

Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc. Lease Proposal – 22 Wright Road Stirling Community Engagement Outcomes Report

May 2025



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents feedback received during engagement with the community from 2 to 22 April 2025 regarding the Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc. (SOWFI) Lease Proposal for 22 Wright Road, Stirling and proposed new Community Land Management Plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve.

This report will be presented to Council and made available to those who participated in the consultation on Council's Engagement Platform.

The consultation comprised an opportunity for the Community to provide feedback via hardcopy and online feedback form, email, letter, social media and phone contact. A copy of information provided on Council's Engagement Platform and feedback form is available in Appendix A.

There was a total of 202 Participants providing feedback on the SOWFI lease proposal and proposed new Community Land Management Plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve. 81 Respondents provided their feedback by online feedback form, 3 Participants responded via email and 29 provided a response via Facebook. A petition was also received which represented an additional 89 verified participants.

All online feedback responses are provided in Appendix B.

All email responses are provided in Appendix C.

Advertisements, email blasts, promotional newsletters and social media posts and feedback, are provided in Appendix D.

2 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

2.1 BACKGROUND

The purpose of the engagement was to determine whether the community supported the SOWFI lease proposal and the proposed new Community Land management Plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve in Stirling. Council also wanted to seek any further feedback or comments regarding the proposal.

The engagement process provided information regarding the current Community Land Management Plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve as well as the new proposed plan. It also provided background information on the history of the site, Council's consideration of the proposal and legislative requirements as well as information on SOWFI as an organisation and clarification regarding the support they were seeking from Council.

Feedback received will assist Council to make a decision on the updates proposed to the Community Land Management Plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve in Stirling and the licence and lease required to support SOWFI.

2.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

A community engagement strategy was developed and consultation was undertaken with the Community over 21 days from Wednesday 2 to Tuesday 22 April 2025.

Consultation was undertaken in accordance with Section 198 and 202 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Council's *Public Consultation Policy*.

2.3 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The Council's engagement approach aimed to provide information and seek community feedback regarding people's level of support for the lease proposal and new community land management plan. Questions were asked to determine the level of support along with any additional feedback or comments. Feedback could be provided via an online or hardcopy feedback form, email, mail social media or phone.

A feedback form was developed and provided online and in hardcopy format. It contained 6 questions, including both closed and open style questions. Questions were designed to seek

basic location and contact details of Participants, levels of support and opportunity to share any feedback or comments regarding the proposal.

Anyone could participate in the consultation with feedback forms and information made available online and in hard copy at our customer service centres and libraries.

A copy of information provided, and the feedback form is included in Appendix A.

2.4 DISTRIBUTION AND PROMOTION

The opportunity to provide feedback was promoted through a number of channels including:

- Courier Advertisement on 2 April 2025
- Advertisement in Council Column in the Courier 2 April 2025
- Hills Voice: your Adelaide Hills e-Newsletter to Hills Voice Subscribers (7 April 2025)(4114)
- Adelaide Hills Council Website and Community Engagement Hub Page
- Letters to adjoining and nearby neighbours (59)
- Email newsletter to EHQ registrants living in the suburbs of Crafers and Stirling (306)
- Email to relevant community and stakeholder groups
- Email to Mayor and Elected Members to share
- Social media (1 x Facebook Post)
- Posters, hardcopy information and feedback forms available at customer service centres and libraries at Gumeracha, Stirling, Woodside and Norton Summit
- 2 x Corflute signs (on site and at top of Wright Road)

Email and social media promotion statistics are presented below:

Media	Number of posts / emails / Newsletter	Reach	Engagement (reaction, comment, share or opening link)
Facebook	1	-	131
Hills Voice E-News	1	2007	109
EHQ	1	306	233

All email blasts, advertisements and posts are provided in full in Appendix C.

3 PARTICIPANTS

This section provides details about participation during the engagement period and also demographic information about Respondents who completed a feedback form and signed a petition.

Engaged Participants are considered to be those who were not only aware of and informed about the consultation process but who also chose to provide their feedback. The number of aware and informed people who chose not to provide feedback is presented within the table below:

Table 1 Aware, informed and engaged community

	Email	Social Media	EHQ Platform
Aware <i>Sighted information that the consultation was open</i>	2007	-	274
Informed <i>Accessed information via visiting multiple sites or downloading information</i>	109	131	118
Engaged <i>Provided feedback</i>	Unknown		81

3.1 PARTICIPATION RATE

The following table displays the level of engaged participation.

Table 2 Level of Participation

Activity	Number Participating
Online submissions	81
Written response –email, letter	3
Social media (informal submissions)	29
Petition *See Section 6 for detail on unverified and duplicate participants	89 (100 names listed)
TOTAL CONSULTATION PARTICIPATION	202

3.2 PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

Demographic data was collected from Survey Respondents and provided by petition Participants on the Suburb/township in which they lived.

Survey Respondents Suburb

Respondents were asked if they could provide the suburb/township in which they resided. This was a mandatory question with 81 responses. Almost a third (32%, n=26) of the Respondents came from suburbs outside the Adelaide Hills Council area. 24.7% (n=20) of Respondents came from Crafers / Crafers West and 12.4% (n=10) came from neighbouring Stirling. The remaining 30.8% (n=25) of Respondents came from suburbs within the Adelaide Hills Council area with all suburbs and percentages listed in Table 3 below.

Petition Participants Suburbs

Verified petition Participants predominantly resided in Crafers and Crafers West with 62.9% (n=56) signing the petition. 11.2% (n=10) of petition signatories came from neighbouring suburbs of Stirling, Uraidla and Summertown, with 16.9% (n=15) coming from AHC Suburbs further away. The remaining 9% (n=8) of petition signatories came from outside of the Adelaide Hills Council area.

Table 3 Survey and Petition Participant Suburbs

Suburb / Township	No. of Participants (Survey)	No. of Verified Participants (Petition)	Percent of both Survey and Petition Participants Combined
Suburbs not in AHC Area	26	8	20%
Crafers / Crafers West	20	56	44.7%
Stirling	10	8	10.6%
Aldgate	6	4	5.9%
Summertown	3	1	2.3%
Woodside	3	0	1.8%
Bridgewater	2	7	5.3%
Mylor	2	0	1.1%
Balhannah	1	0	0.6%
Bradbury	1	0	0.6%
Carey Gully	1	0	0.6%
Forest Range	1	0	0.6%
Gumeracha	1	0	0.6%
Kenton Valley	1	0	0.6%
Norton Summit	1	0	0.6%
Scott Creek	1	0	0.6%
Verdun	1	0	0.6%
Uraidla		1	0.6%
Upper Sturt		4	2.3%

TOTAL	81	89	99.9%
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Suburbs not in the Adelaide Hills Council area included Hawthorndene, Malvern, Hahndorf, Newton, Seaford, Mount Barker, Nairne, Woodchester, Aberfoyle Park, Clarendon Craighburn Farm, Flagstaff Hill Harrogate, Hartley, Highbury, Littlehampton, Mannum, Murray Bridge, Normanville, Para Vista, Paralowie, Queenstown, The Range and Yankalilla.

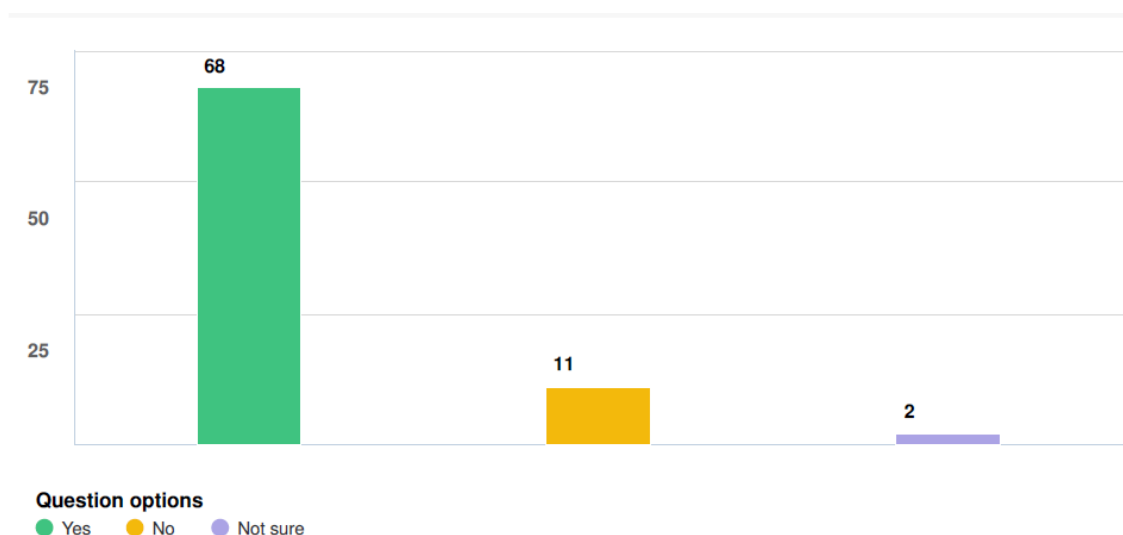
4 ONLINE FEEDBACK

81 online responses were received as part of this consultation. Analysis of questions from the online feedback forms are provided below.

