

Strategic Plan – Port Environment Centre

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

MAY, 2020



CONTEXT

The future is never certain, influenced by the circumstances and situations which arise and the way we respond or initiate changes of our own. Modern challenges range from global existential risks, like climate change and pandemics, to very local issues such as reconciling with our past and building a future that unites a community of diverse backgrounds.

The environment is the basis of everything. Healthy local environments contribute to regional, national and global scenarios. A clear argument exists regarding the need for 'environment centres' to encourage, help inform and support decisions and actions that will shape the future.

Our sense of community and belonging, the health, strength and resources we draw from our environment, and our need to be proactive in addressing the challenges of our time, speak to the importance and urgency of the actions required.

This Strategic Plan is to provide fundamental guidance and be a touchstone when navigating that uncertain future. Specific issues and priorities will change, and often quite rapidly, as communities grapple with the interplay between ever-evolving concerns and their expression at different scales. This Plan will direct the nature of initiatives with which the Port Environment Centre is associated and the way in which they will be undertaken. Its' application will build capacity and enable pre-emptive action, with the Centre a respected contributor to a better environmental future and enhanced community well-being.

The Port Environment Centre operates within a strongly supportive local community and is part of a broader alliance of other environment centres across regional Adelaide, supported by Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board.

Version Date: May 14th.

Strategic Plan

Mission Statement

The Port Environment Centre is a community driven organisation and a 'gathering place'. The Centre supports the community in valuing, caring for, learning about and enjoying the natural coastal, marine and estuarine environment, and in living sustainably. The Centre has a focus on environmental sustainability in general, and coast and marine issues in particular.

The Port Environment Centre (PEC) will help individuals and groups be **informed, engaged** and **active** in achieving a better environmental future, and enhanced community well-being.

It will build the capacity of local communities to better manage their natural and urban environments, and live more sustainably, by:

- Providing information – in person, electronically, through library and references, shared experiences, and citizen science initiatives - both directly and in collaboration with others.
- Providing, or directions to, a wide range of events, workshops and activities that inform, engage and enable people, including those delivered by the Centre and/or other stakeholders.
- Providing accessible premises as a meeting place and hub for environmental collaborations.

The Local Port Environment

The local Port environment includes natural coastal, marine and estuarine environments and urban environments (including residential, industrial and commercial centres). Historic resource use and development have produced a functioning port and city juxtaposed to an important natural ecosystem. The natural environment is highly valued for its:

- Marine life and coastal/estuarine ecosystems (including a dolphin sanctuary, an international bird sanctuary, and several aquatic and conservation reserves),
- Recreational opportunities (including coastal beaches, boating, kayaking, swimming, fishing, photography and 'connecting with nature'), and
- Cultural heritage (the traditional custodians of the area, the Kurna people, still enjoy a connection with their country, and the Port was crucial to European colonisation with many historic features still remaining).

Values

The values of the Port Environment Centre are those of:

- Ecological awareness,
- Environmental sustainability,
- Social justice,
- Equity,
- Diversity, and
- Reconciliation.

Living Sustainably

'Living sustainably' encompasses personal and community action to limit harm to, and improve the condition of, the environment. At a local scale it includes measures such as reducing consumption, pollution and waste (or re-using and recycling), reducing greenhouse emissions (including greening initiatives), adapting to climate change and rising sea-levels, and enhancing the natural and urban environment (e.g. through revegetation, pest control, storm-water management, environmental monitoring, and restoring natural ecosystems). 'Living sustainably' is a means for individuals to link with, and work towards minimising, global environmental risks.

