



Priorities for a Strong Community

City of Charles Sturt Community Plan 2023

The City of Charles Sturt is growing and it is time to work in partnership with residents to set priorities for a new future, building on a strong community foundation. Western Adelaide Coastal Residents' Association (WACRA) has five priority areas for input into the consultation on the City of Charles Sturt Community Plan. Our top priority is climate change. Everything else flows from that. Other priorities are: collaboration across governments, maintaining community cohesion, preparing for a nuclear future and the need for ongoing transparent evaluation.

Top Priority - Climate Change

Resilience after threat

We don't know what the climate emergencies of the future will throw at our Council area. A good guess might be something to do with water – either rising tides, eroding beaches and breaches of current containment or the same happening through the Port River system into the low-lying areas of the Council. These have been mapped and should be anticipated.

What would be good to plan for now is how the Council and community can avoid the kinds of problems now besetting the island of Maui in the wake of their 'unprecedented' fire.

What has not been widely reported is the tactics of 'disaster capitalism', people who use theft and trickery after the tragedy of a disaster for their own commercial gains. Real estate agents cold-calling people who have lost everything to prod them to sell their ancestral lands. They are also working to divide one native Hawaiian against another in their time of need.

These are examples of consequences after unprecedented disaster. In times such as this we cannot count on people pulling together. Strong leadership and governance will be needed to hold onto values that build community.

Based on trends emerging in Australia and globally, there are many scenarios that we would like to see Charles Sturt plan for. In particular, how water and power are maintained through a crisis, but even more, to help climate-proof our city's many suburbs as the future heats up. We would like to encourage this Council, that already has plans and actions for environmentally sustainable progress, to redouble your efforts for clean air and water, zero waste, and fewer toxic industries to ameliorate these drastic scenarios.

Building on our solar advantage with community batteries

Our Council has now achieved 100% use of renewable power in Council buildings and vehicles. This is a wonderful achievement. However, only 37% of houses have solar panels,

less than the state average of 41%. Given your track record of interest in electricity, WACRA challenges you to innovate with our community – choose a postcode or discrete area and develop or help broker a community battery pilot scheme. The Federal Government is currently offering major subsidies to start 400 of these schemes across the country. Only 2 community battery schemes in SA that have been approved so far.

Saul Griffiths' influential 2023 *Quarterly Essay* story tells about his own postcode's work to go to net zero through electrifying household appliances. Yakkandanda, a Victorian city has worked through its local government and utilities to build a community battery that takes excess solar power generated on people's roofs and stores this electricity for use and distribution locally.

We are blessed with an abundance of sunshine in our council, with few tall trees or high rise - yet. There would be many residents who would be part of a pilot scheme to show how local big batteries could recycle unused power, lower power prices and provide an insurance policy for energy in the case of an unknown threat in the future.

EV support and consolidation

This Council has been a leader in thinking about EV charging stations and its corporate leaders using EVs. In terms of a community plan, people seeing more of these stations in every suburb and cars being able to use them, will send an encouraging signal for others to consider buying one. The widespread adoption of EVs will help our Council in its mitigation and adaption strategies for the very quickly approaching climate stresses.

There is a need for more careful planning in selecting sites for EV charging stations to ensure access. For example, the Jolt station at Henley is inaccessible to the majority of EVs and is underused because of technical issues such as the length of its charging cable

Water conservation

We also are aware of the Council's extensive water initiatives that provide deep recharge water supplies under much of our land and the use of this water for watering parks and reserves. Completion of the Breakout Creek is another stellar achievement in water management and collaboration with key partners. This should, over time, bring Karrawirra Pari/River Torrens into such a clean state that it could support colonies of platypus, a key indicator of river health. Keep up the good work consolidating these initiatives.

Fauna regeneration for habitat

What more could be done in terms of water in our Council? The COP 15 encouraged local governments to adopt biodiversity-enhancing urban planning in green spaces. Certainly, where dune plantings have been commenced or wetlands made on golf courses, native birds and insects are thriving in the plantings.

There used to be at least 50 species of native birds seen in the Reedbeds before they were drained and turned into residential and airport land.

Intensive plantings of low-lying ground-covers and grasses on any patch of Council land to replace the extensive grass model could have a big impact on birds and other animals returning. Once planted, these low-lying native plants contribute to a healing of the ecosystem.

