

WHAT TO CONSIDER FOR DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABILITY HUB

These recommendations are based on a report by Bridie Meyer-McLean Department of Geography, Environment and Population, University of Adelaide for the Legatus Group regarding a potential sustainability hub in Clare and the Mid North of South Australia.

This information sheet is based on recommendations that address the findings from the study and adopting these will assist in ensuring that the hub is itself sustainable and evolving into a space that is practical, functional and services this community's needs. Also, the recommendations are not mutually exclusive but work together to develop a framework from which to build the hub on. These findings can be replicated across other communities and regions. The full report can be found at legatus.sa.gov.au/naturalenvironment



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SET OUT TO CLEARLY DEFINE SUSTAINABILITY IN/FOR THE CONTEXT OF THE HUB.

A sustainability hub that represents the Clare and the Mid North region and its community and that characterises the values and aspirations will ultimately deliver the local perspective which will make it relevant to the community. Also, defining sustainability for the context of the hub will help with establishing the vision because it will form the principles of its foundation.

2

OUTLINE A VISION FOR THE HUB AND OUTCOMES THAT THE HUB WANTS TO ACHIEVE

Having a clear vision for the hub will be pivotal in the success of a future hub in Clare. In stating this, the decisions about what the hub is to achieve and why, and who it is for need to be established. Clarity with these issues will aid in defining what the structure of the hub will be. There were many ideas in the working group, all of which are pertinent, however together they are complex and are not necessarily along the same lines but are important starting points. The report also brought to light important concepts and ideas which are also worth considering.

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DECIDE ON A MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR THE HUB

Including who will oversee the decision making and who that person will answer to. For the hub to be successful there will need to be at least one person who is resourced to oversee the project. Without this focus the hub will not be a priority and will lose any momentum gained. However, an organisation who oversees the hub in some capacity will also need to be established. This will provide stability, help with funding and provide support for the person/s managing the hub. Further to this, to establish the overarching structures of the hub a decision will need to be made as to whether it is an incorporated or hosted organisation.

4

FIND AND DECIDE ON A FUNDING BASE

The hub will not be viable without funding. There are many options, some of which are demonstrated in the report; however, a business case will be an important step forward. Whatever the course of action, there is the potential for the hub to be an enterprise which may cover some of the costs, however establishment costs and securing ongoing costs will need to be ascertained.

5

DECIDE ON A SPACE FOR THE HUB

The study found that there was ambiguity over a specific site for the hub. Although the site at 155 Main North Road, Clare is a strong contender for the hub site, the space within that site will need to be defined because, as it is already working on many levels as a hub already, it will need to be established how the sustainability hub will fit in. There are also other opportunities within the township which could complement, or work together with, or be chosen above the initial site. Vision and outcomes for the hub will help frame the space required for the hub.

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INCLUDE COMMUNITY IN DECISION-MAKING AND IN THE BACKGROUND PROCESSES OF THE HUB

The study revealed the importance of integrating community into the process of developing the hub; to have the hub successfully integrated into a community, the community need to be involved. Involving the community provide wonderful opportunities for creating a hub that will be sustainable itself into the future. The community forum that took place in April and the people who participated in interviews exemplified the interest already existing in the region and demonstrated that the community has a lot to offer in the sustainability space.

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DECIDE ON A PRELIMINARY PROJECT WHICH WILL DEFINE THE HUB AND PROVIDE THE RESOURCES TO KEEP IT GOING

The initial project of the hub will be a determining factor in the hub's success. The project will need to be framed by the original vision and engage the community to establish a positive reputation. An initial project needs to be attainable with resources available, enough to build a reputation and have flexibility to evolve.