

Gumeracha Op Shop

Service review and future options



We are working with volunteers, key stakeholders and interested community members, to understand your feedback about what is important for us to consider regarding the ongoing operation or closure of the Gumeracha Opportunity Shop.



Background

The Gumeracha Opportunity Shop (Op Shop) is owned and operated by the Adelaide Hills Council (AHC) in a small standalone building originally built with funds raised by the local Country Women's Association. The Op Shop commenced trading prior to the formation of AHC in 1997 and was first established to meet a local need in the community at a time when this type of alternative shopping offering was limited.

In June 2025, BRM Advisory were engaged to undertake the Service Review of the Gumeracha Op Shop, and a detailed report of their investigations is available as part of the 26 August Council Meeting Agenda.

The Service Review has considered the rationale and long-term viability of the Op Shop by examining matters that include:

- trends in community demand, competition, and demographic shifts
- alignment of the service with AHC's strategic priorities and objectives
- financial performance
- WHS issues and building condition
- current and future resource requirements
- challenges and opportunities

Following the service review, four possible options for the future of the Gumeracha Op Shop were presented to Council.

Future options for the Gumeracha Op Shop

1.Cease Operations

Cease providing the Gumeracha Opportunity Shop service in accordance with the review recommendations. This approach acknowledges the contributions of volunteers and the community and enables resources to be redirected toward initiatives that deliver greater strategic and community benefit to the Gumeracha community and surrounding townships. These services could include youth programming, gardening programs, activation of the upstairs area of the Gumeracha Town Hall.



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2. Maintain Current Operations

Continue providing the Gumeracha Op Shop with existing resources. This is not recommended, as the Service Review identified that additional staff support is needed to operate to the required standard to mitigate risk and provide value to the community. Should Council pursue this option, the Administration would need to undertake further assessment of the implications on service delivery and staff capacity.

3. Continue Operations with Additional Resourcing

Allocate additional resources to cover the operating costs and the necessary staff support to provide this service. This would be in the realm of \$14,000 per annum in additional staff and operating costs. It is also an option to allocate additional investment to pursue strategies that might increase the financial performance of the Op Shop. An allocation of \$10,000 as a once-off cost for consultancy and retail advice could be expected.

4. Expression of Interest Process

Seek expressions of interest from alternative organisations or groups to manage and operate an Op Shop at this site. This would involve a lease to the group who would be responsible for all operating costs and responsibilities, including work, health and safety. In considering this option, important factors include whether there is a community need for the service, given that another Op Shop operates in Gumeracha.

How can I provide my feedback?

We are currently working with volunteers, key stakeholders and interested community members, to understand your feedback about what is important for us to consider regarding the future of the Op Shop, including use of Council resources, staff time and the building the Gumeracha Op Shop currently operates from.

Share your feedback via one of the following ways:

- Complete the online feedback form at engage.ahc.sa.gov.au or via the QR code below
- Email engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
- Mail Community Engagement, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152
- Phone 8408 0400
- Collect a hardcopy feedback form from Gumeracha Library / Torrens Valley Community Centre during opening hours:
 - Gumeracha Civic Centre / Torrens Valley Community Centre, 45 Albert Street, Gumeracha

This engagement closes Sunday 21 September 2025.

If you need assistance to provide your feedback, please email engage@ahc.sa.gov.au or call 8408 0400.

