

Uraidla Community Forum

29 April 2025 Uraidla Football
Clubrooms

Community Forum Overview and Outcomes Report



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

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.

Our most recent Community Forum was held in Uraidla and had a focus on Sustainability:

- Location: Uraidla Football Club - Uraidla Oval, Swamp Rd
- Date: Tuesday 29 April 2025
- Time: 6pm to 8pm



Focused on Sustainability

The forum included a range of presentations and discussions from council representatives and community leaders. We began the evening with an opportunity to connect with each other, council staff and Elected Members, the chance to have a drink and a bite to eat and to explore the various stands and information available.

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

- Acting Mayor Nathan Daniell spoke about our sustainability achievements to date and initiatives council are currently working on aligned to our Your Place Your Space Strategic Plan including Cox Creek Restoration project and the FOGO project next steps.

- AHC's Sustainability Coordinator, Sharon Leith, discussed the recently endorsed 2 Towards Zero Emissions – a Carbon Management Plan for the Adelaide Hills. Sharon spoke about the community focus group who worked alongside council staff and Dsquared consulting to develop the plan and the initiatives highlighted in the plan.
- Chair of the Imagine Uraidla Climate Action and Renewable Energy sub-committee, Paul Hill, shared some of the group's achievements to date and plans for 2025. Paul shared a brief overview of how the group was established and some of the avenues they have taken to make some big changes in their local area.
- Coordinator of the Aldgate Repair Café (Volunteer), Bron McNab spoke passionately about the role of the Repair Cafe, and how it helps to support a circular economy. The repair café is held monthly at The Hut Community Centre in Aldgate. Volunteer repair experts have been sharing their skills for several years and have extended the life of 1000s of items.
- AHC's Sport and Recreation Coordinator, Renee O'Connor, shared information about Community grants available through council to support community and sporting groups and explained how sustainability initiatives can be supported through these funding programs.

Following presentations, there was a 30-minute break out session where participants could speak to presenters, staff and Elected Members about the presentation topics and other sustainability initiatives they were interested in. You can view a summary of what we heard and what was discussed below.

Summary of what we heard

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Community members had the opportunity to speak with and provide feedback to council staff and Elected Members at the forum as well as online following the event. Feedback has been categorised into themes and summarised below.

Feedback about the forum format and content:

- Good to hear what Council is up to and what's happening in the community
- Broad range of issues and topics, good presentations
- Practicing circular economy at events e.g. reusable plates, cups and glasses. Compost is good but reusable is better. Event bin system with signage to encourage correct items in each bin.
- Increase promotion for future events to encourage more locals
- More opportunities for open discussion at future events / open agenda
- Appreciation for events like this happening / staff time to organise the event
- Ensure event information is correct on event e-ticket (wrong venue)

Feedback on sustainability initiatives happening around the Hills:

- Looking forward to weekly FOGO implementation
- Positives of Cox Creek remediation project, volunteer involvement in these projects
- Interest / support for AHC strategies to manage impacts of pets and pest animals on vegetation and wildlife (e.g. cats, rabbits)
- Recycling of soft plastics – what is happening in this space?
- Interested in circular economy
- Interested in providing free chickens to reduce green waste
- Range of great initiatives by Imagine Uraidla, can council support similar initiatives in other hills townships?
- Support for the range of recycling services available at Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre
- Opportunities to link sustainability initiatives to disaster resilience needs

What did you enjoy most about the community forum?:

- Meeting and talking with Councillors
- Learning about what's going on
- Event organisation / that the event occurred
- Planting of seeds and ideas
- Interesting speakers

- Chatting to / learning from council staff
- Meeting community members
- Delicious catering

What could we improve for the future?:

