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# MEDIA RELEASE

## Alexandrina 2040 – ‘What we heard’

13 January 2020

Alexandrina Council has released a report detailing the community’s hopes for the future, and is excited to share people’s big ideas for making Alexandrina an even better place to live, study, work and play.

In the spring of 2019, Council put a call out for ideas, asking residents and visitors what they love about Alexandrina and what challenges and opportunities the region might face between now and 2040.

During October and November, Council sent a survey to all ratepayers, held Listening Posts at thirteen community events, hosted four community focus groups, spoke to hundreds of local schools students and received ideas from more than 1100 people.

The findings show that what people love most about Alexandrina is our sense of community and our friendly people, our natural environment including the river, our beaches and countryside, and the broad range of community facilities such as libraries, skate parks, bike paths and playgrounds which make our region such a great place to live. The community identified climate change and environmental issues, the need for services and infrastructure to keep up with a growing population and opportunities for local employment as the biggest challenges facing our region.

People also shared a whole host of ideas on how Council and community can work together to meet these challenges and embrace our strengths, with continued investment in community facilities, embracing sustainability and supporting local business topping the list. These ideas have been summarised under four key themes: Social Fabric, Sustainable Resource Management, Education & Economy and Environment & Outdoor Recreation.

“Our region has a lot to offer and we are committed to embracing the unique charm of our townships, with a focus on delivering services and infrastructure which support our prosperity while enhancing the Alexandrina way of life” said Alexandrina Council CEO Glenn Rappensberg.

The *Alexandrina 2040* engagement process is supporting a review of the long-term strategic, financial and infrastructure plans which guide everything Council does and will continue into 2020 with a series of Village Conversations.

Throughout February and March, Village Conversation workshops will be held in eight townships across the Alexandrina region, giving locals an opportunity to come together and discuss their ideas for how Council spending should be prioritised to achieve community goals.

On behalf of his fellow Elected Members, Mayor Keith Parkes has thanked the Alexandrina community for their involvement in the *Alexandrina 2040* process and is encouraging people to keep sharing their ideas.

“The amount of feedback received during the first round of *Alexandrina 2040* was fantastic. It’s given us a lot of really valuable information to work with, and I encourage everyone to come along to their nearest Village Conversation to continue influencing council strategy and direction, and help us pave a positive and proactive path into the future,” he said.

For those who can’t attend a workshop, an online budgeting survey will open on 10 February. The survey will give community an opportunity to learn more about the challenges of balancing the Council budget.

“Like all councils, we must rise to the challenge of balancing the needs and aspirations of our growing community, with community ability and willingness to pay. We are confident that by working with community to better understand local and regional priorities, together we can realise the full potential of *Alexandrina 2040*” said Mayor Keith Parkes.

Community feedback will be used by Council to prepare the *Alexandrina 2040* Strategic Plan as well as a new Long Term Financial Plan and Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan.

Further information about *Alexandrina 2040* including Village Conversation dates, venues and bookings, and a copy of the full “What We Heard” report, can be found on the Council’s MySay website at [mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/A2040](https://mysay.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/A2040)

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