

Media Release



24 April 2025

Council details election funding priorities for the Hills

The Adelaide Hills Council has delivered a list of strategic priorities to candidates in the upcoming election.

Acting Mayor Nathan Daniell said, “We have proposed several priority projects which would deliver strategic and tangible outcomes for our community”.

“The priority projects focus on fostering community connection, improving facilities, enhancing safety, and township planning.

“We seek a commitment from Mayo candidates to fund these important initiatives which will increase the social, economic, and environmental prosperity of the Adelaide Hills Council region.”

Strategic Priorities:

1. Greater Adelaide freight bypass
2. Public transport solutions
3. Early bushfire detection pilot
4. Women and girls in sport
5. Township and precinct redevelopment
6. Pedestrian and cycling connectivity projects
7. Regional arts and tourism at Fabrik Arts + Heritage

See below for details of these priorities.

Media contact

Jennifer Blake, Manager Communications, Engagement and Events
8408 0430 | 0437 114 698

ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL

Key Priorities

2025 - 2026

These priority projects will increase the social, economic, and environmental prosperity of the Adelaide Hills Council district.



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

- Greater Adelaide freight bypass
- Public transport solutions
- Early bushfire detection pilot
- Women and girls in sport
- Township and precinct redevelopments
- Regional arts and tourism
- Pedestrian and cycling connectivity projects

The Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills Transport Study was undertaken by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (2022) to understand and identify transport needs and issues and guide future transport investment in the region.

Greater Adelaide freight bypass

The proposed Greater Adelaide freight bypass is estimated to divert up to 420,000 trucks a year from the South-Eastern Freeway.

Currently two-thirds of SA's interstate freight travels to or from Victoria via the freeway. Sections of this road are already operating at or near capacity, with congestion expected to worsen.

Council supports initiatives to provide funding to connect Princes Highway and Port Wakefield Road – providing an alternative heavy vehicle route away from the South-Eastern Freeway and Portrush Road.



Public transport solutions

69% of survey respondents would like to use public transport more frequently. There was a strong desire for fast and reliable public transport that connects towns to more destinations and improved walking and cycling paths.

We are seeking support to trial on-demand public transport bus services in Crafers, Stirling, Aldgate, Bridgewater, similar to that currently in use around the Mt Barker district.





Early bushfire detection pilot

Seeking \$815k to explore and trial AI assisted early fire detection technology in the Adelaide Hills, in partnership with Forestry SA and state Emergency Response agencies.

AI-enabled cameras with image recognition software will be trialled with the goal of protecting local communities, industries, and ecosystems by improving situational awareness and emergency response.

Women and girls sport facilities

Funding partnerships are needed to assist in the development of new and upgraded changerooms to accommodate growing participation of women and girls in field sports, including:

- Johnston Memorial Park, Balhannah – Changerooms for AFL and cricket: \$1.25m
- Woodside Recreation Ground – Changerooms for multiple sports: \$2m
- Uraidla Soldiers Memorial Ground – Changerooms for AFL and cricket: \$850k
- Bradwood Park, Bradbury – Changerooms for soccer: \$850k
- Lobethal Recreation Ground – Changerooms for AFL and cricket: \$750k
- Heathfield High School – Changerooms for cricket, AFL, soccer and athletics (a potential partnership with the Department for Education): \$500k

Council has developed strong relationships with the peak bodies for each sport to identify priority needs and scope facilities that meet each sport's key facility guidelines.



Township and precinct redevelopments

We are seeking strategic partnerships to drive the future growth and development of the Adelaide Hills region through the creation and delivery of comprehensive township plans and precinct masterplans for key locations across the district. Several key projects already have concept plans developed, positioning us to move forward with targeted, impactful investments that will enhance the region's infrastructure and community amenities.

- Woodside township plan - main street and public areas redevelopment including power line undergrounding: \$6m
- Stirling lawns masterplan - implementation to create public event space, drainage improvements and accessibility improvements: \$2m
- Lenswood - infrastructure upgrades to improve the amenity and safety of the Lenswood precinct: \$600k*
- Lobethal, Main Street - power line undergrounding stage 2: \$900k*
- Mount Torrens, Townsend Street - power line undergrounding: \$1.8m*

*This is to cover the AHC contribution to achieve these projects.



Regional arts and tourism at Fabrik Arts + Heritage

Seeking funding to further develop regional arts, culture and tourism experiences at the newly redeveloped Fabrik Arts + Heritage at Lobethal, housed within the former Onkaparinga Woollen Mill.

- \$50k to fund a freight lift to transport large artworks and touring crates from other institutions, enabling participation in touring exhibitions and national programs, such as the Sharing the National Collection program
- Funding partnerships to develop a showcase tourism and educational experience utilising stories, memorabilia and machinery from the famous former Onkaparinga Woollen Mill - \$300k for design, curation and establishment of displays

Pedestrian and cycling connectivity projects

Seeking funding partnerships to develop active transport connections between newly developed residential areas and key townships, recreational and other public facilities. Current priorities:

- Pedestrian connections from the newly established Hamilton Hill development at Woodforde to Morialta Conservation Park and public transport nodes: \$1m
- Pedestrian and cycling connections from the newly established Crest development on the former defence housing land at Inverbrackie, to the Woodside township: \$2.6m
- Both of these areas were developed following State led rezoning initiatives and essential public infrastructure to connect these areas to key destinations and facilities was not included in public planning at the time

Council also seeks investment in a number of pedestrian and cycling safety projects which are the responsibility of the South Australian Department for Infrastructure and Transport

- Mount Barker Road, Stirling to Aldgate - road widening and establishment of north-bound bicycle lane along tight S-bends
- Construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Onkaparinga River, Verdun/Hahndorf



Council Contact

Mr Greg Georgopoulos
Chief Executive Officer

0416 181 927

ggeorgopoulos@ahc.sa.gov.au



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL