



Vision Project 2022

Interim Report
October 26 2022

Acknowledgement of Country

Uraidla and surrounding townships are on the lands where Kurna and Peramank country meet. We would like to acknowledge the beautiful lands that we are fortunate to live on, and thanks Kurna and Peramangk people for their care for these lands over thousands of years.

Imagine Uraidla is inspired by the sense of community and care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We pay our respect to Aboriginal people living across the Adelaide Hills.

We would especially like to thank Deanne Hanchant-Nicholls for her patient and caring guidance in our community.



Thank you

To the many community members who lent their time and voice to this project. Special thanks to those who offered up their time to be interviewed.

To the businesses who hosted the Letters to the Future letterbox: Uraidla Republic, the Uraidla Family Practice, Ashton Post Office Cafe.

To Uraidla Primary School and Basket Range Primary School for their enthusiastic support.

To Sarah Hill for finding the words to share this project with our community, and to Ali Geers for the Imagine Uraidla branding. A huge thanks to Sandhya Sharma for making this little report.

Thank you to the Imagine Uraidla committee for their support.

This project

This year, Imagine Uraidla has focussed on developing a community vision.

Why?

- We want a strong mandate from our community- about what their priorities and vision are, to help us direct our energy and efforts.
- We want Imagine Uraidla to remain relevant and useful.
- We want a strong community voice to help us speak to stakeholders like Council, government and funders.

To date, this project has received contributions from over **200 locals**. This project is on-going. This is an interim update.

1. Letters to the Future

180 received

- We invited community members to write a Letter to the Future
- We received drawings, poems, and written letters.

For schools, we developed a teaching resource to support teachers working with their students to create letters.

2. 10 In- depth Interviews with community members

- We spoke to 10 community members over coffee and the course of an hour each.
- We talked about what they loved about living in our community, what they would change about living in our community and their vision for the future of the community.

3. Local business event with 50 business owners

We hosted an evening of 50 local business owners at Greenhill Wines.

- What do you love about doing business locally?
- What is your vision for the future local economy?
- What would you change about doing business locally?

Our community

Uraidla is a vibrant and lively community, surrounded by many closely connected townships. Nestled underneath Mount Lofty in the Adelaide Hills, 'Uraidla' comes from the Peramangk word Uridla meaning two ears. Uraidla sits on beautiful Kurna and Peramangk land.

It has a rich history of market gardening and winemaking. In recent times, Uraidla had become a ghost town- the pub poured its last drink and many local businesses closed.

The story of the past five years is one of regeneration and renewal. The Uraidla Main Street is now thriving, a destination for locals and 'Flatlanders' alike. Local business is booming. Many people are choosing to move to Uraidla and surrounds for its beautiful environment and connected community. Uraidla is connected closely to neighbouring townships/areas of Summertown, Ashton, Carey Gully, Piccidilly, Lenswood and Forest Range.



SIX THEMES

and many ideas from
the community

1. Weaving our community together

'We want people to get involved. Join the CFS, netball, and really engage in our community.'

'We need opportunities to connect as locals now we have so many people coming up for the day'

'I don't want us to become a dormitory suburb of Adelaide'

With the demographic changes in our community, there is a risk of division between 'old' and 'new' residents, 'those from town' and 'those from the land'. People we spoke to in this project were committed to closing these divides and as the township expands in popularity, keen to for opportunities for locals to connect.

1. Weaving our community together

It could look like...

A 'Welcome Pack' that goes out via real estates and new P.O. Boxes to new renters and homeowners, offering welcome, contacts for local community organizations and a connection into Imagine Uraidla.

Going door to door. We heard that the Summertown Community Center used to regularly do door knocking in the local community- to introduce themselves to residents and also talk about fire safety.

A Christmas Street parade for locals, with food stalls, local drinks, music and entertainment for kids.

Regular pot luck dinners, where people are invited to come and mix outside of their usual circles.

Street Gatherings- encouraging people to bring their street together regularly for a meal or catch up. Celebrating and sharing these stories.

A Skills Swap- this was particularly attractive to people we spoke to if it offered a chance to connect across cultures or generations.

2. A vibrant local economy

People we spoke to wanted a connected, vibrant local economy, where business owners support each other, local businesses were easy to access and find, and locals could spend their dollars in the District.

It could look like...

A map of local businesses big and small.

A network of trails and cycle paths connecting local businesses.

