



Friends of Willunga Basin

Newsletter, April 2011

also including news from the Southern Community Coalition

Legislated Protection of Willunga Basin

David Gill

Readers will be aware of the public announcement by Premier Mike Rann and our new Urban Development (and Food Marketing) Minister, John Rau. Mike Rann stated: “We want to make sure the Barossa and McLaren Vale never become suburbs of Adelaide” and “It is one of the Jobs I have given John Rau – how we preserve, through legislation, the integrity of the Barossa and McLaren Vale”.

It seems that real progress is commencing, despite our disappointment that it seems that there will be far more development at Seaford Rise than we would have hoped for. FOWB continue to be involved in meetings with Council staff and the Mayor, The Southern Community Coalition (SCC) and McLaren Vale Wine Grape and Tourism at which we worked on both these issues. There have also been meetings in the Barossa with the SCC and their people who are working on preservation issues and the World Heritage Listing proposal. Jim Hullick and Stephanie Johnstone have been our knowledgeable and dedicated representatives there.

Regarding Seaford Heights, the message from John Rau is that the development proposed by Fairmont Homes will go ahead, but with some of the changes demanded. These include a buffer between Victor Harbor Road and housing, and the elimination of bulky goods commercial development on Main South Road. It will be essential that the buffer to Victor Harbor Road is of sufficient size and nature to preserve a vista of the clear skyline of the rounded hill as one climbs out of Noarlunga, not a view of houses, fences and sheds. Careful surveying and landscape evaluation will be required.

Back to the good news, Minister John Rau in meetings in McLaren Vale has indicated real enthusiasm, and indeed some urgency, in planning for legislative

protection of Willunga Basin. FOWB, represented by Stephanie Johnstone of the Southern Community Coalition, and Council are part of a Government committee tasked with working on the issue. John Rau wants to have much of the planning achieved this year, and is particularly keen to get community input into three key questions:

- What is the boundary of the area to be protected?
- What activities should be allowed in the protected area?
- What protection is needed for the boundaries of the Townships within Willunga Basin?

Another important issue will be to define how the interface between agriculture and residential land use should be managed. As a starting point Minister Rau made it clear that the Government would not consider including the land west of Main South Road in the proposed agricultural preserve, however other boundaries were negotiable. This is disappointing but not surprising.

We have the assurance of Mayor Rosenberg and CEO Jeff Tate from Council of the strong support of Council for the proposed legislation; they are starting to plan the extensive community consultation that will be needed for this major project, and are communicating with the Minister concerning such consultation.

It is envisaged that a local steering committee or a similar body will be required to work with Government and we will be eager to be involved – I believe that FOWB has developed the credibility to take a strong role in this process alongside the body that represents commercial interests – the McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association. I think we will have a busy and exciting year!

More about this in the following pages . . .

IN MEMORIAM CAROL SHIELDS



Carol, a very committed and energetic friend of our local environment, passed away on Tuesday 15th March 2011, after being unwell for a long time.

She was a stalwart defender of our beautiful Aldinga Scrub and a passionate advocate of respect for nature and particularly for the restoration of endemic native vegetation.

She was particularly active as a member of Friends of Aldinga Scrub.

The best memorial to her will be the many thousands of local native plants which she supplied to local revegetation projects through her nursery business WIRRASCAPE.

She was a person of great integrity and those of us who knew her will miss her friendship.

We wish to express our sincere condolences to her partner Giles.

Chas Martin



Southern Community Coalition Update

by

Stephanie Johnston

Spokesperson, Southern Community Coalition

April 2011

Gosh, where do I start? What a great couple of months it has been for those of us who love the Willunga Basin, Adelaide's rural surrounds in general, and for those who make a living from them.

First we have four councils coming on board (lead by our own City of Onkaparinga) with funding for a feasibility study on the University of Adelaide's proposed UNESCO World Heritage bid to list a series of agricultural landscapes from Clare to the Fleurieu. Then we have Premier Rann's appointment of John Rau as Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning and Minister for Food Marketing, adding to his tourism and attorney-general portfolios. Next are the Premier's instructions to Rau to create the protection legislation we have all been asking for for so long. And then, Gaia almighty, we have the Deputy Premier coming to talk to us to see what we think, before he proceeds with that legislation!

