

Response to the District Council of Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan

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To Greg Sarre: Manager Strategic Planning & Economic Development
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the 2035 District Council of Mt Barker (DCMB) draft Strategic Plan.

Optimising future opportunities from mine closure planning

The KCCCC is a forum for the community to come together to raise issues and encourage action on matters related to the Kanmantoo Copper Mine.

There is an understanding that mining will finish at the Kanmantoo Copper Mine sometime in the future and certainly during the life of the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan. The current approvals allow mining until 2019 and there may be further proposals for extension beyond this time.

The fact remains that mining will be completed at the Kanmantoo Callington Copper Mine in the foreseeable future, the site will be rehabilitated and improved through native vegetation plantings and landscaping, considerable infrastructure such as water management facilities, electricity substation, upgraded communications and private road networks may be available for other uses and over 250 people will need to find alternative work.

A mine closure and completion plan (MCCP) is a requirement of the government Regulator for all operating mines like the Kanmantoo Copper Mine. The KCCCC has identified an opportunity for the mine to add value to planning a future for Kanmantoo Callington by clearly understanding the community priorities for the area and modifying their MCCP where possible to help deliver these. For example the community sees a future in tourism for the area which would benefit from certain access tracks in and around the mine site being maintained along with various mine vantage points and perhaps walking and riding trails constructed as part of the final landscape.

These opportunities are currently being developed by a KCCCC working party focused on Master Planning for the area. The KCCCC believes that it is imperative that the KCCCC Master Plan and the District Council of Mt Barker's Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic are complementary.

In summary, this response to the District Council of Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan is focused on promoting:

- a clear understanding of the community's view of a future for the Kanmantoo Callington area as captured in the KCCCC Master Plan
- the identification of opportunities for the mine to add value where it can to the future of the area through its mine closure and completion plan and
- support by the District Council of Mt Barker (DCMB) for this community led initiative through appropriate recognition in the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan.

Response to questions on which the Council is seeking feedback

1. Do you agree with the Objectives and Strategies of the draft Plan? (from pp 34)
2. Are the priorities identified under each Goal Area the right ones? (also from pp 34)

Goal area 1: Community Well-being

The emphasis on community well-being in the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan is one shared by the Kanmantoo Callington community. Integral to well-being for the Kanmantoo Callington area is the preservation of a rural lifestyle serviced by appropriate infrastructure as proposed by Objective 3.

The KCCCC sees an opportunity for the further development of strong relationships with education and research institutions drawn to the area as a result of its unique geology and mining history. This investment is one of the major strands for community development contained in the KCCCC Master Plan and is consistent with Objective 6 of the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan.

Priorities for Goal Area 1

The KCCC recognises the role of place-based planning in the Mt Barker 2035 Strategic Plan. In simple terms this means:

- identifying the appropriate role for various townships including Kanmantoo Callington
- promoting services to be available in these townships that match the lifestyle
- ensuring access to the broad range of services nearby in the District through appropriate transport options including safe and well maintained roads and regular public transport.

A reference to this concept needs to be a priority under Community Well-being to ensure that the smaller townships of the District are appropriately recognised.

Goal area 2: Economic prosperity

The KCCCC understands the significance of investment and jobs growth to the District. In this context it is important to understand that the Kanmantoo Copper Mine currently employs about 260 people on the mine site (through Hillgrove and its major operations contractors) and over 85 smaller local contractors who provide products and services. Most of these workers live locally or in the region.

The KCCCC sees an opportunity for significant tourism development in the Kanmantoo Callington area promoted by its long history of mining and smelting activity and supported by the current Kanmantoo Copper Mine through its MCCP.

The KCCCC sees that the Kanmantoo Callington area will need to move through structural change in the future as the mining operations eventually close down at the Kanmantoo Copper Mine, the economic and jobs focus turns to things like tourism and education, and those employed in the mine move on to other mines perhaps in the District or elsewhere. Given the scale of this potential structural change, some mention should be made in the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan.

Priorities for Goal Area 2

The KCCCC believes that major economic infrastructure like water management facilities, electricity substation, communications technology and private road networks that have been built in the area should be applied in the first instance to the benefit of the Kanmantoo Callington area once mining has concluded. In other words the community who hosted the mine's development should be the prime or priority beneficiary of any positive legacy from the mine. This is especially true when the community is working with the mine to enhance these opportunities through the MCCP as is the case at Kanmantoo Callington.

Goal area 3: The Urban Environment

The protection of built heritage in the 'urban environment' is particularly important to the future tourism ambitions for the Kanmantoo Callington area as well as maintaining its amenity and character for residents.

Priorities for Goal area 3

One aspect of significance to Kanmantoo Callington is to promote a common approach to the identification and protection of built heritage between the parts of the area that fall under the jurisdiction of District Council of Mt Barker and those under the Rural City of Murray Bridge.

Goal area 4: The Natural Environment and Sustainable Living

The KCCCC sees the natural environment as central to the prosperous and sustainable future of the Kanmantoo Callington area.

A focus of the MCCP is on the rehabilitation of disturbed sites with landscaping, replanting of vegetation and the encouragement of sustainable ecosystems. The disturbed sites also include some historical mining areas. Other areas of the mine site and nearby are subject to Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) Programs and native vegetation plantings.

So in the case of Kanmantoo Callington there are the following natural environmental features that are valued by, and will add value to, the community's future aspirations for the area:

- the preservation and protection of existing unique populations of rare and endangered vegetation
- the rehabilitation and subsequent protection of disturbed and degraded vegetation
- the establishment, protection and future management of new plantings of vegetation under SEB / Native Vegetation Programs

Priorities for Goal area 4

The implementation of the Council's Biodiversity Strategy is consistent with the priorities for the KCCCC.