Grasses and low shrubs do not present the perceived threat of stranger danger, people hiding behind shrubs as they are normally only knee height. But what they do is welcome habitat back into the suburbs that displaced them. If planted with the early winter rains and once established, they do not need watering. They do not need teams of lawn-mowers and blowers, just occasional pruning of edges and management of invasive weeds.

Research from Melbourne this month by Dr Luis Mata of the University of Melbourne (*The Guardian* 23/8/23) shows a large increase in native insect life when a small plot of land in inner city was revegetated with native grasses. Researchers measured baseline insect numbers the year before greening began, when 12 indigenous plant species were introduced to the space, and subsequently conducted insect surveys for the following three years.

They identified 94 insect species in total, 91 indigenous to the Australian state of Victoria. The researchers estimated that by the final year of the study there were about 7.3 times more insect species than originally present, even though only nine plant species remained. The team also found substantial increases in the number of predator and parasitoid insect species, which help to regulate populations of pest insects.

Dr Mata showed that these two groups send a really good ecological signal that all the proper interactions in a healthy ecosystem are happening through this planting and insect interaction. Whether they crawl, fly, squirm, or slither, insects get the job done. They pollinate, control pests (mosquitoes, aphids, mites), provide food for native birds, help with recovery of food webs after periods of drought, recycle organic materials back into the soil, build veggie garden health and are a wonderful source of things for kids to discover.

Imagine how we could boost the Charles Sturt ecosystem by replacing the extensive areas of mown grass with native grasses? Other cities, such as Canberra, are already moving in this direction. Let's be a leader.

Our Trees Project

WACRA urges council to significantly increase its tree canopy targets as is happening in the City of Unley.

One strategy would be to offer incentives to sports clubs using outdoor Council facilities to plant the edges of playing fields in consultation with Council landscape planners. WACRA has initiated the successful *My Tree Project* which is growing and thriving. We would like you to pick up this momentum with your resources and sponsor an *Our Trees Project*, tapping into the huge number of families involved in weekend sports. It could prove an environmental win for our Council on greenfield sites and encourage club members to learn more about the value of trees. Seeing their club buy into this practice might encourage new people who

haven't thought much about trees to take up your other incentives such as Treebate to plant more around their homes.

We value trees because they provide ecosystem services without parallel, including shade, a most important necessity in our heating world. They are magnets for birds and bird-song in our suburbs. Magpies, for instance, have a 50-million-year-old story of evolution. Their beautiful songs bring us a rich sensory environment that connects us to nature before we turn to our technology. This balancing is important as a stress-reducer, a way of improving listening, key to thriving in our families and communities. Trees full of Australian songbirds help residents to pay attention to our senses, the sounds, the smells, the variety. Being in touch with nature at this level is part of how people have always lived. Trees we plant today will tell the community of tomorrow our story and demonstrate that we valued them.

Minimisation of waste

The community have been willing partners with the Council to frame initiatives on waste minimisation and also are supportive for any initiatives to pilot new schemes to reduce and recycle materials. This is an ongoing issue and an area for more community education and incentives, in what people buy thoughtfully, how they dispose of materials and how they tap into services offered by Council to assist in this process.

It is important that our community have access to simple, easy to access tools that will help us reduce energy costs, minimise waste and limit emissions.

From our view, the Community GHG Emissions Reduction Project has dragged on with no discernible outcomes, expecting the community to lead progress. We ask that this program be curtailed or re-focussed to kick-start action as the long consultation process seems to have become a stalling technique.

Beach Management

Climate change is expected to increase the frequency, intensity and impacts of weather events, such as coastal storms and sea level rise will lead to increased frequency and depth of flooding in coastal areas. The Coast Protection Board has proposed that a sea level rise of 0.3m by the year 2050 be adopted for most coastal planning and design.

The implications of this are quite clear - options for management of our beaches based on current conditions are not going to be fit for purpose in 20-30 years. Major sand replenishment projects have been undertaken around the world, but in many cases, they have proven to be fleeting solutions.

This means our Council needs to work with neighbouring coastal councils, namely Holdfast Shores, West Torrens and Port Adelaide Enfield to achieve a collective strategy for long term management of our beaches. We need to reimagine approaches to beach management in the hope that our beaches can be transformed into healthy, self-healing coastal environments — before it is too late.