4.1 SUPPORT LEVELS FOR THE SOWFI LEASE PROPOSAL

Respondents were asked if they supported the SOWFI Lease Proposal for 22 Wright Road, Stirling. This was a mandatory question with 81 Respondents. As presented below 83.9%(n=68) of Respondents said 'yes' they supported the proposal, 13.6% (n=11) said 'no' they did not support the proposal and 2.5% (n=2) were unsure.

Chart 1 Respondents level of support for the SOWFI Lease Proposal

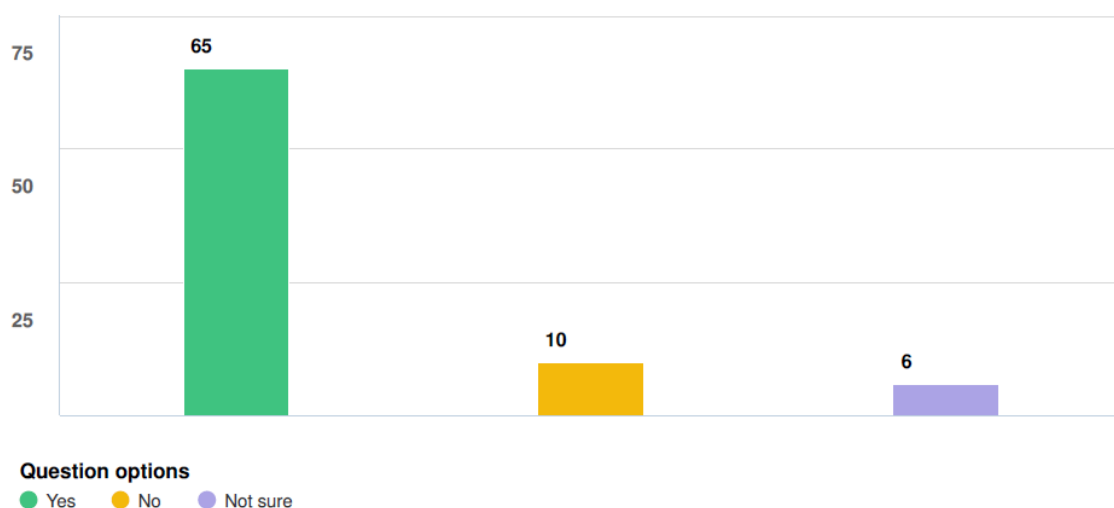


4.2 SUPPORT LEVELS FOR THE PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EVELYN HALLIDAY RESERVE

Respondents were asked if they supported the proposed new community land management plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve in Stirling. This was a mandatory question with 81

Respondents. As presented below 80.25 %(n=65) of Respondents said ‘yes’ they supported the proposal, 12.35% (n=10) said ‘no’ they did not support the proposal and 7.4% (n=6) were unsure.

Chart 2 Respondents level of support for the proposed new community land management plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve in Stirling



4.3 RESPONDENTS FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

Respondents were asked if they had any feedback or comments. 61 Respondents provided feedback and comments related to their level of support, including what they supported, what they wanted more information on and what they were concerned about or did not support and why. Tables below list themed comments and number of respondents.

Presented in Table 4 is the feedback and comments from those supportive of the proposed lease and proposed Community Land Management Plan. Table 5 represents those who were not supportive, and the themed feedback received.

Some Respondents provided feedback on more than one theme.

Table 4 Feedback and Comments from those supportive of the proposed lease

Themes	No. of Respondents
Supportive of the lease proposal (the project)	34
Supportive of wildlife and rescue services	23
Supportive of SOWFI as an organisation	7
Value Council supporting this type of project and organisations like SOWFI	4
Conservation zone not to be reduced and to be maintained and not increase fire hazard	2

This type of project is an opportunity for more people to get involved	1
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Table 5 Feedback and Comments from those NOT supportive of the proposed lease

Themes	No. of Respondents
Concerns regarding increased traffic and parking and potential increased risk of accidents, especially due to no footpaths along Wright Road and increased use of walkers on road due to dog park	7
Proposal not in line with the intention with which Evelyn Halliday bequeathed the land	5
Require more information on long-term plans to make decision	3
Concerns regarding future expansion	2
Should be kept as Community use	1
Concerns regarding Security/safety of wildlife on site as not manned 24/7, public access	1
SOWFI ability to provide appropriately trained volunteers who can meet daily care needs	1
SOWFI needs to bare ALL costs not AHC ratepayers	1
Concerns regarding destruction of Evelyn's garden which is enjoyed by community and wildlife	1
Concerns trees in area are overgrown and unsafe	1
Not compatible with children and dog park	1
Community land and all community groups should be given the opportunity to submit a proposal	1
Proposal stops community use of area already being used and for no benefit to the community as it is a peppercorn lease	1
Noise concerns	1
Timing of consultation closing day after Easter	1

All comments are provided verbatim in Appendix B.

5 EMAIL AND WRITTEN FEEDBACK

There were three Respondents who provided a response by email or letter.

Feedback received and issues raised via emails / letters included:

- Email 1: Another group requesting use of the small shed on the Evelyn Halliday property as previously requested before the SOWFI proposal was received by Council.
- Email 2: Several queries/concerns raised regarding the proposal including:
 - Concerns regarding SOWFI's financial position.
 - AHC conflict of interest already supporting SOWFI.
 - Timeframe of consultation over easter and school holidays.
 - SOWFI's Annual Report and Strategic Objectives do not consider neighbours adjacent to proposed development sites.
 - Proposal not intent of Halliday Reserve 'to benefit the people of the community'.
 - Concerns regarding the car park, traffic on Wright Road, safety, noise and dust.
 - List of AHC failures regarding the site of 22 Wright Road in past years.
 - List of reasons as to why the proposal is not compatible in this location.
 - List of other options for AHC to consider.
 - Statement of not supporting the proposal and the distress it causes.
- Email 3: Experienced wildlife carer of possums supportive of SOWFI but with significant concerns regarding the proposal as it needs to be well thought through and the community need to be well informed. Concerns include:
 - All wildlife organisations across SA and in fact all of Australia are struggling to recruit and maintain enough volunteers to support wildlife rescue ongoing therefore the following is of initial concern as to how this could be supported effectively
 - Increased 'burn out' of carers. It is well known that some carers are known to have over 30 animals in care at any one time. This is far too many even if someone doesn't work, the care of the animal is compromised & increased risk of animals becoming sick due to poor husbandry etc due to volume of animals.
 - Increased attrition of carers due to high pressure or expectation to take on more. As with any volunteer organisation, there is always some bullying type behaviours that occurs within ALL wildlife organisations and this is not managed well in some instances.
 - Whilst some carers are permitted for multiple species of wildlife which is fine, but when they have too many the actual quality of care provided to the animal is compromised.

- How many volunteers does SOWFI propose will be required, who will maintain the rosters to ensure the possums are provided daily with fresh browse, aviaries are cleaned and maintained etc.
- Security of the site – whilst they propose to install security cameras, the site is proposed to be used by all community people, so how will management / observation of the possums be monitored overnight to ensure that members of public do not attempt to tamper with the aviaries or have animals stress or torment the possums.
- Will there be additional fencing around the aviaries, thereby creating a barrier from public being able to directly access the aviaries too closely.
- Will these aviaries only be available to SOWFI as a wildlife organisation to utilise.
- Who will manage the site or have ownership? What contingency is in place if say for example SOWFI as a wildlife organisation ceased to exist?
- The estimated ongoing annual costs to support a ‘finishing school’, that SOWFI have listed could be well underestimated and there would be heavy reliance on ‘donations’ to support. No wildlife organisation is supported in SA by any government funding, unlike some other states in Australia.
- When it states in the proposal cost of insurance to only be \$300 a year, what sort of insurance is that and what is it covering considering the aviaries are proposed to be on a location that can be utilised by the public?
- Will DEW actively monitor or be involved with this site in any capacity? I’d really like to see that DEW are more actively involved across SA in the overall monitoring of carers, albeit I understand that they are not resourced for this, but government needs to look into this in future.

All emails and letters are provided in full in Appendix C.

