services	3447	2710.18	6157.18	4000	154%	4000	154%	-2157.18
61206 - Direct Purchases - Assets < \$5,000	0	909.09	909.09	1100	83%	1100	83%	190.91
61208 - Direct Purchases - Signs	2854.58	641.81	3496.39	3953	88%	3953	88%	456.61
61209 - Direct Purchases - Vehicle/Machine Parts	32.97	0	32.97	1600	2%	1600	2%	1567.03
61223 - Direct Purchases - Other	1386.67	498.98	1885.65	2940	64%	2940	64%	1054.35
61226 - Office Equipment consumables - Other	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0
63401 - General - Advertising	1537.27	0	1537.27	2000	77%	2000	77%	462.73
	40031.04	6267.19	46298.23	-8103.57	-571%	-8103.57	-571%	-54401.8

DEBATE REPORT

4.2 DISSOLUTION OF BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS S41 COMMITTEE

**Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
26/45212**

PURPOSE

To endorse a recommendation to Council for the revocation of the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee, noting the support of the Friend of Barossa Bushgardens to the Barossa Bushgardens Operations Team.

RECOMMENDATION

That Barossa Bushgardens Committee:

- (1) Support the dissolution of the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee; and
- (2) Support the provision of a Quarterly Report to Council detailing Bushgardens activities and pending projects

REPORT

Background

The Barossa Council at a meeting held on 6 March 2001 placed the care, control and management of the Part Section of Coulthard Reserve, Nuriootpa (Crown Reserve over which the title is issued to Council) in the hands of a Committee to be known as the Barossa Bushgardens Committee.

The Committee was recommended to liaise with the Friends of the Barossa Bushgardens for the specific purpose of supporting the environmental objects/purposes of the Barossa Bushgardens.

The Barossa Bushgardens Committee transitioned to the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee in 2010.

Discussion

Following a recent review of S41 Committees by Council, it has been identified that ceasing the operation of the S41 Committee would allow for more flexibility and less regulatory requirements, therefore easing several legislative and administrative obligations.

Summary and Conclusion

It is envisaged that the Friends of the Barossa Bushgardens would continue to operate under their current Constitution in providing advice to the Barossa Bushgardens Operational Team.

Council staff would then have a streamlined reporting process to Council for desired Bushgardens projects and updates for inclusion within the Council Agenda.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

Supporting references

Nil.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**Community Plan**

Supporting a sustainable Barossa.

Strategic Outcome

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

Legislative Requirements

Local Government Act 1999

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

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

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.

There would be no changes to financial processes, budgets and delegation obligations.

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.