We ask that Council revisit the position it took back in 1997 when it totally opposed the Boat Harbour and supported the report from Manly Hydraulics as well as national and international coastal science on the impacts of coastal structures.

In the meantime we support the replenishment of the 110,000 cubic meters over 12 months while Council works collaboratively with government agencies and other councils to make our beaches accessible and safe for future generations.

Priority - Collaboration across governments

One forum for climate action across government

Governments, federal, state and local are at various stages of addressing climate change. However, as concerned citizens, we note a lack of coordination in bringing all of these conversations into line under a comprehensive set of objectives and actions appropriate to each level. We note that the Conservation Council SA has taken the initiative to set up a series of conversations on Community Climate concerns in conjunction with the SA Government. WACRA hopes this leads to a flourishing of targeted action across levels of government from a single forum.

We are heartened to see that our Mayor, Angela Evans, has just been appointed as a representative on the SA Government Climate Committee. Her presence on this Committee should assist our community in influencing collaborative initiatives as a priority. For a thriving, safe and healthy community, working across government on this priority is essential.

Priority - Maintaining community cohesion

Pressures against cohesion are growing

A recent study of capital cities across Australia showed that Adelaide was the most 'middle-class' city of all the major capitals. We have less ostentatious wealth and less overt poverty and disadvantage. That doesn't mean these do not exist. Within our council, certain postcodes have more or less of these characteristics.

Adelaide still has many people who belong to institutions - schools, religious groups, community and sporting organisations, workplaces and volunteer opportunities. These webs of interactions ground people as mostly kind and responsible citizens, aware of being connected to others. The internet, social media, working from home and the pressure of life mean that in the future, people could withdraw from these cohesive encounters with their fellow citizens. We see this in the US where there is increased polarisation, more meanness, a shattering of common community values.

We do not want to emulate this US trend towards social fragmentation, and there are things that will help build social cohesion. This Community Plan can offer a vision of preserving and reinforcing the community we already have. Our community facilities are crucial to keeping people engaged in our place - our libraries and community centres, sporting clubs and facilities, our parks and beaches. Volunteers are encouraged across our Council and engaged in vital work of social cohesion and environmental custodianship.

Disadvantaged postcodes, where people struggle most with health, income inequality, poorer housing, are the ones who will be further disadvantaged if the Council does not make a major move against social inequality.

Role of Tree-planting in social cohesion

Can you rise to the challenge of making our Council 'the leafy suburbs of the West?'

There is evidence that green trees tend to lower the tendency to aggression if people have trees around them. There are other reasons to plant and maintain trees. Community tolerance and cohesion are more likely if people are not stressed or distressed with heat. This week, one estimate is that by 2100, the average temperature will have risen by 5-6 degrees Celsius.

It is well-documented that there are fewer requests for tree-planting from lower socio-economic suburbs, in our city and around the world. This is partly a low expectation of what they deserve, but also based on prejudices against trees, against nature. Redistributive programs of tree-planting need to bring people along with them, to consult to see if it is just eucalypt branches falling that they fear or what the barriers are to believing they deserve a 'leafy suburb'.

One Neighborhood, 90 Trees and an 82-Year-Old Crusader is a story about a collaboration between Urban Resources Initiative, a Yale University initiative, local councils, residents and volunteers have planted over 11,000 trees in New Haven, Connecticut. Many of these have

been in low socio-economic areas where initial residents' resistance was high. ¹ These are not unique problems to our Council, but it is worth seeing how other jurisdictions fight against these attitudes to bring new possibilities and green to people who may not see it as important.

Engagement with First Nations peoples

We note that for some time that Charles Sturt has been trying to engage local Aboriginal residents and further their advancement. 'Welcome to Country' is used extensively and there have been bridges built with local indigenous people. This is a good start, but WACRA would like to see new programs to promote employment. That traditionally was a local government role, to bring people in and up.

Where are the resources to host or partner with Kurna cultural tourism opportunities and to seek out new Aboriginal graduates and make placements in the Council? Have you reached out to make Council facilities available for Kurna gatherings, rehearsals or just hanging out comfortably in their own space? WACRA urges the Council to be more proactive in this space.