6 PETITION

The below petition had 100 signatures however one person had signed it twice, one person's address could not be verified, and 9 Participants had already submitted an online feedback form with similar feedback. Therefore, there were 89 verified Participants as signatories to this petition.

As presented in section 3.2 of this report, verified petition Participants predominantly resided in Crafers and Crafers West with 62.9% (n=56) signing the petition. 11.2% (n=10) of petition signatories came from neighbouring suburbs of Stirling, Uraidla and Summertown, with 16.9% (n=15) coming from AHC Suburbs further away. The remaining 9% (n=8) of petition signatories came from outside of the Adelaide Hills Council area.

The key points and concerns raised in the petition included:

- Do not support the proposed SOWFI Lease on the site.
- Do not support the new Community Land Management Plan for 22 Wright Road, Stirling.
- Support the Evelyn Halliday Reserve continuing as a recreational reserve for the general benefit of all in the community as set out in the current Trust and as intended by Evelyn Halliday.
- Concerns regarding parking, increased vehicles and safety.
- Incompatibility of dogs and wildlife.
- Opportunity for other investments including improving walking trails and adding fitness equipment to the area.

The full petition wording is provided on the next few pages.

April 2025

Petition and feedback RE:

Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc Lease Proposal 22 Wright Road Stirling

Dear Adelaide Hills Council

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the lease proposal and the proposed Land Management Plan. Additionally, the signatories to this letter and petition ask Council to:

- Note our desire that the Evelyn Halliday Reserve continues to be utilised exclusively as a Recreation Reserve for the general benefit of the Community, as set out in the Trust and in line with the wishes of the late Ms Evelyn Halliday.
- Consider the positive suggestions put forward in this letter for how the Evelyn Halliday Reserve could be better utilised for recreational use for the benefit of the general public.

In response to the formal feedback request, the signatories to this letter and petition:

- Do not support the Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc. Lease Proposal for 22 Wright Road.
- Do not support the proposed new Community Land Management Plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve.

The Trust

Purpose

As is recognised in the consultation papers, Ms Evelyn Halliday left the area (including her house "Hilltop") now known as the Evelyn Halliday Reserve explicitly to be "a Recreation Reserve for the general benefit of the Community." This was outlined clearly in Ms Halliday's will. What is less well known, is that following her death in 1991, the District Council of Stirling determined that instead of accepting the land to be held in Trust as per Ms Halliday's will, they would sell it to pay off some debt. Consequently, a group called Friends of the Halliday Reserve was formed and were able to influence the Council to accept the land and create the Trust. This group continued to be active for many years, proactively putting forward ideas to Council as to how the Reserve could be utilised in line with the spirit and intent of the Trust.

We believe that the meaning and wishes of Ms Halliday for "a Recreation Reserve for the general benefit of the Community" is clear and straightforward. To interpret this as per the proposed Land Management Plan as "Wildlife rehabilitation by a not-for-profit organisation" appears plainly at odds with this. It is important to stress that this is not to comment on the purpose or merit of a not-for-profit wildlife rehabilitation organisation, but to point out the incongruity of any potential use of the land (such as is proposed), which is outside of its original intent and current purpose.

Precedent

Of more concern however, is the precedent it provides Council to continue to amend the purpose of the Trust in the future. The proposed changes would result in the first time a section of the land left by Ms Halliday being removed for a different purpose than originally intended or set out in the Trust. Further, the proposal indicates a desire for the wildlife centre to have the room to expand in the future, already indicating that once approval is given to house the centre, expanding its size will likely be perfunctory. Once the precedent is given, it is harder to argue the whole Reserve could not be utilised for the purpose of a wildlife centre.

The consultation papers state that it can be argued that wildlife rehabilitation is not a recreational activity, but is only ancillary to a recreation purpose. This is true, and clearly sets a precedent for

1

Council to allow the use of the Reserve for purposes that are not recreational, but only ancillary to recreation. The scope of activities that could be argued are “ancillary to recreation” are almost limitless. With subdivision and housing developments progressing at speed through South Australia, it is a real and reasonable concern that Council would look at part or all of the Reserve as an appropriate new area for housing development, or activities “ancillary to recreation”.

Practical concerns

Entrance off Wright Road

The entrance to 22 Wright Road is currently near the top of a blind summit. This has always been a dangerous location, with drivers consistently traveling over it at significant speed. Over the crest of the summit, Wright Road is not wide enough for two cars to pass. This is particularly unsafe as cars traveling over the summit cannot see cars approaching the other way, and are left without space to pass or slow down. This has led to many near misses, particularly for local residents.

The proposal would result in a significant increase in the number of vehicles at the top of the blind summit, and concerning exactly at the location where vehicles would necessarily need to turn right, across the road into number 22. They would need to do this without being able to see vehicles coming in the other direction, and without being encouraged to stay on the left side of the road. Unfortunately, Wright Road has no centre line markings.

The proposal has not given any consideration to the safety impacts of increased traffic entering 22 Wright Road at a dangerous junction of the road.

Engagement between dogs and animals being rehabilitated

While the Council paper correctly points out that the remainder of Evelyn Halliday Reserve is signed for on-lead dog walking only, in reality dogs almost exclusively roam off-lead.

A consequence will be the attendance of dogs near the aviaries, no doubt barking and likely traumatising the dozens of injured possums. Given there will not always be volunteers attending the wildlife, it is reasonable to assume this will lead to a significant increase in barking. Even if the dogs cannot see the possums, they will still smell and want to engage them.

Alternate uses for the Reserve

The Adelaide Council's 2024 Strategic Plan's second goal is “Community Wellbeing. A thriving, safe and welcoming community.” Each of the Objectives listed aligns with Ms Halliday's vision for the use of the Reserve. We highlight two priorities:

- CW6.5 Promote opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing by spending time in our natural environments, bringing greater numbers of people into our parks.
- CW6.3 Plan and promote walking and cycling projects and infrastructure that facilitate health and wellbeing as well as sustainable forms of transport.

Council has a wonderful opportunity to use the Reserve to help meet these identified priorities. People walk from all over Crafers and Stirling to use the dog park, it is a community asset. With minimal capital investment, Council could improve the walking trails in the Reserve, and install fitness equipment at various locations. This could turn the Reserve into a pedestrian destination akin to what other Councils have done at locations such as the Victoria Park Fitness Loop, the West Lakes outdoor gym and the Barmera Fitness Trail. This would lead to a significant increase in pedestrian patronage, in line with Council's Strategic Plan.

We are committed to working positively with Council and the community to facilitate the best outcomes possible in relation to Halliday Reserve, maximising its usage in line with the wishes of the late Ms Halliday to be used as a recreation facility for the benefit of everyone. With housing

development increasing, it is more important than ever for our recreational spaces need to be valued, utilised and enjoyed by all members of our community. We live in a beautiful part of South Australia, we are very grateful for it, and would like to see it protected.

In line with the Adelaide Hills Council Policy on Petitions, please also consider this letter a petition. The contact person being [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

7 SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is utilised as an avenue to raise awareness of engagement opportunities. Comments received via social media are not considered as formal feedback responses however than can provide supporting information about our community's interest in a project and level of support for and against a proposal.

A total of 29 people provided their feedback or queried the proposed SOWFI lease proposal on Facebook. Of the 29 people, 22 were supportive of the proposal but this was predominantly in relation to supporting wildlife in general. One person was not supportive.

Comments via Facebook are provided in Appendix D.

8 CONCLUSION

A total of 202 people participated in the consultation. Participation was through online feedback forms, emails/letters, petition and social media.

55.3% of the online and petition participants lived close to the Evelyn Halliday Reserve in the suburbs of Crafers, Crafers West and Stirling and this would be the group most directly impacted by the proposal. 24.7% of participants lived in suburbs across the AHC region and the remaining 20% did not reside in any AHC suburb or township.

When reviewing support levels from participants across all feedback mediums in this consultation, it can be seen as presented below in Table 6, that 60% (n=103) of Participants do not support the SOWFI proposal. 39% (n=68) of Participants support the SOWFI proposal and 1% (n=2) is not sure.

Table 6 Levels of Support from ALL Participants

	Support	Do Not Support	Not Sure
Online Survey	68	11	2
Petition	0	89	0
Email	0	3	0
TOTAL	68	103	2

Due to the likelihood that those living closest to the location would be the most impacted it is worth considering the level of support from those individuals who live in Crafers, Crafers West and Stirling. As seen below, 81.6% (n=98) of Participants in this consultation who live in close proximity to the Evelyn Halliday Reserve do not support the proposal, with a very similar percentage not supporting the new Community Land Management Plan.