There has been a line drawn in the sand along the way, however. Minister Rau will not consider reversing any existing residential zoning, so the Seaford Heights development will go ahead, albeit with proper consideration given to buffers and sightlines, to avoid the development being seen from the Victor Harbor Road gateway, and to avoid unsightly commercial development along Main South Road. We have also put forward that an urban-zoned 500m buffer between Seaford Heights and the current waste dump, not currently up for development, be rezoned back to rural. The SCC continues to question the proposed location of a future commercial centre on the south east corner of Main South Road and Wheaton Road, in the absence of any railway station opposite. We believe that this land ought to become a transition zone to the rural area, given that it is unlikely that a railway extension to Seaford Heights will occur in the foreseeable future. We also continue to lobby the Minister and Council to allocate budget for landscaping and vegetated buffering of the suburban edges of our gateway areas on Main South Road, Victor Harbor Road and Pedlar Creek.

On another exciting front, the SCC's relations with our counterparts in the Barossa are cementing. We attended a forum at Peter Lehmann's Wines on April Fool's Day entitled "Can we have it all" which was staged by Regional Development Australia Barossa Inc. Guest speakers included Professor Randy Stringer, the proponent of a World Heritage bid and Tim Horton, the recently appointed Integrated Design Commissioner, as well as developer Michael Hickinbotham. We are now in ongoing communication with key community and industry representatives in the Barossa, and the SCC hopes to help stage a similar forum later in the year, hopefully in cooperation with our own Southern Economic Development Board, the University of Adelaide, the McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association and the City of Onkaparinga, to encourage input from the community into the proposed protection legislation and the World Heritage Bid.

Finally we need to inform SCC members that our Chair, Jim Hullick OAM is moving to town. He will be missed in the region, but the good news is that he will continue his involvement with the SCC from his new city base.

So keep watching this space!

Govt Bill designed to shield wine icons

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smartfarmer

A BILL to protect the McLaren Vale and Barossa Valley wine regions from urban sprawl – proposed by Member for Mawson Leon Bignell – is likely to be incorporated in draft legislation to be tabled later this year by Urban Planning and Development Minister John Rau.

“The Agricultural and Tourism Preserve Bill 2009 is bringing the two regions together,” Mr Bignell said.

“Divided it is just an issue for McLaren Vale or the Barossa.

“It’s more powerful to have two of Australia’s biggest wine regions standing side-by-side saying we’re not going to cop this anymore.”

Following the announcement by Premier Mike Rann that he would instruct Mr Rau to prepare legislation to protect both regions, Mr Bignell’s proposals – which have received support from the Southern Community Coalition and Friends of Willunga Basin – were expected to become part of a stronger bill.

Mr Bignell, who travelled to the Napa Valley last year to examine the legislative process which has protected the region since 1968, says the bill will create boundaries that prevent the regions being swallowed up by urban sprawl.

He would like the boundary around McLaren Vale to cover the whole wine region.

“The main thing is to stop urban sprawl and recognise the environment that we have is worth protecting,” he said.

But he said 1130 houses proposed for 77ha of urban-zoned land at Seaford Heights was “a separate argument”.

“We said no to 8000 houses at Bowering Hill on the basis there would be about 1200 on Seaford Heights,” Mr Bignell said.

McLaren Vale Grape, Wine & Tourism Association chairperson Pip Forrester said the bill was “something that should have been done a long time ago”.



McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism Association chairperson Pip Forrester chats with Member for Mawson Leon Bignell about diffeing proposals to preserve the icon wine refions of McLaren Vale and Barossa.

It mirrors similar legislation introduced in 1968 to protect Napa Valley winemakers and community groups in the first United States Agriculture Preserve

The land zoning within the preserve pinpoints agriculture and open space as the best uses for land in the valley and foothills of Napa County. At first, the Bill protected almost 10,000ha of agricultural land. It now protects more than 14,500ha.

In 2000, the initiative was passed to hold all Napa Valley land zonings in place until 2020 unless changed by a vote of two-thirds of the community.