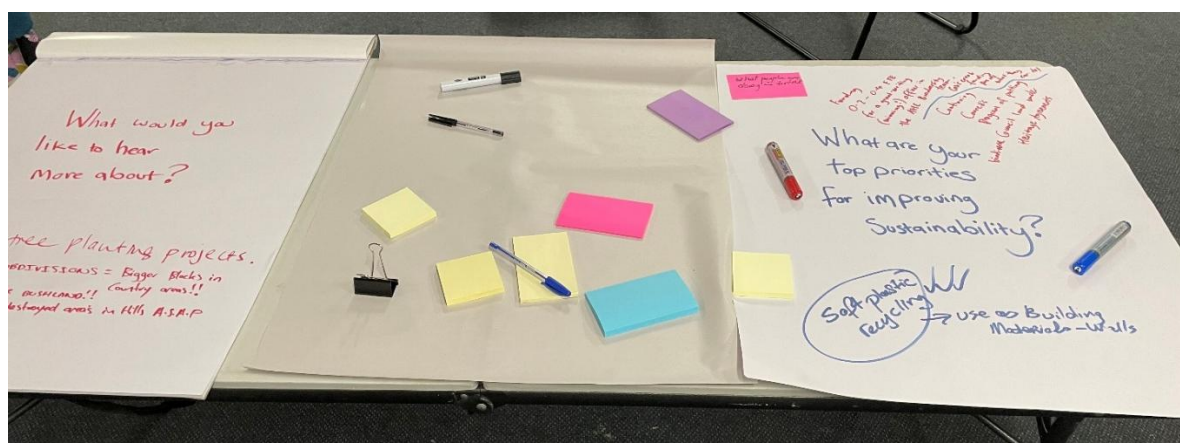
- Improve communication / promotion of future forums via a range of different avenues (not just online)
- Clear education on waste management, clearly labeled bins at events
- Information about how to get personally involved in initiatives / programs
- Correct event information on e-ticket (wrong venue)
- Discuss misinformation about energy transition
- More imaginative forum format e.g. more group discussions and community ideas

What would you like to hear more about?:

- Local tree planting projects
- Stopping rural subdivisions = bigger blocks in country areas
- Stopping clearing our bushlands
- Revegetation of fire destroyed areas in Hills
- What people are doing within the district

What are your top priorities for improving sustainability?:

- Soft plastic recycling – used as building materials e.g. walls
- Funding for a grant-writing officer to seek funds to support biodiversity projects like Cox Creek
- Continuing Councils program of putting biodiverse Council land under Heritage Arrangements



We requested feedback from presenters and council staff present at the event about the discussions they had with community members. The main themes of feedback and discussions can be viewed below:

Bron McNab from the Aldgate Repair Café had discussions about:

- The running of the Repair Café and joining as a volunteer
- The degrowth economy
- How product warranties should be longer e.g. 10-year warranty
- How young people are not experiencing the same opportunities to learn repair skills e.g. darning socks, sewing clothing

Paul and Sarah Hill from Imagine Uraidla received questions and had discussions with community members about:

- Community batteries and VPP (virtual power plant)
- Interest in home battery and solar bulk buy for the Crafrers community
- The need for back up power options and less reliance on a bigger grid to enable more resilience
- Questions about other similar groups operating in the Hills

Renee and Stacey from our Sport and Recreation Team had discussions about:

- Grants available to improve telecommunications in the Uraidla area for instances like a bushfire as well as allowing for different payment options at community events
- Mixing up the time and day of forums to encourage different attendees

Linley our Waste Coordinator had a range of discussions about:

- What items can go in which bin?
- Creating a Recycling Hub and adding FOGO bins at Norton Summit Community Centre
- Resource recovery at events needing improvement
- FOGO bins are wanted by households outside our current green bin collection area
- User pays and flexible kerbside bin systems
- What AHC is doing about soft plastics recycling
- What environmental initiatives are occurring in the Bridgewater area

- What we can do to take massive action on climate change right now
- The possibility of running site tours (e.g. to CAWRA) during the school holidays so children can also attend
- A thank you from the Uraidla Sustainability Fair for our management of green organics waste from the event
- A trial run in France and Belgium where households were given 2 chickens instead of green bins (with the proviso that they not eat them within 2 years)

Thank you

Thank you very much for getting involved in this community forum. We had a great time meeting with community members and hearing about your ideas 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 from the event, please visit our [AHC website](#).



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