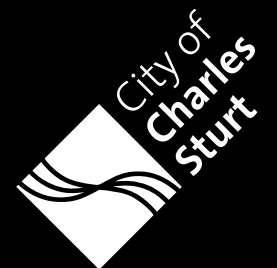




# OUR COMMUNITY VISION

THE CITY OF CHARLES STURT – A PLACE TO CALL HOME, A PLACE WHERE WE BELONG.





# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

There is something for everyone in our City. Our City is home to almost 130,000 people from over 105 diverse cultures and backgrounds. We all bring something special to our community – festivals, food, fun, language, art, events, knowledge and skills. Through every interaction, and through preparing for our shared future, we want to connect with you, and want you to be involved in the decisions that help shape our future.



In our first major review of our Community Plan since 2016, we spoke with our community about their ideas and aspirations for our shared future.

Reflecting those conversations with over 500 people from all over our City, we have a renewed focus to create a connected and shared future for the City of Charles Sturt in partnership and collaboration with our community. Thank you for being a part of our process. This is just the beginning, and we look forward to continuing to connect with you as we deliver and fulfill this plan.

Our Community Vision, shaped by our conversations with you, includes

the greening of our City and investing in our Tree Canopy Strategy. It also includes the strengthening of our local neighbourhoods and centres, making our city vibrant and interesting. Our Community Vision will help us anticipate and respond to change that is occurring across our City.

Our Community Vision reflects our shared understanding and response to the local, national and global events that have changed the way that we live. We recognise the need to transform and adapt to the world around us.

Our City sits on Kurna Land between the CBD and the beach. We respect and value the deep cultural knowledge and connection to the land of our First Nations people, and we will endeavour to understand and embed indigenous principles, history, culture and values as we move forward together into a shared future.

It is important to us that people from all backgrounds feel welcome and are able to genuinely participate in our community. We are strong advocates

for community inclusion, and are proud to support the LGBTIQ+ community, as well as the diverse faith-based groups and cultures of our community and all people from birth to their most mature years. This unity in diversity underlines the need to share our stories and promote the amazing things that are happening within our community, to share knowledge, build relationships, and leave a sustainable footprint for future generations.

We acknowledge that over 24,000 residents in our City live with a disability. We will continue to seek ways to practically improve accessibility and inclusion, as well as provide support to those living with mental and physical disabilities, ensuring they and their carers can fully participate in all aspects of life in our City.

Throughout our Community Plan review, we heard stories of great success, achievement, creativity and resilience. We also heard from people experiencing disadvantage, inequality and challenge. These stories included homelessness, domestic violence,

substance abuse and unemployment. We are committed to understanding our community needs and working together to ensure positive and equitable outcomes for those who live, visit and work here.

From beautiful beaches, natural scenery and the network of community gardens to state of the art sporting facilities, festivals and business hubs, there is something for everyone in our City. As we navigate challenges such as climate concerns, population growth, and changing living pressures, we approach the future with courage and a shared vision with our community.

This is a living, breathing plan that we are committed to delivering together with you.

Thank you for being an integral part of our vibrant City.

**Angela Evans, Mayor**

*Angela*







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ngadlu Mikawamangka yuwanthi, Kurna  
yartangka. Kumartarna, Yaitya-Miyurna purrutyi  
ngadlurlu tampinhi

We are standing on Mikawama, on Kurna land.

We acknowledge all aboriginal people.

Artist: Brooke Kirra Rigney

# INTRODUCING OUR COMMUNITY VISION 2040

Our Community Vision creates a clear and collective understanding for the future of our city. The plan is a public commitment to work together to make our collective vision a reality.

Input into our Community Vision was captured using a range of methods and some great ideas and amazing stories were shared.

Our Charles Sturt Community Vision 2040 has:

**ONE VISION WHICH CONNECTS THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY**

**FIVE THEMES SET THE PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT DECADE AND BEYOND REFLECTING FEEDBACK, IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FROM OUR COMMUNITY**

**TWENTY-FOUR OUTCOMES TO FOCUS OUR PRIORITIES**

**THREE UNDERPINNING FOUNDATIONS THAT WILL INFLUENCE ALL THAT WE DO**

**FOUR MAJOR INITIATIVES TO BE DELIVERED OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS**

We each have a role to play to deliver this future, from individuals to community groups, business, our not-for-profit sector and different agencies that make up our three tiers of government.

# STRATEGIC CONTEXT AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The Charles Sturt Community Vision 2040 is our aspirational strategic plan that sets the vision for our community and organisation.

Our Organisational Plan sets out how we will get there and articulates how we will deliver our shared vision to our community, while also responding to our other organisational obligations including legislative and accountability requirements.

The diagram below shows the relationship between the Charles Sturt Community Vision, our Organisational Plan and other corporate, regional, state and national strategies.



# OUR CITY

We are a large metropolitan council in the western suburbs of Adelaide on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people. We are bordered by the cities of Port Adelaide Enfield, West Torrens, Prospect and Adelaide.