Some of these issues are addressed in the excellent report commissioned by Council in 2011 which has no doubt formed the basis of some Council initiatives. We reiterate the importance of this document which contains a wealth of information that can guide ".....inclusion of Kurna (and other) Aboriginal people and culture in its area and provide leadership at a local government level".² Recommendations from this report are included in Appendix 1 so that they are not kept separate or lost when framing the new Community Plan.

Redistributive Planning for Disadvantaged Residents

Many things were learned in the times of the Covid pandemic. One of these was how the Council could pivot a large majority of its workforce to home-based offices through technology. Well done on keeping the wheels turning.

But it was also very apparent that the essential workers that kept our city going were not the creative classes with mid to high level office jobs, but the nurses, personal care workers, grocery store workers, bus drivers, and other precarious employees. Workers least able to socially distance through telework were most exposed to the economic and health dangers associated with the pandemic. Many of these workers are living in more disadvantaged parts of our Council. Are we providing these key residents with the opportunities, resources and supports they need to survive and thrive?

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/20/us/trees-heat-wave-new-haven-ct.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

² Karl Winda Telfer and Gavin Malone, *Kurna Public Space Recognition and Inclusion* https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/161792/City-of-Charles-Sturt,-Kurna-Public-Space-Recognition-and-Inclusion.pdf

Sustainable planning needed in housing development

We need sustainable planning for the social, economic and environmental outcomes underlying this plan. WACRA has made a substantial submission to the review of planning in SA and await the result with interest. The Greater Adelaide Planning Review, released this month, shows a nuanced understanding of the key drivers of community cohesion, including moving from scattered urban infill to more strategic clustered developments.

It is important that high-density developments are accompanied by innovative planting strategies and high levels of green spaces. These are needed to offset the substantially higher carbon footprint of infill housing.

WACRA is particularly concerned by seeing many social housing developments bulldozed and not replaced like for like. Hopefully the new federal government funding for social and public housing can begin to claw back the ideological trend that dismantled decades of progressive social housing policy with the SA Housing Trust. It will take time to bring back opportunities for low-income people to live with dignity, but it must be done.

We also uphold the inherent value of heritage fabric in our community. So much development is taking away these buildings that hold stories and aesthetics of past decades without valuing them. We urge the planners at Charles Sturt to use every lever possible to not approve proposals that destroy our community's heritage.

Council library/community centres

We welcome the contribution of people of all ages, gender and cultures in making Charles Sturt a demographically complex and interesting city. Community cohesion is fragile - it is hard to build and easy to destroy. This plan can build on existing structures so that people feel happy to live and work here, not invisible, unheard or disrespected. Our libraries will be crucial social infrastructure for the future.

Libraries may also become essential shelter points as cool areas in the future, or refuges from floods or fire - we don't know. In terms of forward planning, we commend the active strategy of the Council to create multi-purpose library/community centres with great access, availability, technology and digital training and community programs that keep community bonds vibrant. The early childhood programs should continue to serve families. Let's push out further to meet cultural needs of new migrants and refugees and to aid people with disabilities to access more learning opportunities towards employment.

There are also gaps in the provision of programs that improve well-being, such as listening skills that improve everyone's quality of life: 'how to disagree with respect, how to ask for and offer forgiveness, how to cultivate friendship, how to sit with a depressed person, how to be a good conversationalist'.³

Growth areas for Council funding and action in relationships and arts

The City of Charles Sturt supports a very large number of schools. Mostly, they are not shown on the business map of the city, which is disappointing. They are big centres of employment, growth and opportunity for our Council. Our *My Tree Project* showed the

³ David Brooks, 'How America Got Mean' *The Atlantic*, Sept 2023

untapped potential of activating the whole ecosystem of a school - its land, its children and families and staff, to educate about nature, growing and planting trees.

We would welcome a more dynamic interaction fostered by our Council with schools at each age from pre-school to Year 12. The recent ABC research project of matching four-year-olds with people in aged care to great benefit of both age groups, shows a potential that could be implemented more holistically by a Council as a broker with schools and aged care facilities in our city.