Objectives

The Port Environment Centre aims to promote greater care for the environment, especially coastal and marine ecosystems, and living more sustainably. The Centre's objectives are to:

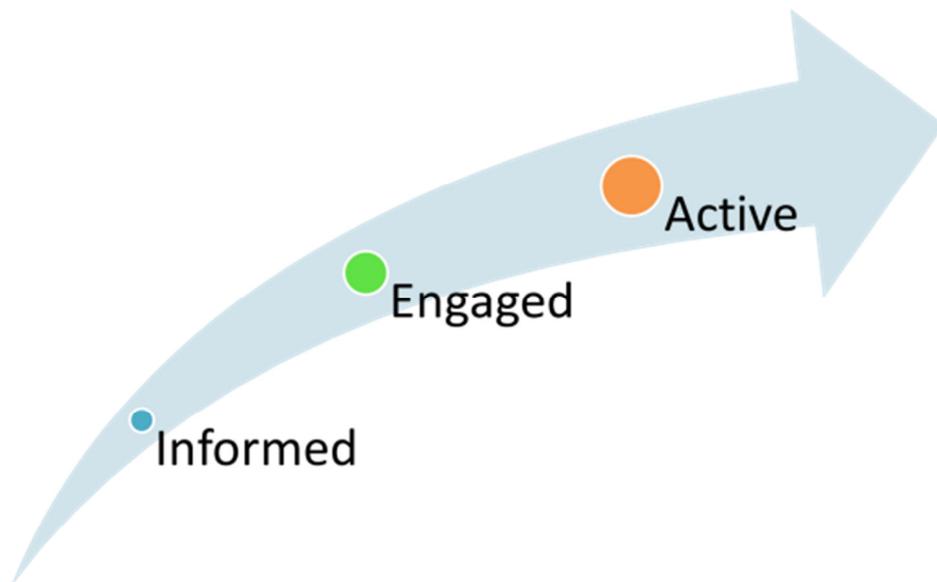
- Bring awareness and inspiration to people,
- Build the capacity of people, organisations and communities, and
- Be a catalyst for change and increased participation in environmental initiatives.

Goals

The immediate goals of the Centre in order to build community capacity to better manage natural and urban environments, and to live more sustainably, are:

- **Foundations & Operations.** To ensure the Centre's future with firm financial, administrative and operational foundations.
- **Information & Knowledge Management.** To share information and knowledge with individuals, groups and organisations regarding the environment, coastal and marine ecosystems, sustainability, and the history of human interaction with the environment.
- **Engagement & Collaboration.** To engage a wide community cross-section, build networks and collaborations, and share insights and environmental perspectives, to strengthen and enhance the range of community driven environmental initiatives.
- **Action for Change.** To stimulate more people to be involved in activities that improve the environment, and in adopting sustainable lifestyles, through individual and group endeavours.

The Port Environment Centre is a highly collaborative organisation, working with community and partners, to inspire and enable people to care for the environment and live sustainably.



Strategies:

Foundations & Operations

- **Resources.** Ensure the future of the Centre through long-term leasing and additional funding sources.
- **Volunteers.** Develop and maintain a Volunteers program to recruit, train, coordinate and retain volunteers.
- **Partnerships.** Develop, and formalise, as appropriate, partnerships regarding information and library resources, environmental and sustainability programs, and facilities and services related to the aims of the Centre.
- **Evaluation.** Develop and implement a monitoring, evaluation and reporting program to track, help steer, and publicise the achievements of the Centre.
- **On-line Presence.** Develop highly effective on-line delivery and communication options.

Information & Knowledge Management

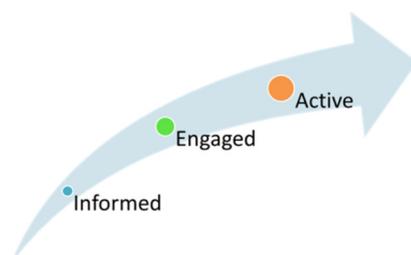
- **Information Services.** Provide access to information and resources about coastal, marine and estuarine environments, environmental issues, sustainable living, and the history of Aboriginal connection to country.
- **Learning Opportunities.** Facilitate learning and appreciation of the environment through information sharing, story-telling, and shared experiences (including cross-cultural events).
- **Referrals.** Provide a 'signposts service' to direct people to programs, events and training offered by partner organisations.