Charles Sturt is a beautiful City, bounded by the Adelaide parklands, the River Torrens and 12kms of sandy white beaches, there is ample opportunity for exercise and relaxation. To further encourage a healthy and active lifestyle, we provide and maintain a generous amount of open space as sporting grounds, walking trails, bike paths, dog parks, and large and small playgrounds. Key sporting hubs include Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

36ers Arena, the Entertainment Centre, St Clair Recreation Centre and West Beach Parks and we are also home to a number of highly regarded golf courses. Together these facilities regularly host local, national and international sporting events.

In our City, you'll find people from all corners of the globe around every corner. It is this richness which makes Charles Sturt such a vibrant place to live, work and play. We have bustling places where we join together, including Bowden, Henley Square and Hindmarsh. We also have some fantastic and unique precincts that support our local neighbourhoods, such as the Elizabeth Street Precinct in Croydon and the Jetty Street Precinct in Grange. The way we live and work has evolved in recent years and with more people working from home and spending time within their neighbourhoods our local places and precincts are as important as ever.

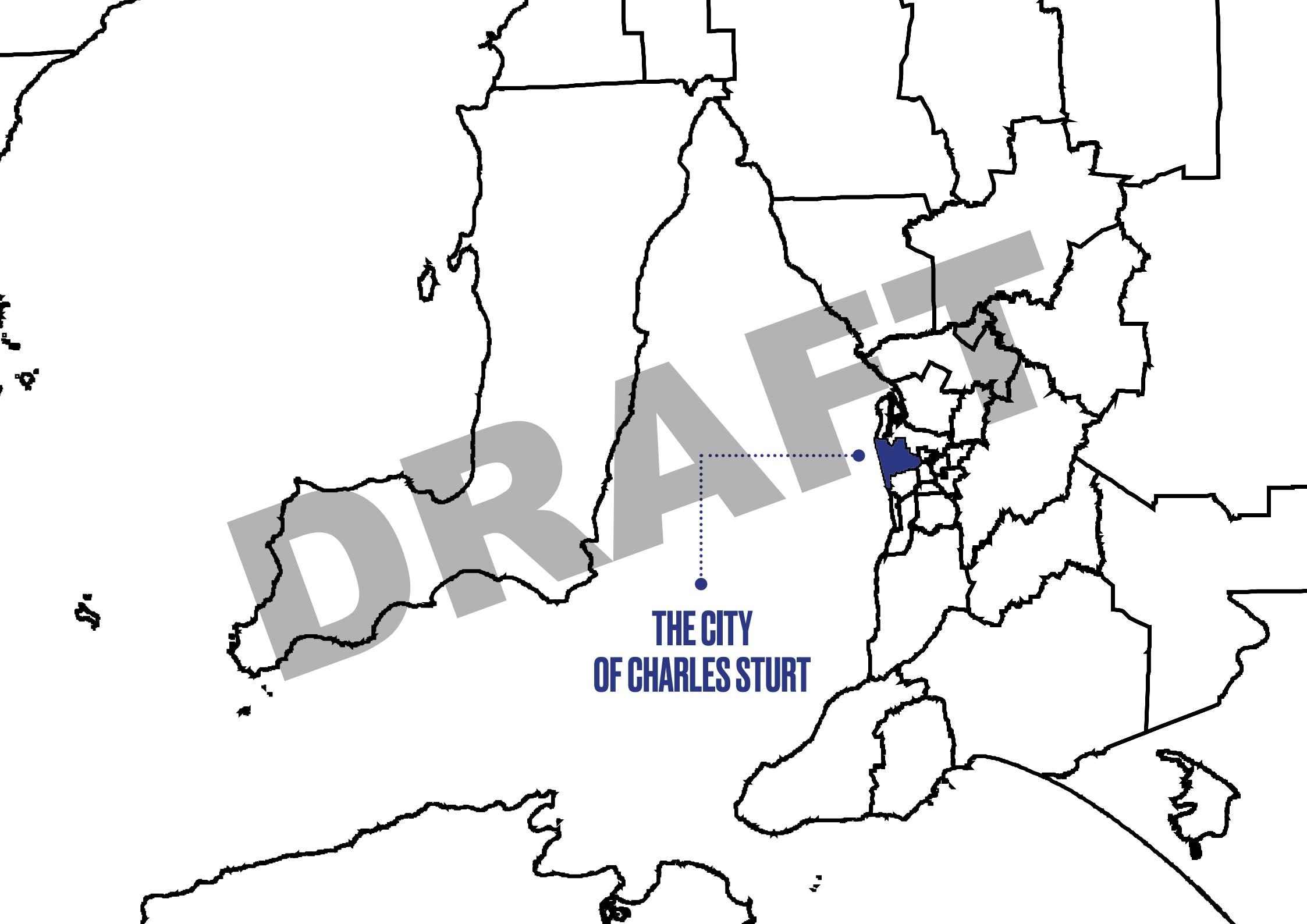
In addition to our local precincts, major centres at Arndale, West Lakes, Fulham Gardens and Findon support the needs

of an urban population. Our community thrives with access to resources, lifelong learning, and connections across our network of five libraries and seven community centres. Notably, Ngutungka West Lakes leads as the Council's state-of-the-art integrated library and community centre. Building on its success, Ngutungka Henley (set to open in late 2024) will further enhance access to innovative programs, essential services and collaborative spaces.