A Business Directory for locals to easily find local plumbers, copy writers, personal trainers, arborists and more!

Employment opportunities for local, especially our teenagers.

A Business Owners association to consider how to link the local economy and provide a strong voice.

3. Sustainability

“We all live here because of the natural environment. It’s what connects us all.”

Looking after our local environment is a huge part of life in Uraidla and surrounds. It can look like tending a market garden, commercial orchard, landcare, the Sixth Creek Group or gardening programs at school. Many of us have treasured green spaces- in our backyards or not far away.

Uraidla is renowned for its annual Sustainability Fair, and the Imagine Uraidla Climate Action and Renewable Energy Group is creating waves with a community bulk buy of solar, investing in solar on the Uraidla Institute and providing opportunities to connect and share at regular Film Nights.

3. Sustainability

It could look like...

Expanding IU CARE's community battery scheme

Exploring putting solar on community buildings

A local bulk buy of electric cars

Community wide priorities established for Landcare, connecting with local landowners

A connected sustainability vision across Landcare, Hills Environment Center, Sus Fair, Guerilla Gardeners, IU CARE and other local sustainability groups

Networking with other sustainable towns, including investigating the Transition Towns movement to see if it fits with Uraidla

Connecting all who care about our local environment through creative projects- growers, orchardists, renewable energy interests, winemakers.

4. Council as a conduit

Many community members discussed how they want a closer relationship with Adelaide Hills Council (AHC). Part of this is a better understanding of 'who to go to for what' within Council.

There is also a desire for Council to support community aspirations with a 'How can we make this happen?' approach. For a small community like Uraidla, AHC is a key stakeholder and we want to strengthen the conduit between our community and Council staff and Elected Members.

It could look like...

Imagine Uraidla working to establish regular updates and meetings with AHC staff and Elected Members to share community priorities and issues

AHC exploring and trialing participatory processes like participatory budgeting, participatory decision making and perhaps participatory granting.

Informal opportunities for community to connect with Council- coffee hours at the local bakery where you can find council staff or Elected Members.

Our community working to understand the financial constraints of Council, and Council processes like the budgeting cycle.

5. Space and place for our teenagers

“I want my kids to have a reason to hang around when they’re teenagers”

Community members shared a desire to make our community more connected and fun for our teenagers. After primary school, our teenagers disperse to different high schools outside of the immediate community. We need opportunities to connect them back to each other and the broader community outside of school.

We don’t currently have community spaces that attract teenagers, or organized activities or connection opportunities outside of sport. We also have a limited range of local employment opportunities for this age group, many of whom are keen to get part-time work.

5. Space and place for our teenagers

It could look like...

Supporting local teenagers to create activities for each other that don't hinge on sport. How can these activities offer elements of adventure, risk and fun without involving alcohol or drugs?

Supporting young people as they become adults with mentoring or connection to adults outside of their family?

A Youth Committee, with some paid roles to recognise young people's time and effort.

Further work to understand what community spaces would teenagers like to access.

6. A walkable, rideable community

Many people spoke about a desire to move around our District via a network of safe, documented walking and cycling trails. These would enable them to enjoy the main reason they live in the area- the local landscape.

These same tracks and trails could be used by locals and visitors alike, and act to support a connected local economy. There was significant support for a local bike riding club and pump track for kids.

It could look like...

The IU Trails groups have documented walks on the app Komoot, and PDF maps of the trails are available from the IU website. Further developing and promoting this resource.

The IU Trails groups have offered a series of 'sold out' local bush walks- there is appetite for more of these.

A number of 'hot spots' have been identified for further discussion with DIT and AHC. These spots reduce the current walkability and safety in our community.

Could we start a local riding club to connect riders across our community to ride, document walks and develop a vision for local riding?

Questions we are still holding

- How can we fund connection opportunities- traditionally outside of usual funding for upgrades and facilities?
- What might our new Business Group do to connect the local economy?
- What do teenagers want more of in our community?

Groups we need to hear more from

- Teenagers
- Older people
- People in more townships around Uraidla- especially Lenswood, Forest Range and Piccidilly.

What's next

Get involved:

What do you think of what you've just read?
What would you add? Get in touch, we would love to hear your opinions and ideas.

Feedback:

Wrapping more feedback into a community vision statement, to be shared with and worked on with community.

Sharing:

Sharing a next version of this document with stakeholders like AHC.