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Southern Rural Areas Community Engagement Rescheduled

At request of the State Government's Planning Commission, Council has rescheduled its proposed community engagement for the Southern Rural Areas.

Key Points

- Council has made the decision to reschedule community engagement for the Southern Rural Areas at the request of the State Government's Planning Commission.
- Engagement will now take place in mid-2024 still meeting the timeline for the finalisation of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan.

Council in November 2023 adopted a Southern Rural Areas (SRA) Discussion Paper and was seeking to engage the community in February 2024. This was to gauge community views for wide ranging land use changes in Gawler's Southern Rural Areas.

The purpose of the SRA Discussion Paper is to discuss the potential use of the land that sits in the southern section of the Town of Gawler immediately north of the rapidly growing City of Playford and how it can be used to support the future growth of the region.

Council officers met with the Planning Commission late last year to further discuss key issues such as the location of the proposed Greenbelt and Northern Parklands and how to integrate Council proposals with those of the State Government's Greater Adelaide Regional Plan (GARP).

A letter from the Planning Commission was subject of a recent Council report (23/01/2024). The Planning Commission commended Council's "*proactive approach and commitment to working collaboratively with the Department*".

However, Planning Commission expressed concern on a range of issues – particularly in relation to coordination of State Government agencies and "*the ability to capitalise on significant state infrastructure such as the electrified Gawler Rail corridor*".

Council agreed to reschedule the proposed engagement for the Southern Rural Area which will now commence in Mid-2024.

Quotes attributable to Mayor Karen Redman:

"Councillors unanimously agreed that it's important to get this right, and as such Council is keen to continue to engage and collaborate with the State Government to improve outcomes for the community."

"Council wanted the range of issues raised to be substantially resolved by mid-2024 so that Council can go back to the community with an updated draft of the SRA Discussion Paper and with more support from the State Government".

Quotes attributable to Acting CEO Andrew Goodsell:

"It was noted that the State Government will now delay the finalisation on its GARP until late 2024, therefore Council could engage with its community in mid-2024 and still meet the revised timeline."



“It was also noted that the larger issues, particularly around transit developments and the maximisation of the use State Government land were ones best solved within Government and led by the Planning Commission or key agencies.”

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The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359