Our City supports a broad mix of land uses including industrial land, residential areas and commercial precincts. Major industry and employment land is located in Beverley, Hindmarsh, Hendon/Royal Park and Woodville North/Athol Park, which supports a broad range of investment and employment opportunities. As the South Australian economy grows and becomes more complex, we expect employment mix to change and we will need to anticipate and be ready to respond to this change to ensure that employment opportunities are protected.

We are expecting further population growth, and we welcome new arrivals, both local and from afar establishing their homes and lives here. We acknowledge that we have a role in supporting the provision of affordable housing. We use our policy capability and decisions to balance development with environmental and sustainability outcomes. While this is a balance, we are working to grow strategically; keeping heritage, history and culture in key areas and ensuring our infrastructure supports affordable, well-designed housing with quality amenity and community facilities.

As we look to the future, we anticipate change and progress. We acknowledge the substantial challenge that climate change presents for the world and our City. We embrace creative ways to adapt and are prepared for bold decisions to respond.



**THE CITY  
OF CHARLES STURT**



## LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOODS



We have **over 59,000** properties across the city



We have **45 local shopping precincts** to support our neighbourhoods



We host **15 Street Meets** per year for neighbours to connect



We maintain **119 Playgrounds**

**44 Tennis Courts**

**8 Dog Parks**

**42 Basketball and Netball Courts**

**18 Outdoor Fitness Equipment**

**74 BBQs**

## VALUING NATURE



We have **457 parks and reserves** contributing over **498 hectares** of open space



**85% of residential homes** are within 300m of quality open space



We are planting **6,000 trees** per year on Council land and a further **4,000 trees** per year on non-Council land to cool our city and improve biodiversity



Each year our city wide waste collection service diverts **35,000 tonnes** of waste from landfill



We have **11.5 kilometres** of coast and **19 hectares** of wetlands

## VIBRANT PLACES



We have **124,906 people** living in the city – **14% are 70+**



The Hindmarsh sporting and entertainment precinct attracts **over 500,000 people** to events each year



Over **400 pieces** of public art have been installed across our city adding colour and interest to our streets and spaces



We have **over 400** restaurants and cafes

## CONNECTING & BELONGING



We have **97,000 members** of our sporting clubs, community centres and libraries



In 2023 we welcomed **580 new Australian Citizens** from 64 nationalities.

On average that's **11 citizens** per week

Majority from – India (112), Vietnam (56), United Kingdom (55) and Philippines (44)



**70+ sporting clubs** and **10 community groups**  
**44 sporting facilities**



Each week we welcome **34 new residents** to our city

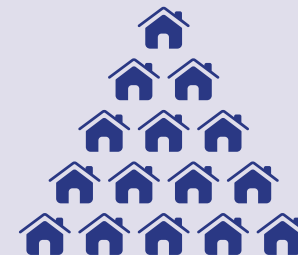
## OUR TRANSFORMING CITY



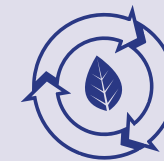
Gross Regional Product is around **6.5bn**



We have **10,258 local businesses** and **47,543 local jobs**



**15 new dwellings** need to be built each week



We have achieved **Net Zero Corporate Emissions** to help combat Climate change

# OUR VISION

## THE CITY OF CHARLES STURT – A PLACE TO CALL HOME, A PLACE WHERE WE BELONG.

People bring something special to our community, as residents, visitors and through businesses. The City of Charles Sturt means the world, and highlights what makes our City unique, and is the pride of everyone who calls it home.

“A great city to me is a place where everyone gets a chance and letting people be who they want to be”

Primary school student

“Focus on building local neighbourhoods / villages where everyone is valued”

Focus Group participant

“To me Social Justice and Equality is important. We can only have a safe and liveable community if everyone is respected, valued, given opportunity”

West Croydon resident via submission

“In 20 years’ time I would like the area to be very clean and healthy. I would like fun places to go with possible kids and family”

High school student







# UNDERPINNING THEMES

We will acknowledge and embrace our Kaurua and First Nations history and communities working towards Reconciliation.

We will tell our stories to share knowledge, increase awareness, create opportunity, build partnerships and promote our achievements.

We will manage our city in a sustainable way with sound governance.

# THEMES AND OUTCOMES

Our Community Vision is supported by three foundations:

- acknowledging and embracing First Nations
- encouraging sustainability, and
- enabling storytelling.