Mr Bignell says he is also supportive of the Unesco Agrarian Landscapes and Wild Heritage Status designation of the region being proposed by University of Adelaide Professors Mike Young and Randy Stringer. He would be meeting with them to find out more about the proposal.

Brokenshire wants to give farms a future

‘Right to Farm’ Legislation

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AGRICULTURE Minister Michael O’Brien has asked Robert Brokenshire, to prepare a detailed paper on the merits of introducing right to farm legislation in South Australia.

“Following a meeting with industry leaders representing a cross-section of commodities, the Minister has indicated an interest in the proposal,” the Family First MLC said.

“If he thinks the idea is worth approving, and legislation is subsequently passed, South Australia would become the first state in Australia to have it – something which every state in the United States already enjoys.”

Mr Brokenshire, is a long-time critic of the Rann government’s record of favouring sub-divisions over the preservation of agricultural land. He wants the State Government to:

- Support his Bill in its entirety in the Legislative Assembly.
 - Make amendments to take account of any concerns.
 - Immediately introduce the State Government’s (Leon Bignell/John Rau) bill.
- “They should not pay lip service and employ stalling tactics while they continue approving further development approvals in the Willunga Basin,” Mr Brokenshire said.



New vision for SA rural protection

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AS the dust settles on the lost struggle to save Mount Barker and Nairne from rampant housing development, new initiatives are gathering pace to protect South Australia's icon wine regions and Hills' farmland. PETER BRADY reports

THE battle to stop rampant urban sprawl has intensified with two new political initiatives and a proposal for UNESCO World Heritage Status over huge swathes of rich agricultural land – stretching from the Clare Valley to Fleurieu Peninsula – breathing hope into the debate.

While the future is far from clear following a decision to allow a massive sub-division at Mount Barker and Nairne and continuing discontent about the 77-hectare Seaford Heights development, a private member's bill seeking to protect Willunga Basin has already passed through the Legislative Council – with Liberal and crossbench support – and State Government has flagged its intention for legislation to protect McLaren Vale and the Barossa from a similar fate.

But two Adelaide University academics have raised the bar even further, proposing Agrarian Landscapes and UNESCO World Heritage Status for a region from Clare to the Willunga Basin.

And four of seven district councils – Onkaparinga, Barossa, Adelaide Hills and Mount Barker – have agreed to contribute \$15,000 each to fund a feasibility study to gauge its viability. Presentations have also been made to Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council and Light Regional Council. Yankalilla will also be approached.

"It's a long-term vision to identify values that will create opportunities for people in a world-class landscape of agricultural quality that people can build on," executive director of the university's Environment Institute Professor Mike Young said.

"This is not just about locking-up and protecting an area.

"But paramount to its success is gaining overwhelming community support."

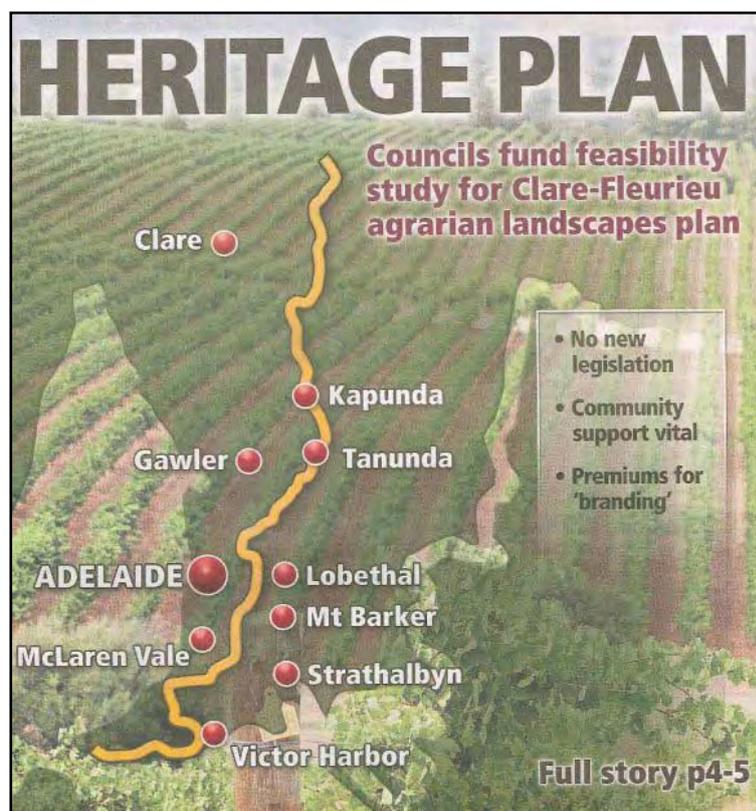
In June last year, Prof Young and the university's Professor of Agriculture and Food Policy Randy Stringer met with mayors and chief executives of the councils to discuss their proposal for the area – roughly following the Heysen Trail – to be retained as working agricultural communities.