Table 7 Levels of Support from Participants in Crafers, Crafers West and Stirling

	Support	Do Not Support	Not Sure
Online Survey	20	8	2
Petition	0	89	0
Email	0	1	0
TOTAL	20	98	2

Participants who were supportive of the proposal and new CLMP for Evelyn Halliday Reserve provided feedback with generally supportive comments including in particular:

- Support for the project, wildlife and rescue services and SOWFI as an organisation.
- See value in Council supporting wildlife rehabilitation.

Participants who were not supportive of the SOWFI proposal and the new CLMP for Evelyn Halliday Reserve provided feedback with particular emphasis on:

- Concerns regarding increased traffic and parking and potential increased risk of accidents, especially due to no footpaths along road and increased use of walkers to dog park.
- Proposal not in line with the intention with which Evelyn Halliday bequeathed the land and preference to support the Evelyn Halliday Reserve continuing as a recreational reserve for the general benefit of all in the community as set out in the current Trust and as intended by Evelyn Halliday.
- Incompatibility of dogs and wildlife.
- Concerns regarding the welfare of animals and volunteers in running and managing the site in a secure, safe and effective manner.
- Noise concerns.
- Should be able to consider other uses and proposals for site more in line with Evelyn Halliday's intention for the site.

This report will be shared with the wider community and anyone who participated in the consultation via Councils Engagement Platform.

APPENDIX A – INFORMATION PROVIDED AND FEEDBACK FORM

Home / Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc Lease Proposal 22 Wright Road Stirling

Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc Lease Proposal 22 Wright Road Stirling



Thank you for providing your feedback on the proposal to lease a portion of Evelyn Halliday Reserve to Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc to establish a wildlife 'finishing school' to benefit sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in the final stages of their rehabilitation back into the wild.

What's happening

In 1991 Ms Evelyn Halliday bequeathed to Adelaide Hills Council the property at 22 Wright Road Stirling. There is a Trust on the site that states that the whole of the land (including the much larger recreation reserve) should be held in Trust for use as "a Recreation Reserve for the general benefit of the Community forever."

As shown in the image to the right (also available under Key Documents) the largest portion of the property is set aside for conservation and then the next largest section is set aside as informal recreation which is the Stirling dog park and surrounding walking trails. The smaller area highlighted around the house which is retained as community use is the proposed area in which the Save Our Wildlife Foundation Incorporated (SOWFI) would like to establish a lease for a wildlife finishing school.

When considering the proposal from SOWFI, we have reviewed available land options in the surrounding area, Community Land Management Plans (CLMP) and the requirements provided by SOWFI. The house block which is a portion of the Evelyn Halliday Reserve at 22 Wright Road, Stirling is considered as suitable, in principle, for the wildlife finishing school.

On 25 February 2025, Council considered a [report on the proposal](#) from SOWFI and the amendments proposed to the [draft Community Land Management Plan \(CLMP\)](#) on the site required to accommodate the lease. As the CLMP is proposed to be amended to specifically refer to the wildlife finishing school, community consultation is legislatively required.



Key Dates

 Consultation Open
02 April → 22 April 2025

 Analysis of engagement findings
23 April → 09 May 2025

Key Documents

 Council Report 22 Wright Road Stirling SOWFI (7.28 MB) (pdf)

 Draft Evelyn Halliday Reserve Community Land Management Plan (354 KB) (pdf)

 Information Sheet (257 KB) (pdf)

 Hardcopy Submission Form (76.4 KB) (pdf)

 Promotional Poster (3.24 MB) (pdf)

 Map of Evelyn Halliday Reserve (11.7 MB) (jpg)

About SOWFI

SOWFI is a not-for-profit organisation who are requesting a suitable site/land to establish a wildlife 'finishing school' to benefit sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in their final stages of rehabilitation and to provide emergency care for animals that survive bushfire or other emergency events and require ongoing rehabilitation until their release back into the wild.

Further information about SOWFI can be found [here](#).

What's being proposed

It is proposed that a Lease be established for five years providing use of an area for aviaries, the dwelling and the existing storage shed on site. A license would be established for five years providing non-exclusive occupation of the dwelling surrounds. This would allow general community to also use the site for passive recreation purposes. Please see our FAQs for more information about the difference between a lease and a licence agreement.

There are two components to the proposal:

1. Five aviaries to be built on the site on a concrete base/slab no larger than 11m by 4m and 1.8-2m high and
2. Possible use of the dwelling on the site for the storage of feed/leaf for the possums and eventually for a meeting/education space. The outdoor shed would also be used for cut leaf and other items.

SOWFI's requirements were for the following in terms of land use and location:

- Peppercorn lease/license over Council land for aviaries and a small storage shed
- Access and parking for a minimum of three vehicles ideally with future scope for more
- Access to mains water for cleaning, cooling (mistifiers) and animal requirements
- Access to mains power (or they will provide solar)
- Additional surrounding land for wildlife food planting/shade (particularly eucalyptus)
- Potential for the facility to grow

In accordance with Councils Public Consultation Policy, and as required by section 198 of the Local Government Act 1999 (Community Land), Council is inviting submissions on the proposed lease and draft Community Land Management Plan from any interested persons in the community. View our FAQs to find out about the differences between the current and draft CLMP for Evelyn Halliday Reserve.

Anyone is entitled to provide feedback via a written submission.

This engagement closed at 5pm, Tuesday 22 April 2025

FAQs

? What do Save Our Wildlife Foundation do?

? What are the differences between the current and proposed Community Land Management Plan?

? What is the Trust ?

? What is a Lease ?

? What is a License?

? Why is a Lease and a License proposed to be entered into with the Save our Wildlife Foundation Incorporated (SOWFI)?

Location



Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc Lease Proposal 22 Wright Road, Stirling



Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc are requesting a suitable site/land to establish a wildlife 'finishing school' to benefit sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in their final stages of rehabilitation and to provide emergency care for animals that survive emergency events and require ongoing rehabilitation until their release back into the wild.

Council is proposing a lease be established for 5 years providing use of an area for aviaries, the dwelling and the existing storage shed on site.

A license would also be established for 5 years providing non-exclusive occupation of the dwelling surrounds. This would allow general community to also use the site for passive recreation purposes.

We encourage you to read the proposal which is available online at engage.ahc.sa.gov.au, in hardcopy at our Libraries and Service Centres or via the QR code below.

Complete a submission to share your thoughts via any of the options below:

- Complete the online submission 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 any AHC Library or Customer Service Centre and submit via any of the ways listed above or by handing into our Council Service Centre or Library at:
 - Coventry Library, 63 Mt Barker Rd, Stirling
 - Woodside Service Centre
26 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside
 - Gumeracha Civic Centre,
45 Albert Street, Gumeracha

If you require any further information, please feel very welcome to contact Lisa Smith or Karen Cummings on 8408 0400 or email engage@ahc.sa.gov.au.

Adelaide Hills Council
Communications, Engagement and Events Team

Evelyn Holiday Reserve – CT 5324/737



Written submissions must be received by no later than 5pm, Tuesday 22 April 2025.

08 8408 0400
mail@ahc.sa.gov.au
ahc.sa.gov.au



Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc Lease Proposal

22 Wright Road, Stirling

Submission Form



This submission form is also
available online at
engage.ahc.sa.gov.au or you can scan the QR code
Please submit your feedback by 5pm, Tuesday 22 April 2025

Please provide your details below:

Name _____

Suburb _____

Email (preferred)/phone number _____

1. Do you support the Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc lease proposal for 22 Wright Road, Stirling?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
2. Do you support the proposed new Community Land Management Plan for Evelyn Halliday Reserve in Stirling?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
3. If you have any further feedback or comments, please provide them in the space below:

Thank you for providing your feedback!

Your feedback will be considered by the project team. We will keep you informed of the outcome via your email address, or you can register via our Community Engagement Hub at: engage.ahc.sa.gov.au.

08 8408 0400
mail@ahc.sa.gov.au
ahc.sa.gov.au

APPENDIX B – ONLINE SURVEY FORM VERBATIM COMMENTS

Q6 If you have any feedback or comments, please provide them here:
Sounds like a very worthwhile project
Given the terrible problems are precious wildlife is experiencing, they need all the help they can get!!
SOWFI is the most professional, responsible, and accountable of the general wildlife rescues in the greater Adelaide area (ie most ethical). Their upkeep of the native foraging patch at Laratinga Reserve is testament to their dedication to maintenance of public areas. (I have no affiliation with SOWFI, but I have a previous affiliation with a large rescue group who viewed them as "competitors"). The dog park at Halliday Reserve was a fantastic initiative in its day, though it has flagged somewhat since the Balhannah park was developed. I believe that SOWFI are ideal candidates as custodians of this beautiful gift from Evelyn.
This was for community use and was knocked back years ago when house was still liveable for a short term refuge for single mothers and now you want wild life there most of what should be put down not kept to continue doing damage when released council should never have let the house go into disrepair and much better things could have been done with it I am disappointed in the council for even thinking about and next this lot will want money from you
What a great way to help our wildlife which carers are overrun and not enough aviaries to get the possums released back into the wild.
It is fantastic to see the Adelaide Hills Council supporting the amazing work that SOWFI do in our community for our injured wildlife. Given the State Government own and are responsible for management of our native animals, disappointingly they don't support wildlife carers with the work they do on the ground, other than regulating permits for carers, rescuers and other wildlife organisations. Well done Adelaide Hills Council.
This is an excellent idea and wonderful proposal by council to help provide a very important part of wildlife rescue and rehab.
This would be a wonderful opportunity to get more people involved with our native wildlife while also helping existing members to rehabilitate more animals.