Based on this we have built 5 connecting themes:

- Local Neighbourhoods
- Valuing Nature
- Vibrant Places
- Connecting and Belonging
- Our Transforming City

Each are connected, with overlapping priorities, helping us to collaborate and strengthen outcomes. The themes emerged from our community and reflect feedback, ideas and insights from over 500 voices, guiding our priorities into the future.

For each theme a series of actions have been identified to demonstrate how we will make progress towards our vision. We all have a role in helping to deliver these actions and we will need to work together as a Council and a community to succeed. The various roles we can play are summarised below.



**Advocate** - Promoting the interests of the community to other decision makers and influencers



**Facilitate** - Assisting others to be involved in activities by bringing groups and interested parties together



**Partner** - Forming partnerships and strategic alliances with other parties in the interests of the community



**Lead** - Delivering and/or funding services

# LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOODS



Our community shared how important places are across our City. Local neighbourhoods are valuable to our everyday lives. They provide opportunities for connection where small businesses and corner stores offer people a chance to access their daily needs and meet with family and friends for a coffee and chat. Our local parks and green spaces provide areas to exercise, play, enjoy the environment, relax and gather for a local event.

We all value the ability to walk and ride to local services and facilities, and therefore value well maintained footpaths, bike paths and walking trails that are easy and enjoyable to access and use.

Our neighbourhoods support wellbeing as we connect with our neighbours, support each other and build community. Small events are important in building a sense of place and local pride. From joining a local greening group, to holding a street party, these everyday connections instil local pride and build connection.

Every neighbourhood is different in its own unique way, and we cherish and support the individual nature of these areas in a way that is equitable and reflects the unique nature of the area.

## OUTCOMES

- Family, friends and neighbours create memories together
- Local businesses know your name
- Neighbourhoods where we can walk or ride to get what we need
- Places that appreciate and reflect their local history and culture
- Local connection within and between neighbourhoods

“Would like to see more local precincts similar to Queen Street where there are good cafes and small businesses, and there is a strong sense of community”

Small business owner and Allenby Gardens resident

“I joined the Neighbourhood Watch Group to get to know my neighbours and learn the history and stories of the local area from long term residents so that they can be captured and shared”

Resident of Albert Park














“Encourage the re-establishment of “the Corner Shop”, where instead of doing a big weekly shop, that necessitates a car going to a big shopping Centre, people especially the elderly, can buy necessities nearby. Such facilities become defacto community and welfare centres, and strengthen residents’ connectedness.”

West Croydon resident





# HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION AND WHAT ROLE IS MY ROLE?

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION? WE WILL...	WHAT IS MY ROLE?			
	Community	Council	State/Federal Govt	Non Govt Sector
revitalise our local centres 				
make it easy for people to connect to build relationships, trust and communities				
grow local businesses through capacity building and grants				
foster and celebrate interesting community activities				
connect people to their local destinations with improved infrastructure and streetscapes				
celebrate our unique history and neighbourhoods				



**Advocate** - Promoting the interests of the community to other decision makers and influencers



**Facilitate** - Assisting others to be involved in activities by bringing groups and interested parties together



**Partner** - Forming partnerships and strategic alliances with other parties in the interests of the community



**Lead** - Delivering and/or funding services



**Flagship Initiatives**



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# VALUING NATURE

Our community has shared with us a desire to protect our environment. From our young school children through to our older residents, we share a passion to protect our environment and are committed to returning greenery and nature to our streets and spaces.

Trees and green spaces help cool our City and can help manage energy costs in a time where cost of living is a challenge for many. Nature provides colour, interest and diversity, encouraging us to explore our streets, parks, beaches and waterways. Our relationships with nature and healthy lifestyles are inextricably linked.

We will be progressive and provide services and deliver projects in an environmentally sustainable way to prioritise nature.

## OUTCOMES

- Our City is cool, green and filled with life
- Our beaches, open spaces and waterways invite reflection and wellbeing
- Council and community work together to protect our environment
- We live in harmony with our environment

“Aim higher with tree canopy targets and educate the community about the benefits of trees, particularly when they are young.”

City of Charles Sturt residents

“Trees are good for air quality, they are pretty and add colour, we need to protect our trees and plant more”

City of Charles Sturt high school student



























“A great city is the trees and plant that is in the city I love going to the city at night because of the beautiful lights and views and I love to set on a beach and think”