WACRA asks for a substantial rise in Council funding and incentives to activate culture, tourism, history, and the arts. These are valuable for the people involved and to make our city a place with a soul. We believe that a much greater emphasis could be placed on the arts and culture segment in upcoming budget bids, including appropriate staff to drive programs.

Local Councils in the past had youth engagement officers working in the arts. These are investments in people who can be vulnerable without interesting engagement programs and WACRA fully supports more work in this area which will have economic benefit flow-ons.

Not only is art good for our health and our local communities, it also strengthens the economy. Creative industries provide jobs, encourage tourism and boost revenue to local businesses. The latest analysis from the Bureau of Communications, Arts and Regional Research (BCARR) shows cultural and creative activities contributed \$122.3 billion to our national economy in 2019–20. Labour studies in the US show that the value added by arts and culture to the economy is five times greater than the value from the agricultural sector.

Reducing traffic levels on suburban streets

We expect that the predicted population growth in the City of Charles Sturt may start to fray edges of tolerance and lead to poorer outcomes in terms of cohesion. The issue of road usage and parking is a harbinger of this, as the urban infill enabled by current planning laws only mandates parking for one vehicle on a new property. That means in the majority of households in this Council, the extra one or two cars are parked on the streets, which are often narrow and not meant to carry this load.

Census data shows that the number of households with two and three cars is increasing in our Council. Over the 10 years from 2011 to 2021, two car households have increased by 13.9% and three car households by 26.8% within our Council area according to ABS data. Urban infill and access to public transport are not reducing the number of cars we own, just crowding existing streets.

Navigation apps are also sending people through back ways that they would never before have considered using. In some areas of our Council, particularly along the coast and on main roads, there has been a significant increase in very noisy traffic such as buses, trucks and illegally noisy vehicles and motorcycles. Existing noise laws are no longer enforced, meaning quality of life (and sleep) are eroded.

Added to that, changes in technology (and the recent pandemic) mean home shopping and e-commerce is becoming more the norm, with delivery vehicles increasingly using congested suburban streets, often stopping in bike lanes, or other inconvenient places.

Though there appears to be no obvious solution, Council could put more resources into traffic monitoring and gathering residents' views and experiences with a view to addressing the problems before they become a major issue.

Priority - Preparing for a nuclear future

Given the Western suburbs of Adelaide now is part of the AUKUS agreement, with nuclear submarines to be built in our sister Council area, what are the implications for the City of Charles Sturt? Has there been a full and frank discussion of this with Council? Have you worked with the federal government to scope out opportunities, risks and threats? As a community, this is beyond us as individuals or small groups. This initiative must come from our civic leadership, our elected Council.

Since 1977, at least 115 Australia local governments have declared their municipalities nuclear-free, including 10 from South Australia. A nuclear industry is not an idea; it is coming very close with Osborne becoming a manufacturing hub for nuclear submarines. These nuclear-powered submarines are themselves the weapons, although will also have an amazing arsenal of other high-tech weaponry onboard.

What is to stop a potential adversary from bombing this facility? In the case of a nuclear attack, it is councils that will be on the front-line to coordinate local responses. The Mayors for Peace Fremantle have made a list of what councils would need to do following the immediate impacts of nuclear detonation:

1. Remediating unsafe buildings still standing
2. Managing street and road debris
3. Ongoing collection of vast amounts of waste
4. Identifying safer places to meet and communicate with the community
5. Licensing temporary food outlets
6. Hygiene and local sewerage arrangements
7. Arrangements for triage, temporary hospitals on local parks
8. Local mass burials
9. Evacuations
10. Managing the loss of infrastructure such as traffic lights and telecommunications networks.
11. Council mental health
12. Enforcements of curfews
13. Managing food shortages and redistribution
14. Managing social unrest
15. Waste, sewerage, disease
16. Administering aspects of martial law.

Are you ready for this planning on behalf of the community? Since AUKUS has become a live bipartisan policy in Australia, it is even more important to heed the June 2021 call of the

Australian Local Government Association, which unanimously passed a motion that declared: “The National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons”.