Goal area 5: Governance and leadership

The KCCCC notes that this Goal area is generally introspective to Council and reflective of leading practice for local Government.

Priorities for Goal area 5

The two areas of particular importance to the KCCCC are:

- a recognition by Council of community leadership in planning for the future and a genuine willingness to empower communities where they have demonstrated the necessary commitment and capacity
- to work closely to promote consistency with the Rural City of Murray Bridge in the unique circumstance where Callington is divided by this shared Council boundary

3. Are the community issues identified in the Plan the right ones for your community?

The Mt Barker 2015 draft Strategic Plan points out that the development of the District is strongly influenced by the 30 year Plan for Greater Adelaide and driven by strong population growth in the more urban centres like Mt Barker, Nairne and Littlehampton particularly.

The contextual information about the District (Our District, History and Community Profile) appears to have a strong emphasis on issues for the District that result from fast population growth.

Notwithstanding that there is recognition of the unique character and qualities of smaller townships like Kanmantoo and Callington in the section on Communities in the District, this differentiation could be strengthened. Kanmantoo and Callington along with many other smaller hills townships do not see their future based on rapid population growth but rather on local amenity and good access to services and employment opportunities both locally and elsewhere in the region.

The need for local jobs for local people is acknowledged in the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan. This is particularly relevant to Kanmantoo Callington where there are about 260 direct and many more indirect jobs linked to the Kanmantoo Copper Mine.

History of mining

The mining industry has a long history in Kanmantoo Callington dating back to when the area was explored for minerals by two Cornish miners sent from England by the South Australian Company in 1845. The miners reported a rich deposit of copper ore in the area.

Because part of the land had already been granted, a negotiation led to a combined application to have 20,000 acres subject to a special survey for mining purposes at a regulation price of one pound an acre. The Paringa Mining Company purchased 8,000 acres while the South Australian Company purchased the balance¹. This special survey process for mining lands was similar to that used at Burra and Kapunda.

At the height of the first wave of mining in the area there was a significant population working at and servicing the mines. A place known as Staughton was set up within walking distance of the mining area with about 30 houses and a hundred people².

¹ Source: J.K. Chilman, 1982, Silver and a trace of gold. Department of Mines and Energy South Australia, Special Publication No. 1

² source: <https://localwiki.org/adelaide-hills/Staughton>

Modern mining

The unique geology of the Kanmantoo Trough³ has made the area highly prospective for minerals explorers since the early days of European settlement. This situation is still the same today with the area covered by mineral exploration tenements and companies actively exploring the area.

The Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan makes no reference to the current mining activity in the Kanmantoo Callington area in its Economic Prospectivity section despite:

1. the Kanmantoo Copper Mine being one of three active copper producers in South Australia with strong support through the State's Copper Strategy⁴
2. The value of exports from the Kanmantoo Copper Mine being in the order of \$170m supporting the South Australian Government's policy of encouraging exports particularly to ASEAN countries
3. The Kanmantoo Copper being a major employer in the district

Looking ahead the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan could be expected to contemplate how the social and economic activity of the current mining activity will be replaced once mining is completed at the Kanmantoo Copper Mine albeit that there may be new mining projects coming on stream as a result of the exploration activity.

4. What would you like to improve in the draft plan?

The KCCCC feels that there is a significant understatement of the mining history and heritage character of the Kanmantoo Callington area in the contextual component of the Mt Barker 2035 Strategic Plan (History, Communities) and then reflected in the future planning framework.

Appropriate mention of the mining history and heritage and mining related future tourism or education potential for example is important as the community works with the current mining operator of the Kanmantoo Copper Mine to support this aspect of the area's future.

The KCCCC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan and acknowledges the importance of this document. We trust that these comments are useful to the DCMB.

Regards
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³ Cambrian minerals resources come of age – the Kanmantoo revival, Peta Abbot, Andrew Burt, Dale Ferguson, Kevin Moriarty MESA Journal no. 36 (2005) source:

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/11049/mj36_kanmantoo.pdf

⁴ CopperStrategy: *making South Australia a globally significant copper producer*- presentation to South Australian Copper Summit by Hon. Tom Koutsantonis Adelaide, 6 May 2015

Appendix 1: The KCCCC process that was used to collect and collate community comments on the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan

The KCCCC was keen to ensure that as many community members as possible had a chance to provide input to Council's draft Strategic Plan so the following process was adopted:

1. The KCCCC chair directed the KCCCC members to the Mt Barker 2035 draft Strategic Plan when it was released for public comment and called for contributions to a response to the Plan based on the work of the KCCCC Master Planning Working Party
2. The KCCCC supported the Council's engagement strategy on the drafting of the Mt Barker 2035 Strategic Plan by posting a link on its webpage (<http://kcccc.hillgroveresources.com.au/>) and through personal contact using their community networks. The aim was to encourage individuals to comment directly to Council particularly if their comments went beyond the main focus of the KCCCC which is mine closure and life after mining
3. KCCCC members continued to seek the views of the community on mine closure matters and provided comments to the Chair.
4. The draft response was updated regularly as it was being developed and these updated versions were copied to DCMB via Greg Sarre, Manager Strategic Planning and Economic Development DCMB, to ensure that Council was aware of emerging issues as early as possible
5. The KCCCC's final draft response was placed on the agenda of the KCCCC meeting held on the 10th December 2015 to ensure that the community was well informed and had the chance to be involved
6. Discussion of the draft response was encouraged at the KCCCC meeting and additional input was recorded. Greg Sarre was invited to attend the KCCCC meeting to ensure that DCMB had access to (and was accessible to) the community and their ideas
7. The KCCCC response was finalised and forwarded to DCMB immediately following its final updating

This process was discussed and agreed with Greg Sarre prior to it being adopted by the KCCCC.