

Yoorla Garngoo Village

Hydrogen Jobs Plan temporary workers accommodation village

Yoorla Garngoo, a Barngarla phrase translating to 'a resting place; camp; at home', has been selected in partnership with an Elder of the local Barngarla community. This choice honours the traditional language and culture, recognising the significance of the place as a space for rest and belonging.



The Government of South Australia has committed \$593 million to build the Hydrogen Jobs Plan – a hydrogen production, power plant, and storage facility near Whyalla, nine kilometres north of the city centre on the western side of the Lincoln Highway.

Construction is expected to start in late 2024, with the facility projected to be operational in 2026. The Hydrogen Jobs Plan is estimated to create approximately 1000 jobs during construction.

The Office of Hydrogen Power SA is committed to maximising local employment opportunities. However, the size and timeline of the project means that a proportion of the workforce will come from outside the Upper Spencer Gulf and therefore accommodation within Whyalla becomes essential.

We are proactively working to ensure the construction workforce does not put a strain on local accommodation, while also engaging with local accommodation providers to discuss opportunities to utilise existing available capacity.

Extensive efforts are underway to ensure that the economic opportunities and social impacts associated with the influx of workers into Whyalla are identified early, well understood and issues are eliminated or reduced wherever possible. We are working with other government agencies to make sure the Hydrogen Jobs Plan does not put further pressure on local health or emergency services.

We'll continue engaging with the Whyalla community to discuss local participation pathways.

Where will the workers be housed?

In addition to the permanent accommodation solutions previously announced, there will be a need for a temporary accommodation village – to be known as Yoorla Garngoo Village.

Efforts are underway to stagger or distribute the accommodation demand across the construction period, aiming to minimise the footprint required for Yoorla Garngoo Village.

Permanent legacy solutions

Thirty-two high-quality cabins are being built at Discovery Parks' Whyalla Foreshore Caravan and Holiday Park and an initial 50 high-quality cabins will be built by Upper Spencer Gulf business Bentley's Cabin Parks. These cabins will create extra capacity in Whyalla that tourists and other construction workforces can use for years to come.

Temporary solution

A comprehensive evaluation process was conducted to select a suitable site for the modern, purpose-built Yoorla Garngoo Village. The detailed site assessments considered community impact, compatibility with surrounding land uses, environmental concerns and access to services.

The proposed location for the village is Lot 6537 Jenkins Avenue (as described in Crown Record Volume 5754 Folio 342), an empty plot adjacent to Jenkins Avenue and north of Jubilee Park in Whyalla Stuart. Access to the village is expected to be via Jenkins Avenue, between Club Italico and Jubilee Park. While the exact size of the village is yet to be determined, it is anticipated it will occupy an area of 10 to 15 hectares.

Currently, the proposed site is managed by Whyalla City Council as community land. To proceed with the proposed development, the State Government will revoke the dedication for the small portion of land adjacent to Jubilee Park required for the village.

Construction of the village is expected to begin in late 2024. It will be occupied for approximately 18 months or until the Hydrogen Jobs Plan facility is constructed and operational.

Jubilee Park will remain open for the public's continued use and enjoyment throughout the project.



What is proposed?

Yoorla Garngoo Village will feature quality residential facilities and is likely to have an initial capacity of 380 beds, with options to scale up capacity if required.

As plans progress, additional details about the village construction timeline and site works will be provided.

Visual appeal is a key consideration in the design process, with landscaping planned to help the village blend in with existing vegetation.

In addition to the modern accommodation, on-site services will likely include a gym, a dining facility, and

other shared gathering spaces such as barbecue areas, a yarning circle and places for quiet reflection.

To ensure the health and wellbeing of the workforce, a range of recreational facilities will also be required.

The proposed village's proximity to Jubilee Park presents an opportunity to improve the current recreational facility offering at Jubilee Park for shared use between the community and the construction workforce, should the community support this approach.

Benefits for the community

The proposed location was chosen due to it being on the city fringe, striking a balance between creating a self-contained village where workers can relax and socialise, and housing workers close enough to the city centre to deliver an economic boost to local businesses, including hotels, restaurants and food outlets, retail stores and service providers.

With the influx of workers, local businesses can anticipate a significant uptick in new customers. Local sporting clubs and community organisations may also see an increase in membership and patronage as workers look to enrich their time in Whyalla.

Key benefits

- City fringe site maximising economic benefit to Whyalla
- Separation between the village and residential areas
- Opportunity to deliver recreational facilities and improvements at Jubilee Park for the benefit of the community and the construction workforce, which can be left for community use once the project is completed

Get involved

We are eager to hear from you on several key aspects of Yoorla Garngoo Village, including:

- Service integration
- Village design
- Recreational facilities
- Community opportunities.

Visit us online to share your feedback by completing a short survey or sending in a submission by Monday, 10 June 2024.

► yoursay.sa.gov.au/hydrogen-jobs-plan-accommodation

Contact us

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Visit us

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Opening hours

Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 3pm or by appointment