At its January 25th 2017 General Meeting, WACRA voted unanimously for Council to adopt a policy and a commitment, consistent with many other South Australian Councils, declaring the City of Charles Sturt a Nuclear-free Zone ‘off-limits’ to:

- High and intermediate level radioactive materials or wastes being created, used, stored or transported
- Nuclear power plants, including power stations, uranium enrichment and reprocessing plants
- Nuclear weapons or facilities associated with the development, manufacture, transport or use of nuclear weapons, component parts and associated technology.
- The exception to the above is for safety-approved low-level applications in medical, hospital and/or research facilities, approved under the terms of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act.

WACRA proposed to Council that it would like to make a deputation on this issue. Minutes from the Council’s meeting of April 24th 2017 have a statement from the Presiding Member that, ‘In accordance with the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013 (Reg 11 – Deputations (5)) the Presiding Member must report to the Council if they make the decision to refuse a deputation to appear at a meeting. A request was received from WACRA seeking to make a presentation to Council on a Nuclear Free Policy. I recently made the decision to decline a request. *This request was declined as it is not within Council’s powers to make decisions on the establishment of nuclear industries, this sits with the state and federal government.*’

It is now six years since that determination to not hear our deputation about this key issue. In terms of planning for the future, the idea of extinction is not unthinkable, either from climate stability losing its hold or from a man-made destructive event centred around our adjacent Council’s submarine manufacturing facility. The Community Plan needs to take both these global threats seriously in demonstrating care and commitment to its citizens and future generations.

Priority - Need for ongoing evaluation

The principles and goals of equity and democracy underlie the development of this Community Plan. It involves residents in a collaborative process that will improve their lives with a tangible policy vision, agenda, and plan of action that encompasses both a budget and institutional change to see it through.

The existing Council Community Plan has acted as a guide with a set of objectives for Council to achieve a better city. A smart organisation uses evaluations to boost its outcomes and productivity.

WACRA is interested to hear from the Council about the extent to which you have achieved the objectives set out in the previous Community Plan and how you have evaluated your progress. Lessons learned can help shape the new Plan.

WACRA suggests four core values for the City of Charles Sturt that could be a checklist for ongoing evaluation.

1. Prepare for an environmentally sustainable city.
2. Reduce inequality in the distribution of resources and services.
3. Enhance democratic participation and involvement in decision-making by the city's diverse resident base.
4. Improve the public good of our community, including access to public space, nature and urban amenities for all population groups.

This planning process is a place where pivotal conversations can forge plans that keep valuing and supporting cohesion in our community. Effective evaluation requires a publicly accessible documented program logic setting out the program objectives and how the proposed activities will lead to the intended outcomes - and how the evaluation process will monitor and assess the program performance.

We look forward to working with interested staff and councillors on any of these ideas or others that you would like to test with our active group. We would like to model being good listeners in our community and are willing to be a sounding board to Council in your evaluation and re-framing of the Plan for a strong community.

Evaluating implementation of the Community Plan

WACRA advocates for the adoption of tangible, measurable goals that can be evaluated in terms of engagement and progress. An example of one based on our proposals is set out below.

Engagement with First Nations peoples

- Implement programs to promote employment
- Provide resources to host or partner with Kurna cultural tourism opportunities
- Provide employment opportunities for new Aboriginal graduates and offer placements in the Council
- Provide facilities for Kurna gatherings, rehearsals or just hanging out comfortably in their own space

Fauna regeneration for habitat

- Biodiversity-enhancing urban planning in green spaces
- Intensive plantings of low-lying ground-covers and grasses on Council land

Our Trees Project

- Provision of incentives and support to sports clubs using outdoor Council facilities to plant the edges of their playing fields

Community electrification

- Sponsorship of projects to establish community batteries

Tree planting

- Substantially increase canopy targets with a focus on areas with low levels of coverage

Beach Management

- Work with government agencies and neighbouring coastal councils to achieve a collective strategy for long term management of our beaches

Climate action across governments

- Advocacy for one forum for climate action across governments

Minimisation of waste

- Provision of simple, easy to access tools that will help us reduce energy costs, minimise waste and limit emissions

Sustainable housing development

- High-density developments are accompanied by innovative planting strategies and high levels of green spaces

Redistributive Planning for Disadvantaged Residents

- Develop programs that provide vulnerable workers with the opportunities, resources and supports they need to survive and thrive

Protection of existing heritage fabric

- Minimal approval of proposals that destroy our community heritage

Council library/community centres

- Implementation of programs that meet cultural needs of new migrants and refugees and aid people with disabilities to access more learning opportunities towards employment