The favourable response from councils is only the first step in a process that may take 10 years and involve careful examination (and possible alteration) of boundaries, proposals for intensive housing sub-divisions and major development applications.

Prof Young said that once the "values and aspirations" of people had been identified, "problem areas" could be excluded or fixed.

"We would have to work through these matters and part of that would be a conversation about the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide," he said.

"If we have the councils on board, there would no doubt have to be amendments on planning, to fit the values, and there may be considerable reclamation and rehabilitation."



Prof Young said the initial funding would finance a cost-benefit analysis. If agreement was reached, State and Federal Government would hopefully become part of the process in presenting the final submission.

Support for the proposal has also come from groups and individuals opposing the encroachment of urban development on prime agricultural land.

Residents and businesses, meanwhile, are closely monitoring the progress of Family First MLC Robert Brokenshire's Willunga Basin Protection Bill and the proposed Agricultural and Tourism Preserve Bill, drafted by Mawson Lakes MP Leon Bignell to protect the Barossa and McLaren Vale wine regions (see p4).

McLaren Vale Grape, Wine & Tourism Association chairperson Pip Forrester, whose members have been battling against the Seaford Heights development, says the organisation is taking a keen interest in the proposed World Heritage listing and Premier Mike Rann's promise of looking at "special legislation" to protect the wine regions "for all time".

"We want to protect the land from urban sprawl, not freeze it for all time," Ms Forrester said.

"But Seaford Heights is very unattractive and we continue to oppose it."

As the dust settled on the decision by a government-dominated parliamentary committee to approve rezoning of 1300ha of prime farming land for sub-division at Mount Barker and Nairne, Mr Rann has conceded that "legislation may be needed".

"I have asked Urban Development and Planning Minister John Rau to look at ways that we can protect the unique identity and integrity of the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale," he said.

"We will look at special legislation. We must never allow

the Barossa or McLaren Vale to become suburbs of Adelaide.

"The Barossa and McLaren Vale food and wine regions are key icons of SA. We've got to protect them not just for now but for all time."

Mr Rann said the party's agenda for the next three years would be dominated by the economy and infrastructure, but he did outline a new plan aimed at revitalising the city and also preventing SA's major tourism areas, such as the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale, from being overrun by suburbia.

Ms Forrester, however, says legislative protection would be welcome, but might have come too late to stop Seaford Heights at the gateway to McLaren Vale.

"I'm very pleased the Minister and the Premier are considering looking at the legislation but (we) continue to be really vigilant about what's happening with Seaford Heights and we're not accepting that at all; we're going to continue fighting that one," she said

"But we are talking about two separate issues – how to protect activities into the future (UNESCO WHS) and working with government on their proposals."

Urban planner and long-term campaigner for the protection of Adelaide's agricultural heritage Stephanie Johnston believes moves by the Premier to pursue legislative protection for McLaren Vale and the Barossa – and to tie the planning portfolio in with food and tourism – make complete sense for an economy which "cannot just rely on mining booms and endless housing development to create a long-term sustainable future for us all".

"We need to grow economically, by adding value to our agricultural and tourism assets, not by rolling out the bitumen, colorbond and concrete slabs," she said.

"Those of us who love our nearby rural landscapes hope the government will move quickly on the legislation, and not wait until the horse has bolted.

"That means designing nearby development – including on the government-owned land at Seaford Heights – to support the food wine and tourism economy, not destroy it. Any such development needs to be put on hold until the legislation is in place."