Primary school student



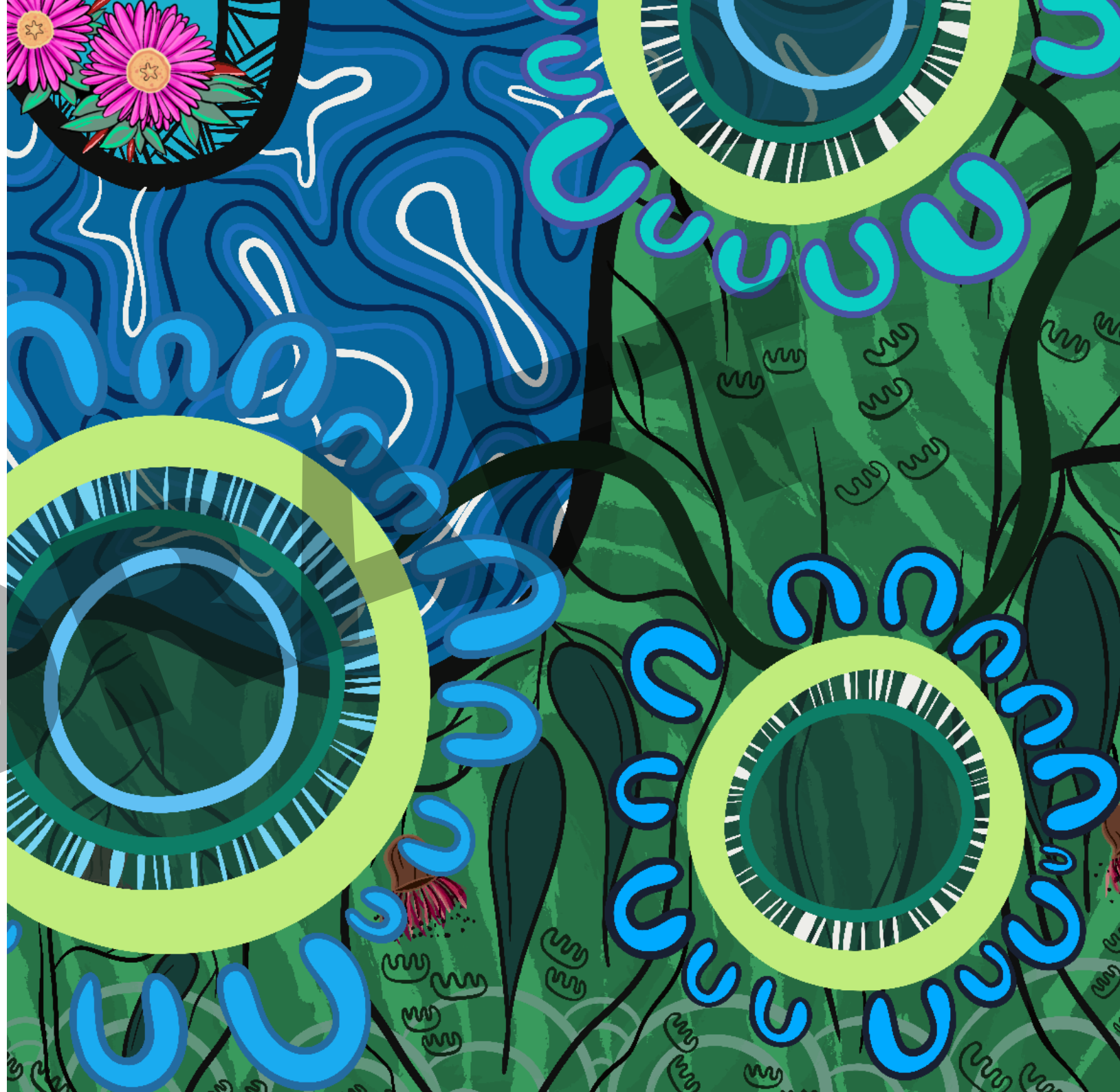


# HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION AND WHAT ROLE IS MY ROLE?

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION? WE WILL...	WHAT IS MY ROLE?			
	Community	Council	State/Federal Govt	Non Govt Sector
retain and expand the tree canopy on both private and public land 				
deliver a community renewable energy program 				
be a leader in nature-based design when building and upgrading assets and infrastructure				
empower our community and support them to transform under-used areas to green natural spaces				
maximise the opportunities for creation of wild and green spaces				
advocate and work with State Government to keep our beaches and waterways healthy				
work together to reduce waste to landfill and promote a circular economy				
advocate to the State Government for stronger environmental focus in planning policy				



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# VIBRANT PLACES

Our community can be a place to offer opportunity and to provide for everyone. Sharing inspiration from across the world, people shared with us a desire for diversity of housing, natural environment. We will work together to create unique neighbourhoods and communities that have their own sense of identity.

Public art and local businesses within our neighbourhoods can reflect the communities that surround them, creating a place to call home for locals and a sense of adventure for visitors.

Our City is home to major and iconic sporting and entertainment destinations which brings entertainment to our doorstep. Our local spaces play an equally important role in bringing people together and generating vibrancy within neighbourhoods. We will work with our community to make best use of these spaces.