Additional Council funding and action in relationships and arts

- Programs that foster interaction of Council with schools at each age from pre-school to Year 12
- Funding and incentives to activate culture, tourism, history, and the arts

Reducing traffic levels on suburban streets

- Implement measures aimed at reducing commercial traffic volumes and number of cars parked on suburban streets

Nuclear Free Zone

- Work with the federal government to identify, risks and threats of nuclear programs in and near our council area
- Develop a program that plans for what our council would need to do following a significant disaster
- Declare the City of Charles Sturt a Nuclear-free Zone

Evaluation

- Documented, publicly accessible program to evaluate implementation and progress towards achieving the Community Vision
- Clearer and more accessible information about Council agendas and meeting outcomes
- Access to live-streamed Council meetings in order to enhance transparency, accessible participation and civic engagement

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1 September 2023

Appendix 1

Kurna Public Space Recognition and Inclusion

Council Actions, Guidelines or Policies

Kurna/Aboriginal Youth Inclusion and Mentoring

It is recommended that Council provide opportunities for Kurna and other Aboriginal people, particularly youth, to be included in the implementation of public space (and other) projects in a work experience or mentored role. One of the key social intents of public space (and other Aboriginal) projects is to build individual and community capacity and skills. Mentoring and work experience is a key strategy to achieve this. It also provides for a broader ownership and pride in the process and outcome of projects. Whilst a mentoring component may not be appropriate for all projects, where it is appropriate it should be built into the project brief and budget.

Kurna Place-naming and Dual Naming

It is recommended that Council develop guidelines/policy on the application of Kurna naming or dual naming within the Council area as another form of acknowledgement. As a first step it is recommended that Council adopt a policy of using the official dual naming of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri in all references to the River (see 6.4).

Kurna Library Resource Materials

It is recommended that Council develop a public collection of reference books and information on Kurna (and other Aboriginal) life and place it in the Council library. This would be a valuable Council and community resource. The Library already has several publications on which to build the collection. The collection could have the designation of a special collection and be known by a Kurna name or be named after a Kurna person or place.

Kurna Archaeological and Anthropological Surveys

It is recommended that Council play an active role in advocating or assisting archaeological and anthropological surveys which happen in the Council area. There has not been a comprehensive archaeological or anthropological survey of the whole Council area to date. The commissioning of a Council-wide survey is not being proposed but the matter is raised as an issue for Council to be cognisant of. Specific site reports may have been commissioned or be required over time as part of developments or when Kurna material heritage is located as part of other activities (see 4.2).

Kurna Inclusion in Development Plan Reviews

It is recommended that Council include consideration of Kurna social history and significant sites in any reviews of Development Plans in the City (see 5.5).

Kaurna Recognition in Major Developments and Urban Infrastructure

It is recommended that Council consider the inclusion of a Kaurna component/recognition in new developments or redevelopments in the Council area. It is not suggested that every development requires a Kaurna inclusion, rather that it be one consideration in the conceptual and assessment process of any proposal (see 5.6).

Kaurna Recognition in Parks and Gardens

It is recommended that Council provide opportunities in its parks and gardens for Kaurna recognition through planting themes and/or interpretive information. No particular spaces are recommended at this point in time (see 5.7.2).

Kaurna Recognition in Play Spaces

It is recommended that Council develop play spaces based on Kaurna (or other Aboriginal) games to provide for cross-cultural learning and provide play spaces that are culturally reinforcing for Aboriginal people (see 5.7.3).

Kaurna Information Provision to Community Groups

It is recommended that Council provide information on Kaurna cultural heritage and projects to appropriate community groups. Community groups initiate and facilitate a range of cultural activity at a local level and often have an interest in broader Kaurna and Aboriginal inclusion. This is evidenced by the activities that have already occurred within the Council area at the community level. Such groups include:

- . Local history societies
- . West Adelaide Coastal Residents Association (WACRA) & Hindmarsh Greening
- . Henley and Grange Art Society

Kaurna Recognition in the Ranges to the Sea Community Project

It is recommended that Council participate in the Ranges to the Sea community/council project (if and when it further develops) to provide support for Kaurna recognition along the length of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri (see 5.8.1).