Ms Johnston, a member of the Southern Community Coalition which successfully campaigned for the Urban Boundary Extension at Bowering Hill, 50 kilometres from Adelaide, between Maslin Beach and Port Willunga, actively backs the World Heritage listing.

Prof Young said, if successful, the region would become one of only about 15 listed in Australia.

"The opportunities would be specific to agriculture and the region, allowing people to build on their enterprises and badge what they produce," he said.

"You could also expand the boundaries.

"If you think through features, there is a huge part of SA's history still preserved in the region, along with conservation and national parks and walking trails.

"The foundations are there. People will be able to realise their aspirations."

SA has only one World Heritage site – Naracoorte Caves, a fossil mammal treasure house representing major stages of evolutionary history, which was listed in 1994. It generates about \$10m a year in revenues.

• Need to know more?

whc.unesco.org

Heritage status spells economic prosperity

THE University of Adelaide Environment Institute's proposal for Agrarian Landscapes and UNESCO World Heritage Status would represent "a singular, strategic determinant of regional competitiveness", according to its proponents.

An independent analysis of 15 sites in Australia, WHS was estimated to contribute:

•\$7011.4 million in annual direct and indirect regional output business turnover.

•\$3135m in annual direct and indirect regional value-added.

•\$2117.3m in direct and indirect regional household income.

•42,873 direct and indirect regional jobs.

Executive director of the university's Environment Institute Professor Mike Young and Prof of Agriculture and Food Policy Randy Stringer say only 11 of the 890 WHS sites throughout the world are agrarian landscapes and only a few of those are 'working landscapes', including Val d'Orcia in Italy and Portugal's Alto Douro Valley.

"WHS means substantially higher economic growth from tourism, investment, new business opportunities and 'branding and reputation premiums' for local products," they say in the proposal.

The proposal is for a highly-strategic, pro-growth strategy where:

• Producers can shift crops, change practices and build new buildings.

• New legislation is not required – local development plans will continue to control planning decisions.

• Federal legislation in the form of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 provides the legal framework to protect and manage WH sites, defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance.

• Need to know more?

www.adelaide.edu.au/environment



Prof Mike Young and his colleague Prof Randy Stringer say WHS status represents a long-term vision to identify values that will create opportunities for people in a world class landscape of agricultural quality for people to build on.

Noarlunga TOD

Friends of Willunga Basin have long recognised the need for a greater mix of housing styles than the usual 'gutter to gutter' style the local development industry obviously favour. Not only does the present style produce very mediocre amenity, it is highly wasteful of land. We are also acutely aware of changing requirements of smaller household sizes and the disinterest many people apparently have for gardening. Thus we have supported the proposal for a TOD (another of those acronyms we hate; this one stands for Transit Oriented Development) at Noarlunga Centre.



The proposal that we carefully examined before submitting our comments last February in general looks very sound to us, with a strong emphasis on a human scale, walkable and lively style of mixed use housing and commercial activity centred around a refurbished Noarlunga railway station. The plans encourage higher density living within a 5 minute walk of the station, but also adequate public open space.

However we anticipate resistance to the concept from the conservative development and building industries, and we are aware of the concerns of people who associate higher density living with the hideous high rise tower blocks built in the UK (and in Melbourne) some 50 years ago. What we need is excellent design and quality for the first examples of a TOD so that a sceptical public can be reassured. The plans suggest this is the intention at Noarlunga.

Above right is an aerial photo of Subiaco's new railway station, plaza and town centre to indicate what Noarlunga railway station could be.



Another example (above) is of a recently built & high quality medium density development that I recently saw in Melbourne— these attractive units are in Fitzroy at the site of an old industrial development.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING ON GROUNDWATER MODELLING FOR WILLUNGA BASIN

Held at McLaren Vale Visitor Centre, 3 March 2011

Chas Martin

A recent workshop was conducted as part of the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training Willunga-based project. It was organised by the Integrated Catchment Assessment and Management Centre (iCAM), based at the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University in collaboration with Charles Sturt University's Institute for Land Water and Society (CSU ILWS).