This a brilliant idea, as a known bottleneck in wildlife rehabilitation is aviary space. SOWFI is a volunteer organisation and relies 100% on its volunteers. This space will allow more animals to be rescued and rehabilitated.

Firstly, I will say that I personally know the vast majority of those who have so far responded in favour of this wildlife rehabilitation area, and, unlike myself, they have never actually worked or volunteered in a similar centre and therefore are in ignorance of the huge number of issues and pitfalls of the unmanned centre that SOWFI has planned, There is a great deal of naivety in their responses.

1. I have serious concerns regarding the security of the wildlife being kept at this facility. My understanding is that volunteers will be on site for only approximately 2 hours per day, at most. Will the site be fully, securely fenced to protect the animals from malicious intruders? Will there be an electronic security system and how long will it take for volunteers or a security firm to attend if the alarm is triggered?

2. I also have serious concerns regarding SOWFI's volunteer manpower to attend this property daily to feed, clean, weigh and health check the animals held here. SOWFI volunteers are almost exclusively middle aged and elderly home carers who don't like to (or can't travel). Almost all of the wildlife rescue and care organisations in SA struggle to find and keep volunteers. These animals MUST be attended to and fed daily. I can see volunteers being turned over quickly and shifts left unmanned (which has occurred in other areas and projects of SOWFI currently and in the past). This is a serious animal welfare issue. The only other two "wildlife rehabilitation facilities" in Adelaide in recent history that I'm aware of have been manned 24/7 by Directors who actually live on the property.

3. SOWFI uses outdated methods of possum rescue and care. It has been proven that at least 50% (or more) of ringtail possums and a smaller percentage of brushtail possums that are "rescued" can in fact be reunited with their mothers by experienced "possum reunite" volunteers. There is another major wildlife rescue organisation in Adelaide (and others interstate) which is having huge success with this, meaning they have few possums in care to aviary stage. Best practice for possums and their carers is to help get them back in the trees with their mums, not being bundled up with unrelated possums, put in a box and placed in an unmanned and unsecure "finishing school", then released into foreign territory. I believe SOWFI should first encourage and train their rescuers and carers to reunite possums to their family in their home territory, rather than inexpertly relocating random groups of possums. If this was the case, there would not be enough possums in care to require a "possum finishing school". As for koalas in care, this horrifies me as there are only a very small handful of volunteers within SOWFI who have the training or experience to care for this very specialist species, and of these, at least half of them live too far from Stirling to attend daily. I'm actually hugely surprised that DEW have even authorised this.

4. I have spoken to carers who have stated that they won't surrender their possums to this site

where they are not monitored 24/7. Carers spend hours and hours caring for tiny joeys, feeding them by syringe all hours of the day and night, bonding with them, willing them to survive and thrive. They won't send them to these unmanned aviaries where they don't know if their animals are going to be cleaned and fed to their own high standards,

I am thrilled that the Adelaide Hills Council is supporting this vital initiative by providing a suitable site for a wildlife 'finishing school.' I hope this program becomes a permanent fixture and that more projects like this are established throughout our community. Our wildlife is invaluable and must be protected. More land should be designated as protected spaces to ensure our animals, birds, insects, and plants have the food, shelter, and habitat they need to thrive.

Conservation of ecosystems and care about wildlife should be a priority for human kind unfortunately isn't. That's why we need more initiatives as Save Our Wildlife Foundation. The remarkable work on conservation and care of wildlife it's essential for Adelaide and for South Australia.

Wonderful initiative

Great idea

Important initiative

Wonderful idea -great initiative as long as it is only for community/ not for profit organisations.

Great use of community land and reflects community values in the Adelaide Hills

This proposal will be essential to assist native wildlife to have a dedicated habitat to enable any native wildlife to thrive prior to being released back into their natural habitat, and assist the dedicated volunteers of SOWFI who will be involved with establishing the WFS to care and monitor, and assess and prepare native wildlife prior to release. This facility could also benefit native wildlife from other native rescue wildlife organisations in SA as an option for those animals to use the Wildlife Finishing School through consultation with SOWFI.

Wonderful proposal. Our wildlife so need this type of support and care in recovering so they can return to their natural environment.

As a registered and practising veterinarian *****, I believe this is a great idea (our wildlife is precious) and can offer volunteer veterinary care/advice if required.

This would be a great project to assist with the growing displacement of our wildlife due to housing developments.

Now more than ever, our native wildlife needs care and rehabilitation due to 'urban spread', bushfires, traffic fatalities, lack of appropriate living spaces and members of the public deliberately poisoning. SOWFI members have great pride in their organisation and the care they provide for our animals and environment.

Brilliant use of the area for a worthy cause.

I am a wildlife possum carer and I know how important it is to have aviaries available to house rescue animals through to release. I have 1 medium cage and 1 aviary so there can often be a backlog of possums waiting to get into an aviary. It is so important so get them to release age and back into the wild as soon as possible.

Having these aviaries available to carers will make a big difference. It's where they learn their climbing, browsing and confidence before release.

This would be fantastic for the wildlife and the carers . I am a carer myself and this would be fantastic

Having previously volunteered at a Wildlife Rehabilitation hospital I am aware of how valuable this facility will be to enable the care of injured wildlife and their release back into their native environment.

I recently donated to SOWFI because I became aware of the dedication and expertise of their volunteers. What they are doing is very important and I fully support the proposals if they will make their work easier and help them achieve their goals.

This is a wonderful and practical idea to help our native wildlife get back to the wild. Carers across this community work very hard to rear and rehabilitate native animals, and SOWFI volunteers raise many, many possums, and these aviaries will be a huge help to ease the bottleneck during the breeding season and throughout the year.

The use of the dwelling and shed to provide storage will be very useful in summer and winter, and the established water mains will help with watering, cooling, and cleaning.

This will be a great collaboration between the Council and SOWFI wildlife carers, and will show the community how much the Council values wildlife and carers.

This is a win for all parties, but especially for the animals who will benefit from a dedicated place of rehabilitation in the beautiful Adelaide hills.

Support 100% with no reservations

Fantastic news. Should be more places like this for saving and rehabilitating the dwindling wildlife throughout the hills and down to the South Coast

1. Is the AHC spending any money for this proposal, and will the AHC be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the non exclusive occupation of the premises now and in the future for the next 5 years.

The number of cars parking and entering/exiting per day should be limited to provide continued amenity for surrounding residents. Extra parking, if required, could be utilised in the dog park car park with visitors walking to the property from there.

I have questions. Will there still be access to walk around the outside of the dog park fence? Will walkers still be able to access/walk in the green Conservation area?

I welcome the continued use of this piece of land as intended and its inclusion of the wildlife foundation at the site to support sick and injured animals

I think it's a lovely idea and am delighted the Council are considering supporting it. If a noisy dog park can be tolerated by the residents of Wright Rd, I can't see how this could be a problem for them.

What a fabulous idea and achievement. Good luck with everything, I believe this is very much needed in the hills.

Support is contingent on the conservation zone not reducing in size.

Great idea

I feel this would be a great opportunity to help support our wildlife get back to their homes
Without it many animals could be lost forever

I would hope that the conservation area that is proposed would be cared for and not become a fire hazard for the area/neighbours.

Yes! There are not enough wildlife rescue/rehabilitation facilities in South Australia. This is necessary!

I think it is a great use of the house and land

What a fantastic opportunity to use this community land to help prepare wildlife for their release back into their natural habitat.

A great idea to utilise a council asset that otherwise is sitting vacant and not contributing to the community. We wish them all the best

Being a wildlife carer, I see the use & establishment of a finishing school vital to the ongoing care of sick/injured wildlife either from natural reasons or bushfire. I also see the use of the house as a possible education centre necessary for the ongoing recruitment of volunteers through public engagement and education.

I support the idea of wildlife rehabilitation. I am also in favour of the former dwelling at 22 Wright Rd being used to prevent it falling into disrepair or otherwise attractive for vandalism or property damage.

I am mindful of the noise impact of the aviaries on nearby residents.