Engagement & Collaboration

- **Meeting Place.** Further the Centre as a gathering place and support environmental groups to use the facility for meetings and events.
- **Community Connections.** Convene events that bring people and groups together to stimulate action, enable those with environmental interests to share ideas and information, and to foster collaboration, partnerships and capacity building.
- **Communication Forums.** Provide and promote existing communication forums (both physical and virtual) for the sharing of news and ideas between individuals and groups.

Action for Change

- **Activities Program.** Establish and manage, in association with partners, a planned program of activities aimed at involving people in actions, to address environmental and sustainability issues.
- **Skill Development.** Facilitate the provision of awareness raising, skill development, and training in practical measures to support environmental care projects and sustainable living.
- **Personal Development.** Build the capacity of individuals and organisations to foster positive environmental change through the development of personal skills (like communication and working in teams) and an understanding of government and procedural processes (e.g. through awards or mentoring programs).
- **Assistance.** Help individuals, groups and other organisations with their activities directed at outcomes shared by the Port Environment Centre, including seeking funds or sponsors, event organisation, and publicity.



Operations

Deliverables

Foundations & Operations

- Port Environment Centre with meeting rooms.
- Centre Coordinator and volunteer staff.
- Memorandums of Understanding with key partners.
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting plan.
- Effective on-line presence.

Information & Knowledge

- Marine ecology, environment and sustainable living library, with links to other library services, including information on the history of Kaurna connection to country.
- A 'Signposting Service' – information materials and guides (hard-copy and electronic) to relevant activities and organisations.

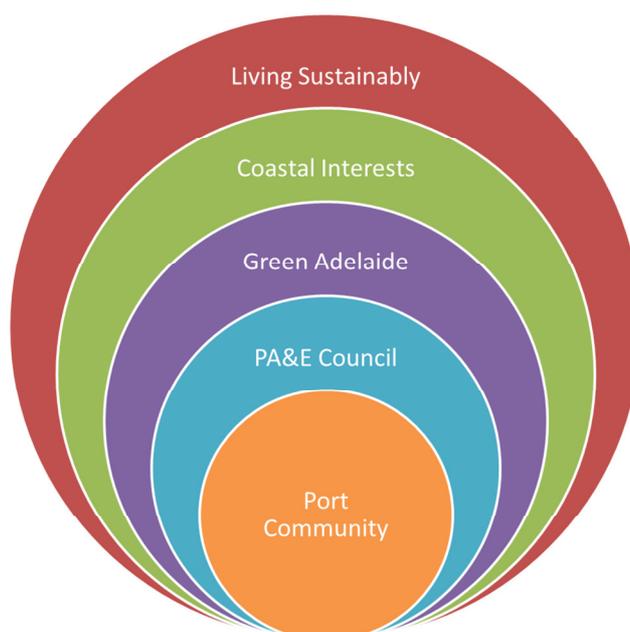
Engagement & Collaboration

- Calendar of events or forums to connect and foster collaboration between individuals and groups.
- Calendar of environment group meetings.
- A news and information service with products like a noticeboard (environmental) for community use and Environment Centre newsletter.