The objective of the NCGRT Willunga Basin Project was to develop an integrated model that can be used for water planning. The workshop was the final stage of a series of scoping activities undertaken, including interviews with participants and a feedback session and report.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide participants with a practical illustration of the integrated model that will be developed, and to obtain their input on its design and how it could be used to benefit water planning and build adaptive capacity for the future. As stakeholders in the future of Willunga Basin and how water will be used in possible futures, participants were encouraged to be engaged in the scoping and design of the model, and deliberation about results. To this end, it was proposed to establish a steering committee that will have an ongoing involvement with NCGRT on the design and outcomes of the model.

At the workshop there was a very impressive representation of local interests including Willunga Basin Water Company, McLaren Vale Water Allocation Group, Mt Lofty Ranges Catchment Authority, Onkaparinga Council, McLaren Vale Grape, Wine & Tourism Association, Willunga Hills Face Landcare Group, with Chas Martin, representing F.O.W.B.

Issues raised by Chas on behalf of FOWB included:

1. Nutrient inputs into aquifers via direct injection of treated effluents into aquifers or via irrigation in important natural recharge areas: e.g. consequences of aquifer recharge on coastal water quality, say the effect on rare seagrasses at Sellicks & Silvr Sands.
2. Conserving natural recharge areas on the plains, particularly at McLaren Flat and California Rd on Maslin Creek.
3. Salt inputs from treated effluents, long term effects on salinity of aquifers & soils
4. Need to restore shallow coastal aquifers, eg under Aldinga Scrub.
5. Issues of priorities in the use of groundwater in a drying climate, Chas advocates a subsistence reserve allocation to provide for local food security including provision for individual home producers like himself.

The range of knowledge of participants was impressive, particularly the detail on condition of aquifers and soil types in various localities.

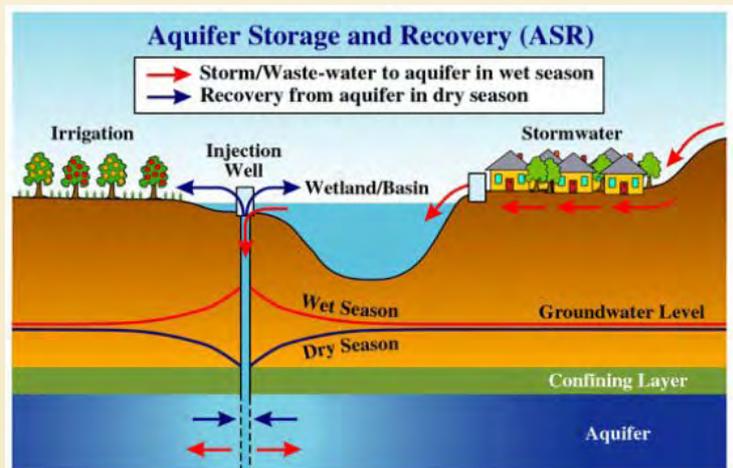
It was concerning to hear that treated effluents are being injected into aquifers, since the only previous A.S.R. studies that we know about showed poor recovery rates, so where did it go? We hope that results from the more recent tests can be made publicly available.

Participants were told that the use of treated effluent has reduced the amount of water drawn from Basin aquifers (allocations were reduced), but aquifer levels are still dropping in some parts of the basin. This suggests that we still have a lot to learn about the way the different aquifers (Maslins Sands, Port Willunga Formation, fractured rock and the smaller shallow coastal ones) connect and interact and the way they interact with seawater. So we need to apply conservative management.

If nutrient rich effluent is injected close to the coast, does it end up in the shallows of Sellicks and Silver Sands? Perhaps nutrient extraction via constructed wetlands should be a precondition for the injection of urban effluents into aquifers.

Does anyone recall that stored effluent in the original Willunga effluent recycling scheme was pre-treated by being passed through a constructed wetland.

The high level of enthusiasm and goodwill at the meeting was most impressive. We look forward to the release of the preliminary model soon, about the middle of this year.



How ASR is used in the Salisbury Council area.