Great proposal

I believe this use of the land to be to the general benefit of the community as per the Trust, and a fitting use of the site given the similar ethos of a recreation reserve and wildlife rescue organisation.

As an added bonus I expect having volunteers attend the site daily would reduce vandalism of the adjacent house, and achieve at least some utility for it, given it is currently not utilised which seems undesirable.

I would only support this proposal if SOWFI bares all associated costs with or majorly contributes to all changes to the site to accommodate the proposed activities (kitchen, bathroom etc). SOWFI cover ALL changes to or majorly contributes to operational costs incurred by the AHC Council (eg. increased Water and power use, security implications) and does NOT burden the AHC rate payer. SOWFI commit to meeting all legislative requirements and costs (fire, vermin control, polluted water runoff etc) for the proposed activities. Commit to cover all associated costs with or majorly contributes to any costs incurred when returning the site to its original state (agreed with AHC Council) upon ceasing activities. Update the "EVELYN HALLIDAY RESERVE COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN" Section 11 table to reflect the site rather than reference "Playing surfaces and equipment" and include the recommendations above.

This proposal is not in line with the intention with which Evelyn Halliday bequeathed the land to the council for. Nor is the location suitable for increased traffic and parking.

Further to this, the installation of an Avery that is 9x4m would require significant demolition of Evelyn's garden, which is enjoyed by wildlife and the community.

I have strong concerns about risks with traffic at the end of wright road and potential for accidents. My children play in the reserve. We do not need more cars in this area. There is a blind hill where cars could collide. This proposal is not in line with what Evelyn Halliday would have wanted. This is not for the local community. The local residents do not want this.

Absolutely Not!

I live on Wright Road and there are all sorts of council issues to be dealt with first. Roads are unsafe, Trees are overgrown unstable and unsafe. I along with a lot of other members in Crafers and the broader community do not want this and as Ms Evelyn Halliday left this as a Trust on the site that states that the whole of the land (including the much larger recreation reserve) should be held in Trust for use as "a Recreation Reserve for the general benefit of the Community forever.

The community says NO!

This proposal is not in line with community use and what was originally intended by Evelyn Halliday.

I walk regularly in this reserve and think it sounds like a great use of the empty residence.

Wright Road is a No through Rd ,which has no footpath and increased traffic because of the dog park ,no upgrades to the road have been made since the dog park was established, and the increase in traffic is significant, we have resided on Wright Road for 45 years and have noticed the increased foot traffic with people walking the to the dog park ,having no footpath is an issue with dogs off lead and children walking to and from the dog park .I don't think we need anymore traffic unless the road and footpath issue are addressed

Please ensure birds are not caged for long periods.

As a wildlife rescuer and carer for possums I believe this is a great step forward to assist in our care and release.

The details of what is proposed are very sketchy. Based on what is published we have concerns about possible noise from recovering birds and other animals and the impact of their presence on dogs using the surrounding paths. We are also concerned about the increase in traffic accessing the car park on the crest of a hill at a very narrow part of Wright Road.
Our view is that more detail needs to be published, including more information about the long term proposals, before any decision could be taken.

this is community land and all community groups should be given the opportunity to submit a proposal followed by assessment all proposals on their merits rather than essentially gifting the exclusive use of part of the land and the cottage to one organisation.

This proposal is clearly not what the land left in trust by Evelyn Halliday was intended for. It was left to the community for recreational purposes. In your proposal you acknowledge this fact.

The area that is proposed to be leased out to the Wildlife Foundation is a valuable part of the reserve as it is the only level area in the reserve. A number of people in the community that I have spoken to, use it regularly. By leasing it out this would deny the community access to the land that they have a right to use according to the deed of the Trust. It will be fenced with cameras which is not conducive for public use. The Wildlife Foundation cannot be classified as recreational use in any terms. A peppercorn lease also offers no return benefit for the community.

The proposal refers to the potential for the facility to expand and refers to the scope for more vehicles to access the area. This is exactly what the community does not want - "give an Inch and a yard or more is taken" The proposal also sets a precedent that will allow the council to possibly allow further expansion in the future, and the community will have little or no control over the land that they have a right to use. Therefore the entire proposal should be halted. It is not within the intention of the trust left by Evelyn Halliday.

Further, The entrance to that part of the reserve is on a very dangerous Blind Rise in the road. It is an extremely dangerous section of Wright Road. Council has previously been notified about the dangers of this section of Wright Road. It is effectively a single lane and has no center markings. Any increase in traffic would increase the danger. It is absolutely not suitable to increase traffic in this area.

This is a quiet residential area on a Cul de Sac road. There is mention of an educational centre opening in the future with busses of school children and other visitors. Being residential an increase in traffic and noise would not be welcomed. This area is not zoned for educational purposes. residents in this area bought here because of the peace and quiet and low traffic volumes.

I and many others empathically do not support the proposal or changes to the Community Management Plan.

I would also like it noted that it was underhand of Council to close Consultation the day after Easter. This is a time when families go away enjoy being together and not stressing about Council changing things that are dear to them.

lack of information. Would like to know a lot more detail about future growth of the proposal

Wright road is busy enough now with dog park and local traffic

This proposal would be better located in a National park eg. Belair or Cleland

APPENDIX C – EMAILS AND WRITTEN FEEDBACK

Email Feedback 1

Mr Greg Georgopoulos
Chief Executive Officer
Adelaide Hills Council
STIRLING SA 5052

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Mr Georgopoulos

As you are no doubt aware, the Aldgate Men's Shed will be moving our base from the site we have occupied for 25 years at the Village Well, 54 Strathalbyn Rd, Aldgate. We have been offered the use of a shed on the grounds of the Woodhouse Adventure Park in Piccadilly and are currently refitting and adapting this shed to make it safe and suitable to our needs. Council recently granted us \$4,399.00 towards some of the fit-out costs and we are making good progress with this.

The Woodhouse Shed is however only half the size of the Aldgate Shed. We are being resourceful and inventive in making the best use of the available space – but the space is limited. We can fit nearly all the major saws, planers and drills into the space. But we have no space to store the other half of our equipment, benches etc.

You will recall that we made an approach to Council some months ago for new premises, before Woodhouse offered us the use of their Shed. One of the premises we enquired about was the Halliday property at 22 Wright Rd, which we were informed by Council staff could not be made available to us as the terms of the Halliday bequest excluded its sole use by any one community group.

We would like to request a review of that advice, but only in respect of the small shed that sits on the fence boundary and accessible without the need to enter the other areas of the property. We seek the use of that shed to meet our storage needs for the equipment, benches and other items which we currently have stored at the Aldgate shed.

We hope you will be able to consider this request and we would of course be delighted if you could respond positively.

Yours sincerely


For The Aldgate Men's Shed Inc


Email Feedback 2

April 21st, 2025

Ms Lisa Smith
Property Officer
Adelaide Hills Council
engage@ahc.sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Smith,

Re: Community Consultation for the Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc (SOWFI) Lease Proposal at 22 Wright Road, Stirling.

I am in receipt of your brief correspondence of 31MAR25 concerning the above proposal.

Thank you for inviting my response, however it is with a deep sense of foreboding that I make the following submission to the Adelaide Hills Council (AHC), being fully aware that prior correspondence to the AHC has gone either unacknowledged or unacted upon.

Whilst on the surface the proposal appears caring and environmentally conscious, it raises significant concerns regarding the planning process and the likely impact on surrounding residential community and their properties (ie your rate payers).

Concerning SOWFI:

- I understand that the only recently incorporated Save Our Wildlife Foundation was founded in 2018 and that, according to its statement at the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) register it has annual income \$115,290 and Expenses of \$49,964 leaving a balance of \$65,326. The vast majority of the Revenue is from Donations, Bequests, Goods and services and Other. It seems the only reasonably assured Revenue stream is about \$9,488 in the form of Government Grants. According to the SOFI Annual Report that grant money comes from the AHC, Onkaparinga & Mount Barker Councils and People's Choice Community Lottery.
- SOWFI appears in need of a replacement Wildlife Ambulance.
- Annually SOWFI's main expenses are their vehicle, marketing and Wildlife Food and Equipment costs.
- According to the SOWFI annual report, their Board Members all seem of short duration and hence stability of fiscal management in the longer-term must be questioned.
- SOWFI's finances and structure do not seem sound enough to service rental property needs for the next five years at market rates. I wonder if it is also a conflict of interest that AHC contributes to a foundation from which it also seeks to obtain a financial benefit?
- According to the ACNC site SOWFI currently operate from Mt Lofty at Cleland.
- SOWFI also assert they have rescued 1000 animals and provide a 24/7 rescue service responding to 4,835 calls in 2023-24.