## OUTCOMES

- Spaces are unique, creative, interesting and engaging
- A city that is recognised as a centre for sport, events and for bringing people together
- Businesses contribute to the vibe of the destination

“Can we do more cultural events and/or food trucks? It would be amazing to use sites that don’t have a lot happening on them on weekends or evenings. Especially to promote different cultures”

Community Sporting Club member

“We need more free events in our local parks. You should arrange free movie nights so that we can hang out with our friends”

City of Charles Sturt  
high school student






















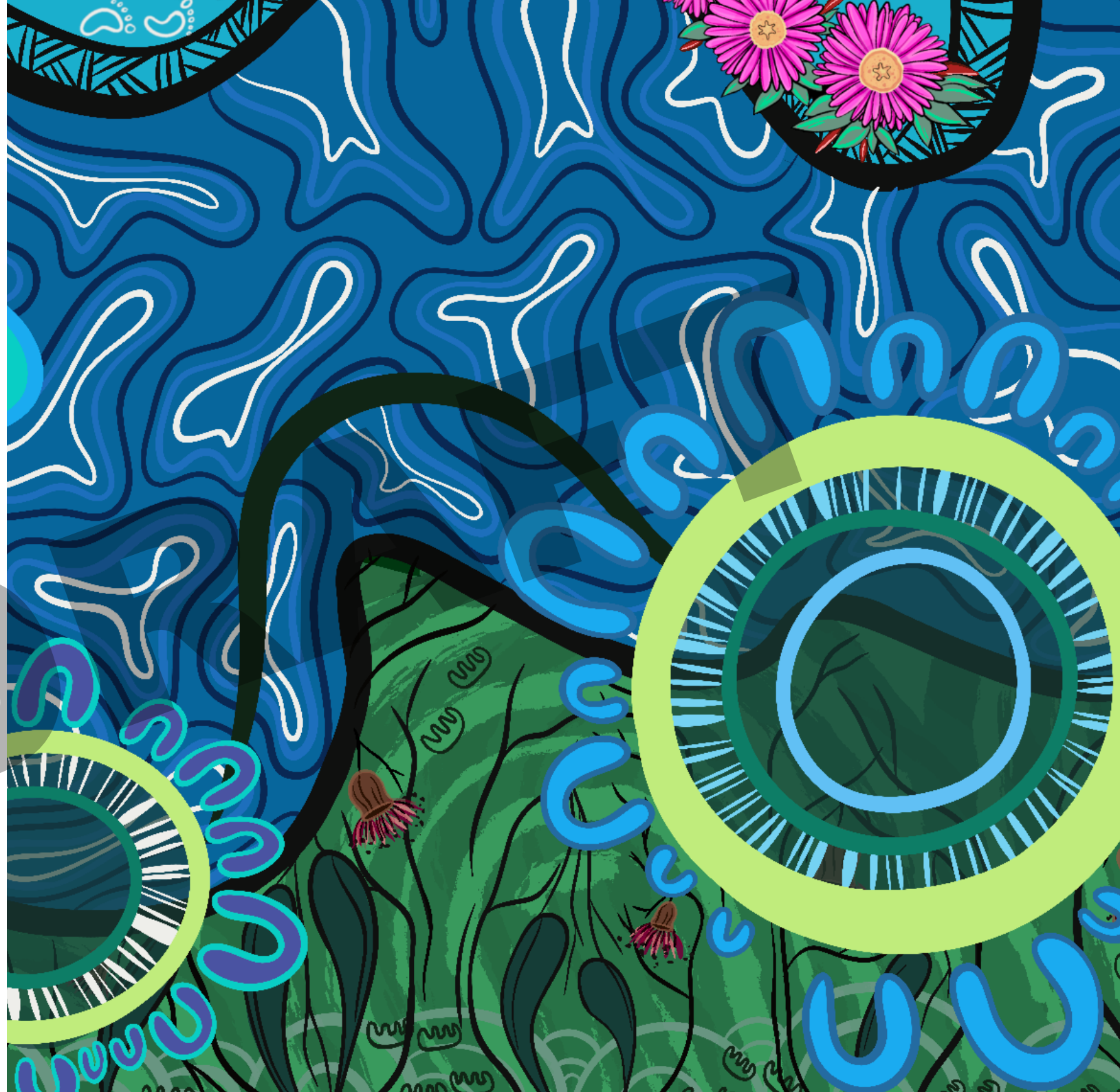




# HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION AND WHAT ROLE IS MY ROLE?

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION? WE WILL...	WHAT IS MY ROLE?			
	Community	Council	State/Federal Govt	Non Govt Sector
embrace community-led design				
activate and enhance public spaces in partnership with local traders and the creative sector		 		
attract and partner with major event organisers to ensure their success		 		
we support our arts and cultural groups to help shape our city				
encourage and support shop owners and traders to enhance the customer and visitor experience				

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# CONNECTING AND BELONGING

Through our shared conversations, we have learned our community wants to strengthen the ways we can connect with each other and build our sense of belonging.

In the face of challenge and adversity, we will continue to offer effective services and explore new and innovative ways of managing assets and delivering programs to ensure our community is supported.

