

## 13.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

### 13.2.10 WTF: What's the Future Outcomes and Next Steps

**Council Meeting:** 15 May 2023  
**Author's Title:** Director Corporate **File No.:** 2-20  
**Directorate:** Corporate Services

#### Annexures:

A – Feedback from WTF: What's the Future Community Workshop held 12 April 2023  
B – WTF: What's the Future Next Steps, Whyalla 2040 – approach to engagement

#### Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:

*In accordance with Local Government Act 1999,  
Section 120*

Yes  No

#### Status:

*Information classified confidential under  
Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act*

Yes  No

**Reason** – Not applicable

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#### PURPOSE

To update Council on the next steps to be taken in developing Whyalla 2040, a community plan developed **by** the Whyalla community **for** the Whyalla community.

#### SUMMARY

On 12 April 2023, the Whyalla community shared their vision for our city at the 'WTF – What's The Future' community workshop, with about 200 people representing a broad cross-section of our community.

People from local businesses, heavy industry, community organisations, education, sporting groups, as well as proud individuals from diverse backgrounds all came together in one room to join the conversation.

At the start of the workshop, Becky Hirst (the workshop facilitator), encouraged attendees to share their views about Whyalla's future, with responses highlighting people are feeling proud, excited, optimistic and inspired. After more than two hours of high energy discussions, attendees listed their top three priorities in relation to the question **What is YOUR vision for OUR city's future?** Common themes raised included housing, education, health, business, sport / recreation / leisure, youth and aged, diversity and tourism.

The next step in this process is to now work with the community to formulate a 20-year Community Plan – Whyalla 2040, that builds on the workshop's feedback. This will include focus group sessions on specific topics, plus ongoing broader engagement with everyone interested in the future of Whyalla.

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### Council:

1. notes the feedback provided at the WTF: What's the Future community workshop held on 12 April 2023; and
2. notes the next steps to be taken in developing Whyalla 2040, a community plan developed by the Whyalla community for the Whyalla community.

## 13.2.10 WTF: What's the Future Outcomes and Next Steps

### REPORT

#### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

With the significant projects on our near horizon, Whyalla has opportunities not seen since the construction of the steelworks. Whyalla will finally see the diversification of its economy, helping to ensure the city's success is no longer solely tied to the fortunes of any single industry.

This is brilliant news for the city, and the people of Whyalla are responding by participating in a body of work being facilitated by the Council to develop **Whyalla 2040 – a Plan developed by the community for the community**.

There is a lot of work to be done to ensure our city is prepared for the growth and change we're about to experience, and the development of Whyalla 2040 is the start of this work.

#### What is Whyalla 2040?

Whyalla 2040 will provide a roadmap for the future development and improvement of Whyalla. The Plan will outline the Whyalla Community's vision, outcomes, measures and high-level strategies for achieving the outcomes. The purpose of Whyalla 2040 is to:

1. Provide a shared vision for the future of Whyalla that reflects the aspirations of the Community.
2. Prioritise Community aspirations and direct the City's assets and resources towards those priorities.
3. Guide decision-making by all/anyone, providing a framework for making decisions that align with the Community's aspirations.
4. Facilitate coordination and collaboration among Community members, public and not for profit organisations, and private businesses in working towards the Community aspirations.
5. Attract investment in Whyalla by demonstrating the Whyalla Community's commitment to its future and providing a clear roadmap for future development.
6. Enhance community pride by providing a sense of ownership and involvement in a shared and prosperous future for Whyalla.

#### What has happened so far?

On 12 April 2023, the Whyalla community shared their vision for our city at the 'WTF – What's The Future' community workshop, with about 200 people representing a broad cross-section of our community.

People from local businesses, heavy industry, community organisations, education, sporting groups, as well as proud individuals from diverse backgrounds all came together in one room to join the conversation.

At the start of the workshop, Becky Hirst (the workshop facilitator), encouraged attendees to share their views about Whyalla's future, with responses highlighting people are feeling proud, excited, optimistic and inspired. After more than two hours of high energy discussions, attendees listed their top three priorities in relation to the question **What is YOUR vision for OUR city's future?** Common themes raised included housing, education, health, business, sport / recreation / leisure, youth and aged, diversity and tourism.

Refer to **Annexure "A"** for a full summary of the community's feedback provided at the workshop, sorted into a number themes. Refer also to the following link for a video presentation of the workshop <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tGvalFQVuc>.

#### What will happen next?

The next step in this process is to facilitate the community developing Whyalla 2040, building on the workshop's feedback. This will include:

1. Bringing together up to 60 Whyalla people who are interested in continuing to work on developing Whyalla 2040.
2. Holding a workshop with these people to design the steps to take in developing Whyalla 2040, and also to work through at a high level the feedback received at the 12 April 2023 workshop.
3. Establishing a Steering Group to oversee the process, and from which leadership can be provided.
4. Establishing a series of Focus Groups to develop the detailed themes of Whyalla 2040.
5. Other stakeholders to be engaged on as needs basis to provide expert advice to Focus Groups.
6. Bringing it all together into a draft Whyalla 2040, to be released for broad engagement across the city including workshops, information sessions, opportunity for written feedback.
7. Consideration of the second collection of feedback by the group of 60 Whyalla people interested in developing Whyalla 2040 – update of draft Whyalla 2040.
8. Widespread community adoption of Whyalla 2040 at 'Town Hall' style meeting, then availability of Whyalla 2040 for adoption by other stakeholders / businesses at their own respective Board / leadership meetings. This will include adoption by Council of Whyalla 2040, as the base for all other plans adopted by Council.

Refer **Annexure "B"** for a schematic of the proposed next steps.

#### **Financial Implications**

Very minimal costs will be incurred throughout this process, with the primary expenditure being the hire of facilities for the conduct of workshops. Provision of \$1,000 for this purpose has been made in the remaining 2022/23 budget for this purpose.

An additional provision of \$20,000 has been made in the proposed 2023/24 budget for all of Council's strategic planning activities during the year, which include the reviews as required by the Local Government Act 1999.

## **Strategic Plan**

*Objective 1.1 – Unearth community pride within the city*

Strategy 1.1.2 – Take a proactive, collaborative approach to the revitalisation of council services to ensure that they adapt to the changing needs and expectations of the community

*Objective 3.2 – To connect and mobilise the community to work collectively to improve the lives of all community members*

**Legislation – Nil**

**Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil**

**Risk Assessment – Nil**

**Social Considerations – Nil**

**Community Engagement**

As outlined within this report.

**Environmental Implications – Nil**

**Communication – Nil**

## **Conclusion**

The formulation of Whyalla 2040: a plan developed by the Community for the Community will be facilitated by adopting a co-design approach whereby the community are the decision makers. This level of engagement is considered absolutely necessary to ensure the city's transformation over the next 20-years occurs in a manner fully aligned with the aspirations of the people.