



Mt Barker & District Residents' Association Inc

PO Box 494 Mount Barker, South Australia 5251

For the Community

20 September 2015

Ms Penny Worland
Planning Dept
Mt Barker District Council
PO Box 54
Mt Barker 5251

Dear Penny

RE Submission to the Mt Barker Showgrounds Master Plan

The Mt Barker and District Residents' Association (MBDRA) believes the development of a Masterplan for the Mt Barker Showground site is a positive outcome of recent consultations with key stakeholder groups. The MBDRA was not included in the original consultations and we felt this was a short coming of that process as our members and followers are users of the site. Moreover we have no vested interest in our own interests as a user group, thereby able to provide an objective view point.

The Masterplan prepared by Jensen Consultants is easy to read incorporating key findings, assessment of the issues and offering some recommendations which we find pragmatic and useful. The report incorporates many of the key principles which the Association believes are important to this community. These include:

- retention of open space for community activities and linkage of this open space to Keith Stephenson Park
- retention and improvement of the green areas and retention of the mature gum trees
- attention to the heritage of the site, and particularly the movement of the Von Doussa Memorial to a more central location
- access for all of the community, not just the lessees and key user groups
- appropriate management structure including more user groups to be represented
- refurbishment or rebuilding of the Adelaide Hills Recreation Centre building
- inclusion of the requirements of other groups such as the RSL, Adelaide Hills Motor Restorer's Club and The Men's Shed
- Consideration of the ongoing inclusion of key events such as the Mt Barker Show, Circus, Power of the Past, Caledonian Society and others
- The establishment of more seating and social areas at each of the core centres of activities
- The inclusion of a 'youth zone' adjacent the Rage Cage

New aquatic centre

The inclusion of high quality indoor facilities including basketball, netball and aquatics would be a significant asset to the district. We suggest serious consideration be given to incorporating a new aquatic centre into this plan as the current Mountain Pool is under size for competitive activities and requires serious refurbishment.

Loss of perimeter fencing

We are somewhat concerned at the loss of the perimeter fencing. This fencing was only replaced in the last 2 years. Despite not being that attractive, the fencing makes it much easier for community events to be run without additional costs for temporary fencing. We feel this is important to consider in the plan if events are to be continued to be held here. We are unsure what is meant by 'open style fencing' and where this would be placed.

Importantly, during any bushfire warning this site has always become a refuge and safe haven for families, animals and livestock. During the recent Sampson Flat fires, there were horses, goats and other livestock using the stocks and pens for a number of days. The fencing enabled this to occur without concern about animals or people straying onto either busy road.

This fencing (when the gates are closed) allows for easy control of access for paying guests. It enables the community to let their dogs run free and their children to play and run around. Keith Stephenson Park only enables this in very restricted areas. We support the idea of having easier access to both pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles. This can be done by installing more gates around the site.

The history of the site has been recognised and will be a key feature of the redevelopment. We applaud this.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Masterplan and we look forward to contributing to the next phase of the project.

Kind regards

Dianne van Eck

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Chairperson