SUBMISSION by FOWB January 2011
to the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board
re:

DRAFT WATER ALLOCATION PLAN

Western Mt Lofty Ranges 2010

Friends of Willunga Basin is a not for profit organization, interested in sound community planning outcomes and protection and restoration of ecosystems which underpin clean air, soil and water, and maintain biodiversity and food security. We support the need for a prescribed water allocation plan and commend the draft plan, which, in general, we feel is based on good science and presented with a lot of good, commonsense explanations to help public understanding of the issues. There are a few things which we believe must be strengthened. We set these out below under headings as found in the draft plan,

3.2.1. FLEURIEU WETLANDS

It is heartening to see the importance the plan places on protecting these, but we believe that the ephemeral coastal wetlands of the Aldinga Plain, such as the Washpool other seasonal swamps in the Aldinga Scrub, should be explicitly defined as Fleurieu Wetlands. The Washpool is one of the few remnants of an important habitat lost through over drainage more than 80 years ago. There is a great opportunity to restore the system upstream of the Washpool and to the east of the Aldinga Scrub. We ask that some of the Water that yearly, rushes out to sea through the Washpool outlet, is used to restore shallow lagoon systems which formerly existed upstream. This could be done without affecting existing users in the Washpool catchment. We are asking for an allocation for restoration of these beautiful, productive and RARE coastal lagoons.

3.3.1. & 3.3.2. NEW DAMS & EXISTING DAMS

We don't see why an exception should be made for dams for non licensed purposes.

If a dam (either existing or new) is capturing almost all available runoff and impoverishing flow lines downstream, it shouldn't be exempted from the requirement to provide threshold flows. We suggest that before the plan is enacted, landholders who believe they are being seriously affected by loss of reasonable threshold and environmental flows, can ask for a review of diversion upstream, and remedial work be done where justified.

In the more closely settled areas, the Board could consider reducing the maximum capacity for exempt dams to 1 megalitre rather than 2 megalitres.

This newsletter is written, compiled and published by the committee of Friends of Willunga Basin Inc.

www.fowb.net Letters to the editor are welcomed!
Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of Friends of Willunga Basin Inc.

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Or emailing to: info@fowb.net
Or by phoning:
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Rosie Knott: 85564203

Friends of Willunga Basin

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

There is an annual fee of \$8 (concession \$6, family \$10).
Members have voting rights at general meetings, and are eligible to stand for office.

Please post to: PO Box 710 Willunga SA 5172

Main Objectives

Friends of Willunga Basin actively endeavour to:

- Retain natural and heritage assets
- Restore damaged ecosystems
- Keep housing within present urban growth boundaries
- Ensure planning precedes development
- Retain agriculture as the primary land use east of South Rd
- Promote sustainable lifestyles
- Achieve legislative backing for the above objectives.

I hereby join as a FRIEND OF WILLUNGA BASIN and declare my support for retaining the natural and rural character of the Willunga Basin as stated in the objectives listed in the brochure.

Title _____ Name: (Surname) _____

(First Name): _____

Address: _____

p.code _____ phone _____

email _____

(This will not be disclosed to any third party)

Payment enc. \$ _____

Tick if you wish us to post you a receipt
(please enclose self addressed envelope)

If you would like to add a few dollars to your payment by way of a donation it would be really appreciated.



Friends of Willunga Basin

ALUMINIUM RECYCLING BIN

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

Metals taken to the recycler recently, included my own collections over the past 3 months, plus another 4 kilograms of foil and other lightweight aluminium items from our recycling bins, placed there by FOWB members and supporters.

This raised a total of \$44-00 for FOWB funds. Of that total, only \$4-00 was raised from the lightweight aluminium scrap, however that 4 kg of aluminium represents a saving of about 200 kg of carbon dioxide emissions, so very worthwhile. Its money value will increase markedly when there is an effective price on carbon emissions (it was \$8-00 / kg before the global economic crisis).

Unfortunately we can't take the packaging for pills and tablets, which are of a composite material with a high plastic content and therefore not accepted. Also those very shiny bags which puff up have too much plastic and too little aluminium to be accepted. I have included a photo of some of the above mentioned non recyclable items and have made up some sample packets of them to attach to our collection bins.



Congratulations to everyone on the clean condition of everything received.

You can leave your collections of lightweight aluminium bits with David Gill or Chas Martin or leave them in the . . .

new collection bin at the *Green Room*, High St Willunga .