Action for Change

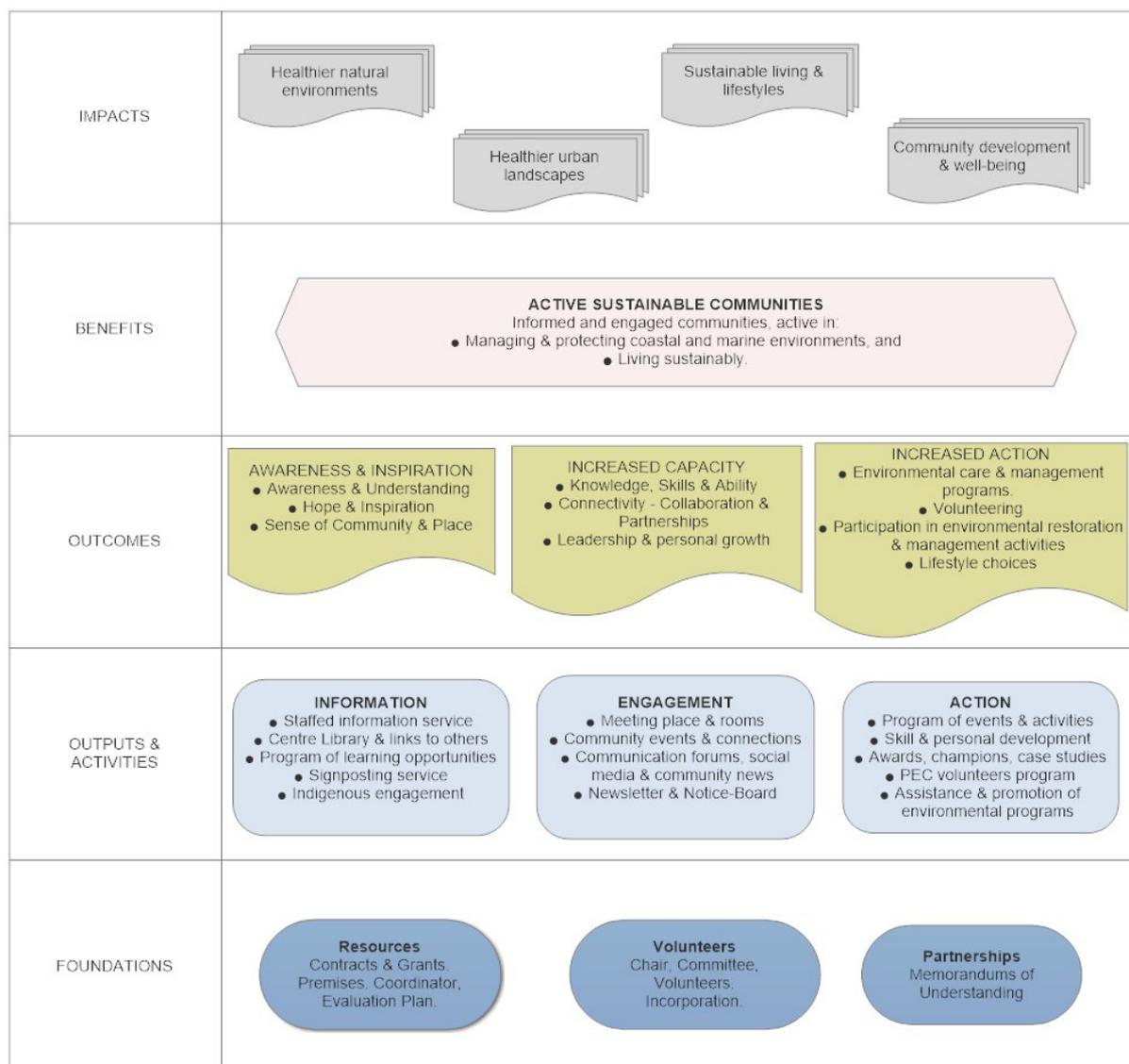
- A program of events and activities.
- A doorway to personal development activities or courses.
- Media releases, newsletter articles or social media posts inspiring people to get involved and take pride in their actions for environmental improvement.

The outputs are a coherent package that responds to the needs of a number of audiences.



Program Logic

The logic underlying the Port Environment Centres existence and operations is summarised below.



Important context is the Centre's style of operations:

- The Port Environment Centre is open to all sectors of the community – individuals, community groups, business, and government.
- It promotes caring for the natural (coastal, marine and estuarine) environment and urban landscapes, plus living sustainably at the household and community level.
- It places importance on bringing people together to share ideas and build collaborations (with partners in its own operations, and between like-minded individuals, groups, businesses and organisations), as well as developing the capacity of people and organisations.

The Port Environment Centre will contribute to:

- Healthier natural environments as more people become involved in environment programs.
- Healthier urban landscapes as people work with government and business.
- Sustainable lifestyles as understanding and the range of opportunities available increase.
- Community well-being through a stronger 'sense of place', additional capability, and networks.