- Operations seem to be around the clock with animals often rehabilitated at night by volunteers.
- According to the SOWFI website, they intend to spend \$50,000 From Terra Artemis Foundation Pty Ltd on a 10.5x3x2.09m "aviary" to house "an additional 130 possums" in a Wildlife Finishing School.
- I note from the 2023/24 SOWFI annual Report item 4.7 SOWFI stated "Enhanced Wildlife Rehabilitation – Coming in 2024/25. This suggest that SOWFI have been liaising with AHC for quite some time before the AHC has only recently deigned to inform those locals concerned. (This is quite reminiscent of the 5 years behind the scenes AHC planning and development of the Wright Road Dog Park before locals were informed a month before the Dog Park was opened). Likewise, the AHC notice informing Wright Road residents of the proposal was dated on 31/03/25 and not received by post until 3/04/25, allowing only 19 days for the local community to consider the proposal and submit a written reply. This is not an enabling approach to people with busy working lives or families away during the school holidays and Easter break. It is clear from the information regarding the proposal and the signage now placed in Wright Road that AHC has been considering and preparing this proposal for some time, and have subsequently only provided a relatively short time for community submissions in response.
- It seems from the Annual Report that SOWFI are confident of AHC support, which would be hardly surprising as, for some ill-defined reason, AHC already contributes to SOWFI's expenses.
- I note that SOWFI's Strategic Objective: Care fosters "the well-being and support of our members" and native wildlife but fails to mention the well-being and support of potential neighbours. This is an inherent failing of special interest support groups.

Concerning the Evelyn Halliday Property and Wright Road:

- The Halliday property was left "to benefit the people of the community". The land use zoning is Recreational/Sports per AHC Development Plan Map and Planning Zoning maps.
- The car park at 22 Wright Road is blind to people driving from the north west and those drivers are unsighted by the rise and established significant trees at the car park such that cars entering and exiting that car park are at once safety hazards and at risk of injury. We have had to have our letter box pillar rebuilt a number of times because of cars attempting a U turn on that rise.
- Wright Road is primarily a residential street: it is a cul de sac with no thoroughfare. Incoming vehicles are required to use the same entry and exit point, increasing traffic burden to local residents (safety, noise and dust issues)

So far AHC has:

- Tried to sell the Evelyn Halliday land (until it was pointed out that that was not the intent of the will)
- Sold off the land's pine tree lumber (until the contractor had a heart attack)
- Tried to sell the Wright Rd tennis courts notionally to relocate them to the Halliday Reserve (until it was pointed out that the flattest land at the Reserve was actually a swampy spring and would require costly earthworks). The Wright Road tennis courts have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair and the Stirling East Tennis Club has had to amalgamate and collocate with the Crafers Club. It is the view of people in Wright Road that the courts are a target for AHC disposal. Their use is not indemnified and is discouraged by the AHC.
- Leased the Halliday house to a council worker who helpfully acted as park caretaker, horticulturist and Friends of Halliday Group coordinator until he was declared redundant and

- evicted.
- Installed a Dog Park against the wishes of the people in Wright Road and after five years of secret behind the scenes manoeuvring by a councillor who left the council as soon as she obtained her desired dog park.
- Left the house vacant for many years despite replacing the roof and installing air-conditioning many years ago and leaving the house with boarded windows. Council staff subsequently informed people in the street that it was to be let to another council worker: this has not occurred.
- Allowed Trees for Life to maintain the property for free.
- Allowed dog owners to let their unleashed dogs (including proscribed dangerous breeds) to freely roam about the whole Evelyn Halliday Reserve and Wright Road. Unleashed dogs (and their owners searching for their runaway 'lost' dogs) are often seen trespassing in Wright Road residents' front and back yards. This presents as a dangerous concern for families with young children and smaller pets. Dog excrement, digging and plant/garden damage is often found on properties.
- Failed to regulate dog usage in the Park and Wright Road. The Council Ranger no longer attends but an outsourced "ranger" occasionally visits for half an hour every few months.
- Failed to tend to the control of vermin such as rabbits++ and foxes that now infest the Evelyn Halliday Reserve and at night destructively ravage the local streets and gardens and kill local wildlife: - possum carcasses are often found.
- Failed to notice that the proposed lease includes a fire access trail, walkway, and carpark that are currently used for fire access, pedestrians accessing the Mt Barker Road bus stops from Bradshaw Avenue via Wright Road and used by Trees-for Life and Dog Park vehicles.
- Failed to mention in their proposal notification that SOWFI has apparently stated that they intend to expand the facility at a later date and that this year they would expect 150 possums.

Given past behaviour is the most accurate predictor of future conduct, it seems likely that the AHC will:

- Almost belligerently and heartlessly ignore local rate payer concerns and press ahead with the wishes of a special interest group relocating possums, 90% of which SOWFI admit that they receive from outside AHC area, and whose volunteers are almost all not AHC residents.
- Fail to understand that a menagerie or aviary (however well intentioned) does not fall within a definition of Recreational and/or Sporting Use in a residential area.
- Financially fail to meet any, as yet, ill-defined fiscal goals.
- Fail to understand or acknowledge the normal nocturnal behaviour of possums. Possums scream at night for various reasons, primarily as a form of communication and territorial defence. These sounds include loud screeches, hisses and growls (up to 80 dB) which are used to warn off other possums, express frustration or agitation and signal danger. They are nocturnal, meaning they are more active at night making their vocalisations more noticeable during these hours. A single possum "finishing school" of "an additional 150 possums" would create significant and vexatious noise disturbance to Wright Road residents.
- Fail to control or manage the expected relentless escape of possums and other wildlife. Possums in the hills are a delight to behold but are destructive to dwellings and no respecters of man-made constructions. They have no difficulties entering, damaging and exiting homes or enclosures. Personally, I have had considerable damage to my roof-space from various possums that I have had to catch and try to relocate.
- Fail to acknowledge that once the rehabilitated possums are relocated, it is a common occurrence for them to return to their familiar nesting spots, as they are attracted back by

food sources or other perceived comforts. This poses further inherent, long-term difficulties for homeowners in the Wright Road vicinity.

- Fail to understand that the use of a human habitation for the care of animals will lead to infection of the building and the need for costly building rehabilitation before it could ever again be fit for human habitation.
- Fail to mitigate against the likely distress to the caged possums from the barking of dogs from the dog park enclosure and the closer, possibly lethal, attention of unleashed dogs in the greater Halliday Reserve area.
- Fail to mitigate against foxes and rabbits and vermin seeking to access the food that would be stored on site.
- Fail to take into account the further loss of local amenity to the people of Wright Road with the advent of even more noise (screeches of confined/traumatised/sick possums resulting in more barking of dogs), increased road traffic on a residential no-through road, disturbance to residents from more night animal relocation work, and yet more strangers in the street. We already have had to deal with apparent dog sales, drug exchanges and stolen vehicles and trailers being left on site requiring police notification.

Given that the AHC already seems financially committed to SOWFI and seems intent on striking some deal with likely minimal fiscal benefit, might I humbly suggest the following plan:

- First and foremost, cease interfering with the lives of the people in the once upon a time quaint and quiet cul-de-sac of Wright Road (now regrettably a distant recollection of the peaceful hills environment I sought for my family).
- If SOWFI do not already have property at Cleland then AHC could allow SOWFI the gratis use of a small parcel of land in one of the AHC's large Conservation Parks (Mark Oliphant, Mount George, Mylor or Scott Creek or any of the dozens of conservation parks outside the area of the AHC: whichever has close power and water) where their activities, noise and structures could be at least 200m from any habitation and most likely much further removed.
- Allow SOWFI the use of council road plant to level a site and make a short road and staff car park and whatever trenching is needed
- Encourage SOWFI to approach Jarrad and Tanya Stratton (already on the Board of Artemis Foundation Pty Ltd and owners/GM of Stratco and quite surprisingly wealthy) to supply suitable sheds in exchange for Stratco charitable tax deduction, Stratco publicity and advertising rights). (Alternatively the Artemis Foundation might like to funnel some more of its charity interest earnings back into Stratco directly to cover the cost of steadings).
- Provide SOWFI with planning approval for construction associated with the Conservation use on Conservation Zoned land.
- Allow SOWFI to use their secure limited funds for the day-to-day expenses. That way the council could reasonably argue that they contribute and even claim to continue to contribute to SOWFI, by not charging SOWFI rates.
- SOWFI would even be able to relocate the possums within the surrounding conservation park.
- Should SOWFI fail then the shed(s) could be repurposed for the conservation park or demounted and re-sited.
- AHC could again lease the Halliday house to a council employee as a caretaker at reasonable rates and, if the council could refrain from retrenching the leasee, could expect long term benefit.

The people of Wright Road would be considerably happier if AHC didn't feel so inclined to muck about

on our turf. It is reasonable to suggest that the imposition of a dog park is more than enough for our hitherto quiet residential street to endure.