DRAFT SMART STREETS CONCEPT



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This concept has been developed as a result of informal suggestions from two members of the Southern Community Forum.

PURPOSE

To develop streets and suburbs that look smart and use smart processes of community engagement to develop and maintain.

RATIONALE

There is currently a lot of community criticism around about the general state of our public streetscapes, verges and roundabouts. Over the last few years Council's maintenance service levels have been cut back to keep rate increases low. Council has recently moved to increase these service levels meaning a possible increase in rates.

Anecdotal evidence tells us that by contributing to a good looking street and suburb can add value to your home, economic vitality to the area, builds community connections and makes us feel safer by increasing the likelihood we'll go for a jog or walk around the block. With a little bit of community thought and effort and Council support, residents can turn their dull, uninviting streetscapes into a place of pride. In Smart Streets you don't have to be street smart. Smart streets can lighten Council's enormous burden of street improvement and maintenance.

OBJECTIVES

- Smarten and beautify our streetscapes, road verges, roundabouts, median strips, reserves and places of high public visibility and develop community friendly projects such as rain gardens.
- Use a process of community development to engage communities in the planning, design, implementation and maintenance stages
- Work with street, suburb and regional committees and forums to encourage collaboration, networking and partnership
- Set up a Smart Street Fund on similar lines to Community Grants to seed street beautification projects
- Look at a range of incentives for community participation
- Encourage greater interaction with neighbours and community pride, address social isolation and encourage greater physical activities through the street projects and improvements to street walkability.
- Set up a "Smart Street" Advisory Committee as a sub-Committee of each Community Forum to assist street and suburb communities and assist with grant selection and community issues
- Research established models of practice such as Graffiti programs, "Parks Alive!", etc

1. PLANT TREES – NATIVES, FRUIT OR NUTS

By contacting the Council communities will be advised about the rules of planting on verges, median strips, reserves and nature strips and the most appropriate trees or shrubs or ground cover. It's highly likely they'll provide you with what you want or put you in contact with organisations that can.

Planting fruit or nut trees provide great incentives at harvest time. Also, growing edible plants means you have the extra opportunity of turning harvests into sauces, jams, chutneys, pies etc.

2. FIND A COMMUNITY GARDEN OR START ONE

Community gardens can be found all over Australia tucked down cul-de-sacs, on empty suburban blocks, church grounds and public reserves. If there's not one in your area, why not start one in your street? Community gardens bring people together, address food security and social isolation and increase our knowledge of horticulture and the environment.

3. GO WILD WITH NATIVE FLOWERS

Most community landscaping projects will be approved if they use native grasses, shrubs and trees. This will help drought-proof the area and enhance its natural beauty.

4. PAINT OUT THE GRAFFITI WITH MURALS AND GO PUBLIC WITH COMMUNITY ART

Murals have been proved to be very effective in addressing tagging. There are many local artists that will help transform tags fences and walls into objects of beauty. In the process they'll get the whole street involved in the artwork.

Once the graffiti's painted out with murals why not start work on turning the stobie poles into a street gallery? Or contact a local community artist through the Council and start beautifying your street through public art. You might mosaic a public seat, a pathway or a wall. You might make pottery and attach them to straw bale seats or garden walls.

5. ENCOURAGE NATIVE BIRDS

Attract native birds by giving them places to nest, rest and eat. Create a wildlife corridor in your street or suburb.

6. PULL SOME WEEDS

Invasive weeds are a threat to national biosecurity. Removing them and replacing them with suitable plants helps your environment. Contact your Council or the local NRM Board to help with identifying invasive weeds.

7. BECOME A GUERRILLA GARDENER

When you've finished with your street and maintenance is under control why not seek out and beautify those nearby areas that are ugly and neglected? You know, the highway rest stops, the C-grade reserves, derelict spaces, median strips and untended public areas. They're all prime candidates for a Smart Street makeover. Or, why not try to harvest the stormwater for your gardens in your street and even create a rain garden?

8. GET PERMISSION AND MONEY

Councils are major contributors to this kind of community funding. If they can provide you with the resources you need through grants or direct funding they will be happy to see your suburbs improved.