

Lenswood Community Forum

30 March 2026, Lenswood Bowling Club

Community Forum Overview and Outcomes Report



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges that we undertake our business on the traditional Country of the Peramangk and Kurna people. We pay our respects to Ancestors and Elders past and present as the Custodians of this ancient and beautiful land for they hold the memories, traditions, spiritual relationships, culture and hopes of the First Nations of Australia. We are committed to working together to ensure that Peramangk and Kurna culture and traditions are sustained, valued and continuing.

Purpose

Community Forums are held throughout the year in community facilities around the Hills. They provide an opportunity for council and local residents to communicate directly with each other about emerging issues, services and council initiatives.

Forums are an opportunity for:

- Council and local residents to communicate with each other.
- Hearing about activities being undertaken by local community groups and organisations.
- Finding out about our latest council projects and updates.

Our most recent Community Forum was held in Lenswood and had a focus on tourism and economic development.

- Location: Lenswood Bowling Club – 12 Coldstore Rd, Lenswood
- Date: Monday 30 March 2026
- Time: 5.30pm to 8pm



Cultivating opportunities

The forum included a range of presentations and discussions from council representatives and community and sector leaders. We began the evening with an opportunity to play some lawn bowls while connecting with each other, having a drink and a bite to eat.

Presentations kicked off at 6.30pm and we heard from the following presenters:

- Mayor Nathan Daniell spoke about:
 - The development of Council's draft Annual Business Plan 2026/2027 and how community members can get involved in sharing their priorities and feedback.
 - The upcoming Day of Doing and the opportunity for community members and groups to access funding to take part in the day.
 - Community engagement on Council's draft Community Engagement Framework and Policy.
 - Information sessions for Council grant opportunities.



- Stella Biggs, Executive Officer and Regional Tourism Manager at Adelaide Hills Tourism (AHT), spoke about the role and purpose of AHT looking at their priorities for 2025-2026 and initiatives in the works for 2026-2027.

Stella shared information about the development of the Adelaide Hills Harvest and Bloom Trail, new tourism and business experiences in the Adelaide Hills and what they have coming up next.

- Our last presenter was Steve Smith, Secretary of Lenswood and Forest Range Community Association. Steve shared information about the formation of the association and some of the initiatives they have been focusing on including their yearly Wassail event, local bush care initiatives and the Lenswood Main Street Beautification project.
- Following presentations, there was a 50-minute break out session where participants could speak to presenters, staff and Elected Members about the presentation topics, share their ideas and feedback around council engagement opportunities and discuss local ideas and issues.

You can view a summary of what we heard and what was discussed below.

A copy of the community forum presentations can be found on [Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub](#).



Summary of what we heard

Community members participated in a range of engagement activities with council staff and Elected Members at the forum and provided their feedback about the forum. Feedback has been categorised into questions and themes and summarised below.

Option 1: Effective ways to work together: Share your ideas about open and upcoming council engagements and opportunities to work with council.

Draft Community Engagement Framework / general council engagement:

- Importance of transparency and honesty.
- Respect and time given to resident groups to provide knowledge and needs for their local area.
- Importance of the identity of Adelaide Hills and individual townships.
- Difficulty identifying and accessing the appropriate contact within Council's infrastructure team.
- Perception that concerns are not being heard or understood.

Grant access and timing:

- Notifications for grant opportunities are received too late to prepare submissions.
- Limited internal capacity (of clubs) to respond within short timeframes.
- Strong reliance by clubs on grant funding to progress projects.

Option 2: Future of Lenswood and Forest Range: Talk about your ideas and any concerns for the future of Lenswood and Forest Range.

Future of farming

- Housing encroachment on agriculture land. Protection of our most valuable land. Agriculture protection prioritisation over development / growth.
- Agriculture to encourage tourism.
- Celebrate farmers - farm forums as practiced in Mount Barker.
- Better negotiation between farming operators regarding government regulations.

- Water is a very significant issue.
- The issue of land values and how it impacts farmers wanting to raise capital.

Local Amenity and Compliance

- Lenswood Main Street described as poorly maintained.
- Extend Lenswood beautification project past Coldstore up to Coldstore Rd intersection with Tiers Rd.
- Walking connections through the three nodes of Lenswood. Connectivity between the Lenswood Oval and town centre for safety along Swamp Rd.
- Issues with unmanaged animals (including goats) from private property impacting surrounding area.
- Trees dying in Centennial Park.
- Visual arts along pallet wall down from Post Office.
- Give Cockwash Creek some love! Removal of deciduous trees and declared weeds.
- Get more use of Forest Range Hall and Oval and Lenswood Hall. Build a master plan.
- Explore if local markets would be feasible.

Ageing Sport and Recreation Infrastructure in the Council area

- Clubrooms at Mylor Oval are outdated and require urgent upgrade to support increased use, including female participation and other sporting activities. Existing facilities do not meet current participation needs.
- Mylor Bike track previously well-used but now neglected. Lack of maintenance has led to significant decline in usage.
- Lenswood Bowling green requires urgent replacement. Current green is second-hand and nearing end of life (3–4 years remaining). Previous grant application unsuccessful due to inability to meet 50% co-contribution requirement
- Federation Park Playground (Gumeracha) renewal of playground highly needed by the community. Play equipment currently in poor condition.

Road and Vegetation Management

- Urgent need for tree trimming, particularly along Swamp Road, Deviation Road and Collins Hills Road and key freight routes (Lenswood area).
- Heavy truck movements during harvest exacerbating safety risks.

- Tree overgrowth impacting commercial operations.
- Road maintenance, effects of trucks on roads and residents.
- Ongoing issues with potholes and road grading. Expectation for more proactive maintenance.
- More positive actions for community regarding fire protection.
- Manage fallen trees, or unhealthy trees at end of life that pose safety risks (while maintaining habitat).
- Weed management – don't have to burn off. Can we implement more traditional ways of management e.g. cool burn offs – managed by indigenous.

Feedback on the forum

Feedback about the forum format and content:

- Great to try / include lawn bowls.
- Great networking.
- Enjoyed discussion with staff, sharing what our community group are up to.
- Would like to hear more about the Wassail event (Lenswood and Forest Range Community Association).

Ideas for future forums / general feedback:

- Discussions about pest control options e.g. European wasps.
- Importance of planting native trees and not removing native bushlands.
- Burn offs within native areas – following the Aboriginal way in winter circle burning.

Next Steps

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Feedback and ideas discussed during the forum will be shared with Elected Members and staff across council to be consider for integration into upcoming works and future planning, including:

- Finalisation of our draft Community Engagement Framework and Policy.
- Planning for future community forums and activities.
- Supporting the development of our draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan.
- Ongoing works and maintenance around Lenswood, Forest Range and our wider council area.



Thank you

We would like to say a big thank you to our presenters from Adelaide Hills Tourism and Lenswood and Forest Range Community Association. Thank you to the Lenswood Bowling Club for hosting us and allowing us to enjoy some lawn bowls and to Tea for Two ladies for providing our delicious catering.

Thank you very much to all participants for getting involved in this community forum. We had a great time meeting with community members and hearing about your ideas, experiences and interests. We appreciate your feedback, and we look forward to seeing you at the next one.

If you would like to view our event article and photo gallery, please visit our [AHC website](https://www.ahc.sa.gov.au).



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