Equity is important to our community. Delivering equitable outcomes and supporting our community to have a voice and participate will ensure that no one is left behind.

Our City continues to become more diverse, with new people from all over the world arriving each week. We want everyone to feel valued and engaged, ensuring we can tailor and provide targeted services.

Safety continues to be a fundamental focus and is integral to a sense of connection and belonging. Many of our core services contribute to the safety

and wellbeing of our community; including public lighting, health inspections and animal management. We will continue to deliver these services and look for ways to improve the wellbeing of our residents and visitors.

## OUTCOMES

- People have a voice and feel respected and valued
- Everyone has access to spaces, services and support when needed
- Opportunities are available for communities to collaborate, engage and connect
- Our City is a place where everyone is healthy and safe
- Diversity is supported and valued

“Look at how Council can support the most vulnerable in the community and improve equity across the council area. The area of Athol Park is high need.”

Community Sporting Club member

“Increase Council visibility in the community. You need to meet with community members, build relationships and be present with the Aboriginal community.”

Aboriginal Young Person



























“There are not enough outreach for those who are struggling mentally in the area. Not without spending money that some people cannot afford. Additionally there are not enough services for homeless people to sleep, especially during winter”

High school student





# HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION AND WHAT ROLE IS MY ROLE?

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION? WE WILL....	WHAT IS MY ROLE?			
	Community	Council	State/Federal Govt	Non Govt Sector
involve, engage and listen to community				
be equitable with our decision making and resource allocation				
bring people together and accommodate their needs through universal design				
connect and support community groups and sporting clubs to actively support their communities				
promote opportunity and build capacity for volunteering		 	 	
advocate for and deliver services and infrastructure that keeps our community healthy and safe				
support not for profits in delivering assistance to those most in need				
support not for profits to deliver assistance to those most in need				
ensure our older population is provided with care, support and assistance (Aged care CHSP and provisions)				







# OUR TRANSFORMING CITY

How we anticipate and respond to change will be crucial to ensure we increase and maintain a quality standard of living.

Over the coming decades we will be transitioning to a low carbon future and navigating the ever changing technological and industrial advances. Population growth will continue and we will require a well thought out plan to manage our assets, provide employment and deliver services to accommodate new arrivals as they make their home in our City.

As part of moving forward and embracing change, we are committed to preserving our history and heritage. We will not lose sight of where we have come from and will continue to value the unique history of our area and communities.

## OUTCOMES

- When looking forward, we respect our heritage
- Housing and infrastructure supports evolving and diverse communities
- Our City is resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Our City is prosperous with diverse employment opportunities

“Affordable housing – first home buyers will find it harder to get into the property market. It is hard to save enough money”

Secondary school student (Nazareth)

“Quality development that is sympathetic to and integrates with surrounds”
























Focus Group participant







# HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION AND WHAT ROLE IS MY ROLE?

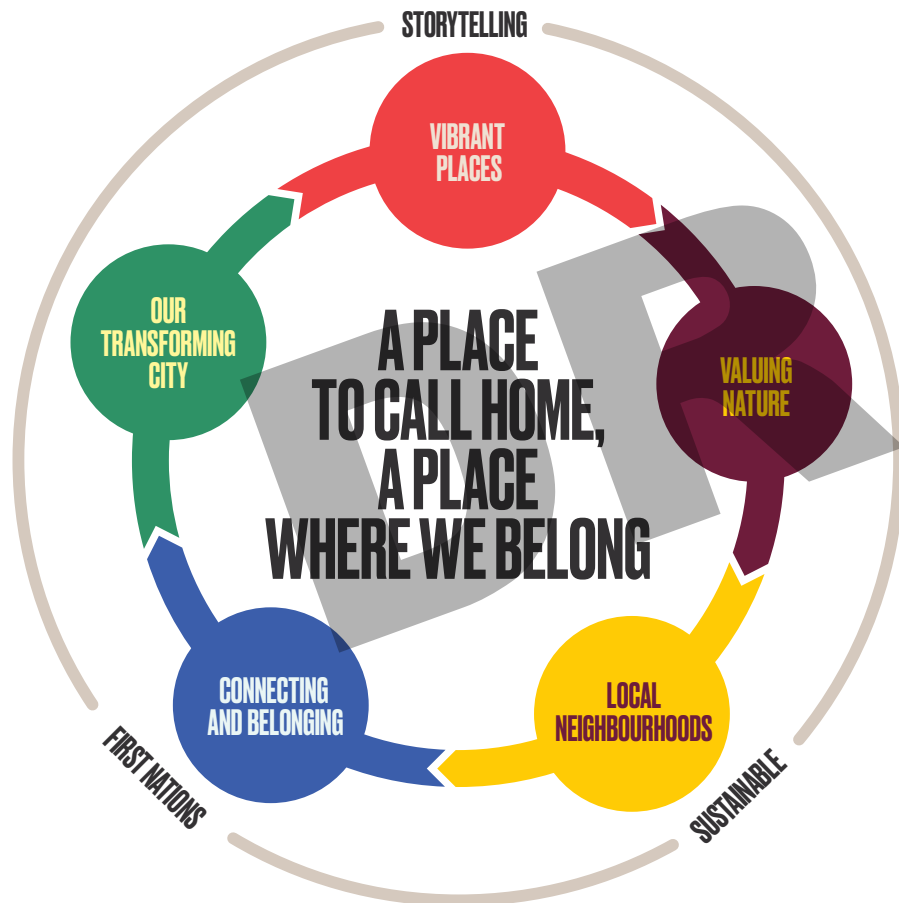
HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION? WE WILL....	WHAT IS MY ROLE?			
	Community	Council	State/Federal Govt	Non Govt Sector
develop a well thought out plan that manages growth within the central precinct of our city 				
advocate for a mixture of density and housing types to achieve housing affordability and liveability				
advocate for improved and expanded public transport services				
protect, maintain and repurpose our heritage buildings and structures				
ensure our Asset Management Plans will anticipate and respond to growth and climate change				
work with State Government and Developers to deliver high quality and sustainable development				
protect and create new job opportunities				
advocate for future delivery of a diverse and adequate mix of education and training opportunities				



