

Gumeracha Main Street Project
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22 May 2017

Annual Business Plan Consultation (2017/18)
Adelaide Hills Council
PO Box 44
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Via email mail@ahc.sa.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

Gumeracha Main Street Project - Annual Business Plan Consultation (2017/18)

Our group has reviewed the documentation associated with the Adelaide Hills Council's Annual Business Plan Consultation for the 2017/18 financial year.

As a newly established group with an aim of improving business sustainability and activating the Main Street of Gumeracha through making it more people-friendly, safer and visually attractive, we are excited about what is identified for Gumeracha in the 2017/18 Annual Business Plan. Our Vision for Gumeracha, developed through extensive community consultation, is built around the following words which we invite Council to embrace through its planning processes for the town-

*PERAMANGK, DISCOVERY, NATURE, ABUNDANCE, LINGER, FRIENDLY,
UNINHIBITED and SAFE*

As many Council staff and Elected Members are aware, the number one priority for our group and many citizens of Gumeracha is to underground the powerlines along the Main Street of Gumeracha from Gumeracha Primary School to the Randell Tce intersection. With the assistance of Cr Malcolm Herrmann and Mr Peter Bice, we are taking small, but essential steps, towards fulfilling this goal.

Similar to most communities in the Council area, there are many other items residents and business owners would like Council to invest in, such as resurfacing of the tennis/netball courts, modernising the colour scheme of the Torrens Valley Community Centre and Town Hall, new playground equipment and improved footpaths across the town.

However, in reviewing the Annual Business Plan, our group is pleasantly surprised with the projects planned by Council for Gumeracha in the coming years. Some of these projects we strongly support, and encourage Council to ensure these projects remain scheduled, include-

- Proposed masterplan and subsequent development of a regional playspace in Federation Park, Gumeracha
 - *This will ensure Gumeracha continues to maintain its role as a regional centre for the Torrens Valley/Northern Adelaide Hills, and attract visitors from across Adelaide, which in turn increases the sustainability, activation and prosperity of the Gumeracha Main Street*

- Upgrades to footpaths and kerbing in Murray and Wellington Streets, Gumeracha
 - *This will ensure that Gumeracha continues to grow as a place accessible for all and one where incidental physical activity and walking is encouraged*
- The creation of a 'Virtual Reality' hub based from the Torrens Valley Community Centre in Gumeracha
 - *This will provide another drawcard for the town, reinforcing its role as a regional centre and encouraging locals and visitors alike to enjoy the full range of businesses and community services that are situated along the Main Street*
- The proposed \$75,000 for a pedestrian refuge on the Main Street (Albert Street), Gumeracha in the 2019/2020 financial year
 - *This will benefit the community greatly, as safer pedestrian crossing points have been raised by the community in consultation we have undertaken. Safer pedestrian crossing of the Main Street is vitally important, given that nearly 4000 vehicles per day use this road, which contains a Retirement Village, Primary School, child care and kindergarten, bus stops and a Public Hospital/Nursing Home, as well as all the businesses that are situated along the street*
- The \$10,000 proposed for the Coleman sculpture installation in Federation Park, Gumeracha
 - *The group sees this as an important public acknowledgement of Peramangk culture. It also acts as another attraction for Gumeracha, which will further position Gumeracha as a key Adelaide Hills town that invites all people to freely savour and enjoy the scenery and experiences offered within the town. The additional visitors to the town will then assist with sustainability and activation of the Main Street*
- The proposal by Council to increase resourcing for the Development Services team and pursue electronic development applications
 - *Several businesses have provided feedback to our group that development assessment turnaround times and staff availability is problematic and thus is not fostering a culture of encouragement and nurturing for new and expanding businesses. Therefore additional resourcing would be of assistance to new and expanding businesses in and around Gumeracha.*

Comments for Council's consideration include-

- 1) In the event that the Federal Government Building Better Regions funding application is not successful, that Council still commit to the \$15,000 allocated for Gumeracha Masterplanning (Federation Park/Main Street), and utilise funds from another source (e.g. Item 11.14 – Capital Works – \$20,000 Gumeracha Stormwater Study or the \$25,000 Customer Experience Survey) to ensure that this vitally important 'first-step' of a Main Street Masterplan project still occurs in the 2017/18 financial year
- 2) The need to ensure budget planning as part of the annual financial cycle and the Long-Term Financial Plan includes reservation of funds for the future undergrounding of powerlines in the Main Street of Gumeracha (subject to PLEC and DPTI funding)

- 3) The potential for improved cycling and walking trails to service Gumeracha. The Mawson and Heysen Trails both come within 2km of the Gumeracha township, yet one cannot safely (off-road) reach the town from these trails. Given the plethora of state-owned forest, SA Water land and SA Water access tracks within the area, we strongly encourage Council to assist with our group's quest to encourage more visitors to Gumeracha and commence negotiations with relevant State Government entities about 'opening up' to the public (where safe) ForestrySA and SA Water land, consistent with creating Local and/or Supporting Trails as part of the Strategy to establish the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Region as an international mountain bike destination
- 4) The group congratulates Council on the increase in funding for the Community Grants budget
- 5) The group would like to see additional funding allocated for Reconciliation and public arts projects, noting that our group is taking a lead role in pursuing both these activities within the Gumeracha community and recognising their importance across the region.

On behalf of the Gumeracha Main Street Project Working Party, I thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2017/18 Annual Business Plan. Further, it is pleasing to see the Council's ongoing positive support for Gumeracha and alignment of both our groups and Council's vision and goals.

Please contact me on 0425 286 064 should you wish to discuss any aspects of our submission.

Yours sincerely,



Chelsea Lewis
Chair
Gumeracha Main Street Project

The Gumeracha Main Street Project is a community-led initiative aimed at enhancing the economics and aesthetics of the main street of this Adelaide Hills township.

The Main Street Working Party acknowledges that the township of Gumeracha is built on the land of the Peramangk people - the Traditional Owners of the region known today as the Adelaide Hills. We pay our respects to Peramangk Elders past, present and future.

Gumeracha residents and business owners have formed the voluntary Main Street Working Party with a long-term view of achieving economic sustainability, visual beauty and changed traffic behaviour.