Please don't get me started on the many other ways the Adelaide Hills Council's ill-considered and inconsiderate planning decisions have diminished my own property's amenity, damaged my house and distressed me personally.

I would welcome the opportunity to personally discuss this matter further and keenly await your acknowledgement and response to my submission.

Please direct any correspondence to my home address as above or:

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Failure to hear directly from my local ACH Ward Councillor or AHC Mayor within 4 weeks will be again considered proof positive that this correspondence has not been read, considered or actioned, and that, as with the dog park, this consultation process has also been a sham.

Email Feedback 3

Good morning

It appears I may have just missed the consultation period, however I still wish to submit my comments.

I am a resident within the Adelaide Hills Council and I have joined the 'notifications' list so that in future I can actively participate in consultation as a resident of Mount Barker as this information was passed onto me, as I was not aware of SOWFI's submission. [Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc Lease Proposal 22 Wright Road Stirling | Community Engagement Hub](#)

Just to give you some of my personal background, I am and have been an experienced advanced wildlife carer of Possums in South Australia for over 4 years and I am actively involved with facilitating education to new carers for possums, for a wildlife organisation in SA (not SOWFI). I have the appropriate DEW permit for this and have rescued, transported or rehabilitated hundreds of possums.

Whilst I support SOWFI's idea of identifying a "suitable site/land to establish a wildlife 'finishing school' to benefit sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in their final stages of rehabilitation and to provide emergency care for animals that survive emergency events and require ongoing rehabilitation until release back into the wild", I do have some concerns relating to their proposal of which I think the community requires more understanding of as there are some risks I believe.

Some of my comments & concerns are as follows;

1. All wildlife organisations across SA and in fact all of Australia are struggling to recruit and maintain enough volunteers to support wildlife rescue ongoing therefore the following is of initial concern as to how this could be supported effectively
 - a. Increased 'burn out' of carers. It is well known that some carers are known to have over 30 animals in care at any one time. This is far too many even if someone doesn't work, the care of the animal is compromised & increased risk of animals becoming sick due to poor husbandry etc due to volume of animals.
 - b. Increased attrition of carers due to high pressure or expectation to take on more. As with any volunteer organisation, there is always some bullying type behaviours that occurs within ALL wildlife organisations and this is not managed well in some instances
 - c. Whilst some carers are permitted for multiple species of wildlife which is fine, but when they have too many the actual quality of care provided to the animal is compromised
 - d. How many volunteers does SOWFI propose will be required, who will maintain the rosters to ensure the possums are provided daily with fresh browse, aviaries are cleaned and maintained etc.
2. Security of the site – whilst they propose to install security cameras, the site is proposed to be used by all community people, so how will management / observation of the possums be monitored overnight to ensure that members of public do not attempt to tamper with the aviaries or have animals stress or torment the possums.
3. Will there be additional fencing around the aviaries, thereby creating a barrier from public being able to directly access the aviaries too closely.
4. Will these aviaries only be available to SOWFI as a wildlife organisation to utilise
5. Who will manage the site or have ownership? What contingency is in place if say for example SOWFI as a wildlife organisation ceased to exist?
6. The estimated ongoing annual costs to support a 'finishing school', that SOWFI have listed could be well underestimated and there would be heavy reliance on 'donations' to support. No wildlife organisation is supported in SA by any government funding, unlike some other states in Australia.
7. When it states in the proposal cost of insurance to only be \$300 a year, what sort of insurance is that and what is it covering considering the aviaries are proposed to be on a location that can be utilised by the public?
8. Will DEW actively monitor or be involved with this site in any capacity? I'd really like to see that DEW are more actively involved across SA in the overall monitoring of carers, albeit I understand that they are not resourced for this, but government needs to look into this in future.

I look forward to hearing more about this proposal and the feedback (general consensus) received from the community on this. It needs to be well thought through and the community need to be well informed.

Thank you

APPENDIX D - ADVERTISEMENTS, E-BLASTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

2 April 2025 –Courier Column and Advertisement



School holiday program out now

Check out school holiday fun and creative activities at our libraries and community centres to keep the kids entertained!

For more information, visit: ahc.sa.gov.au/holiday-programs

Community Forum. Shaping a Sustainable Future

Focussing on sustainability, this is an opportunity for engaged locals, Council staff, and Elected Members to connect and discuss what truly matters to you, Tuesday April 29 at 6pm.

To register, visit: ahc.sa.gov.au

Proposed lease of Council land to Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc.

Council is proposing a five-year lease agreement with the Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc. to establish a wildlife finishing school at 22 Wright Road Stirling.

Submissions are open until April 22 via: engage.ahc.sa.gov.au

**Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc
Lease Proposal
22 Wright Road Stirling**

Council is proposing a five-year lease agreement with the Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc. to establish a wildlife finishing school.

This would provide use of an area for aviaries, the dwelling and the existing storage shed on site.

Further details and opportunity to provide your submission is available online at engage.ahc.sa.gov.au, or you can contact Council's Property Officer, Lisa Smith.

☎ 8408 0400
 @ engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
 📍 63 Mt Barker Rd, Stirling SA 5152

Printed copies of consultation documents are also available at Council's service centres in Stirling, Woodside, Gumeracha and Norton Summit.

Consultation closes 5pm, Tuesday 22 April 2025.




ahc.sa.gov.au

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7 April 2025 – Hills Voice E-newsletter sent to 4114 subscribers (109 clicks from below)



**Save Our Wildlife Foundation
lease proposal for 22 Wright
Road Stirling**

Have your say!

Read More ➔

2 April 2025 – EHQ Newsletter “Consultation Opens Today – Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc. Lease Proposal – 22 Wright Road, Stirling.” sent to 306 EHQ Registrants

From: Community Engagement Hub
Reply to: engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
To: [346 recipients](#)
Subject: Consultation Open Today - Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc. Lease Proposal - 22 Wright Road, Stirling.

**Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc.
Lease Proposal - 22 Wright Road Stirling**



Dear AHC Engagement Subscriber and local resident,

As a local resident living in or near Stirling we wanted to share this consultation opportunity with you.

The Save Our Wildlife Foundation Inc are requesting a suitable site/land to establish a wildlife 'finishing school' to benefit sick, injured and orphaned wildlife in their final stages of rehabilitation and to provide emergency care for animals that survive emergency events and require ongoing rehabilitation until release back into the wild.

What's Being Proposed

Council is proposing a lease be established for 5 years providing use of an area for aviaries, the dwelling and the existing storage shed on a portion of the site at 22 Wright Road, Stirling.

Statistics

Delivered 2 Apr 2025, 11:25

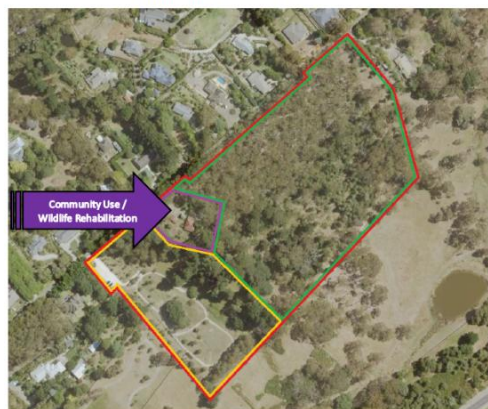
Sent	306	88.4%
Open Rate	233	67.3%
Clicks	22	6.4%
Marked spam	0	0%
Bounce rate	0	0%
Unsubscribed	0	0%

How do your stats compare to others in the same industry?
Industry average benchmarks: ⓘ

Open Rate	21.06%
Click Rate	3.32%
Bounce rate	0.20%
Spam	0.01%
Unsubscribe	0.22%

[Statistics source](#)

Evelyn Halliday Reserve – CT 5324/737



- Boundary of Evelyn Halliday Reserve
- Informal Recreation
- Conservation
- Community Use / Wildlife Rehabilitation

A license would also be established for 5 years providing non-exclusive occupation of the dwelling surrounds. This would allow general community to also use the site for passive recreation purposes.

In accordance with Councils Public Consultation Policy, and as required by the Local Government Act 1999, Council is inviting submissions on the proposal from any interested persons in the community.

We encourage you to read further information and the full proposal [here](#).

How to provide your submission:

- Preferably using the online submission form [here](#)
- Email to engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
- Send a letter to AHC Community Engagement, 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152
- Phone 8408 0400
- Collect a hardcopy feedback form from any AHC Library or Customer Service Centre at Gumeracha, Norton Summit, Stirling, or Woodside during [opening hours](#).

Opportunity to provide feedback closes at 5pm, on Tuesday 22 April 2025

Kind regards,
The Project Team

Social Media Posts (Facebook)