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# THE CITY OF CHARLES STURT VISION 2040



We will acknowledge and embrace our Kurna and First Nations history and communities.

We will tell our stories to share knowledge, increase awareness, create opportunity, build partnerships and promote our achievements.

We will manage our City in a sustainable way with sound governance.

# FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

To demonstrate our commitment to work together with our community, we have identified four flagship initiatives to be prioritised for annual budget consideration and delivered over the next 4 years.

A flagship initiative:

- Is transformational to one of the community vision themes, or
- Has a significant positive impact across multiple themes
- Is generally a longer term initiative
- Triggers structured and regular reporting to Council so that we can monitor our progress





# FLAGSHIP 1: TREE CANOPY STRATEGY

The tree canopy throughout our City is an important focus for our community. Improving our tree canopy, open spaces, greening, and biodiversity are key priorities, as is addressing climate change and urban heat effects.

The Tree Canopy Strategy will address these growing areas of concern and details how we will drive improvement by delivering our target of 25% canopy across the City by the year 2045. Partnering with our community will ensure that we are well positioned to transform our City into a green and healthy area that is full of life.





# FLAGSHIP 2: COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM

We are committed to reducing our carbon emissions and are on track to achieving Net Zero corporate emissions by 2025. In 2019, we declared a Climate Emergency and since that time we have been prioritising a range of projects and initiatives aimed at reducing our carbon emissions.

In addition to these positive actions we have also identified a way to assist our community to access renewable energy, further reducing our emissions while continuing to maintain their lifestyles in a time where energy and living costs are increasing.

The Community Renewables Program will allow our community to access affordable solar and battery solutions and be part of a long term vision to establish a local renewable energy network that powers our community sustainably into the future.





# FLAGSHIP 3: CENTRAL PRECINCT YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following the success of the Albert Park and Hendon Your Neighbourhood Plan (YNP) pilot project, the Central Precinct YNP will ensure that we have a well thought out plan to manage growth within the 'central precinct' of our City and ensure Council, State and private sector supplied services are capable of serving an increased population through more liveable neighbourhoods. We will work with our community to identify gaps in services and propose community endorsed projects to address these gaps.





# FLAGSHIP 4: LOCAL CENTRE REVITALISATION

We know our local centres are highly valued and we share a collective passion to see them thrive and evolve. Emerging communities also want to support and influence the creation of new centres that align with their needs and interests. The Local Centre Revitalisation program will plan for public realm upgrades and facade renovation to improve the amenity and functionality of our local centres. The program will also support centre owners and operators to better connect with their local communities and understand their needs, ensuring they are sustainable and add value to the people they serve.



# MONITORING AND REPORTING OUR PROGRESS

We will work towards Our Community Vision through the development of four yearly Organisational Plans, which describe what we will do to make progress towards the vision and priorities within the corresponding four-year term. Implementation of the Organisational Plan will be achieved through Annual Business Plans and subsequent Annual Budgets.

A set of indicators will be used to measure our progress in each of the strategic theme areas and our progress towards the Community Vision.

We will keep our community connected and updated on our progress. We will also ask our community for feedback, collecting data about life in Charles Sturt and our services. This data will help to track our progress and performance and support the development of annual business programs and continuous improvement of services. A summary of data will be available every year.

In addition, every four years following Council elections we will review Our Community Vision and Organisational Plan. Our community will have their say on what we should focus on over the following four years to continue implementing the vision. We will remain connected with our community to gauge how we are tracking with Our Community Vision, and to ensure it is still representative of community needs, aspirations values and priorities.







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[yoursaycharlessturt.com.au](http://yoursaycharlessturt.com.au)

