



# MOUNT BARKER

Royal Geographical Society SA – August 2023

Mayor David Leach



MOUNT BARKER  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the district is part of the traditional ancestral land of the Peramangk people. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the Peramangk people to this land and their ongoing custodianship.



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## ABOUT US

Located on approximately 30km from Adelaide CBD in the Adelaide Hills, Mount Barker District Council is the fastest growing LGA in South Australia and the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest in Australia (by percentage).

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW



## AREA

Covering an area of 595km<sup>2</sup> the District comprises residential land to general farming to viticulture.



## POPULATION

With a current population of 39,600 the population is set to grow to 56,000 by 2036 (a 34% increase).



## EMPLOYMENT

Local job market focused on provision of household services such as health, education and retail with almost 36% of local employment in these industries.



## AGRICULTURE

Agriculture supports close to 340 jobs in the District.

## GROWING WITH NATURE



[Mount Barker A City Growing With Nature - YouTube](#)



# COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

2020-2035

CIRCULAR  
ECONOMIES

ACTIVATING  
TOURISM

GROWTH  
INFRAST.

NATURE  
CONNECTION

CLIMATE  
INNOVATION

HEALTHY  
COMMUNITY





# OUR PRIORITIES

## Activating tourism

Lot 100, Nairne

- Opened in 2018
- 84-hectare agricultural property
- All-in-One Brewery, Distillery, Cellar Door and Restaurant
- \$4.5 million investment into production facility and cellar door





# OUR PRIORITIES

## Activating tourism

### Beerenberg

- Strawberry crop planted in 1969
- Beerenberg (Berry Hill in German) established by 1971
- By year 2000, sales of condiments and dressings expand into supermarkets
- 2018 expansion of major office / warehouse and factory development
- 2022 opening of visitor experience centre
- Employ over 100 staff and have over 100 products.



# OUR PRIORITIES

## Growth infrastructure

### Heysen Boulevard

- Connector road running through the Mount Barker growth area.
- Road construction has occurred in piecemeal fashion with each developer of a land parcel constructing their section of the road when they choose to develop their land.
- As such only about half of the road is finished with a series of no through roads waiting for the next section to be constructed.
- Council advocacy role.





# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Cudlee Creek Fire

- Fire started 20 December 2019
- Devastated Adelaide Hills Region
- Burnt an area of over 23,000ha, approximately 32% of the total fire ground occurred in our district.
- Including reserves, watercourses, significant native vegetation roadsides that are important corridors and habitat
- Cost to Mount Barker Council estimated to have exceeded \$1m (operational costs only)
- Mount Barker became a relief centre with up to 150 people in attendance at any one time.





## SUMMARY

Council faces many challenges including climate change, the annual threat of bushfires, rapid population growth and significant infrastructure costs to service this growth.

This will require Council to partner with others including State and Federal governments to ensure our community's needs are met. I am very proud of our District; it offers the best of urban and rural living in a setting where residents and visitors can enjoy clean air, open spaces and natural beauty.





THANK YOU

Mayor David Leach

0484 147 035

[David.Leach@MountBarker.sa.gov.au](mailto:David.Leach@MountBarker.sa.gov.au)

[MountBarker.sa.gov.au](http://MountBarker.sa.gov.au)

