

## APPENDIX 4 RESPONDENT'S COMMENTS

The comments have been included verbatim with only spelling corrections and formatting changed.

### FAMILIARITY WITH THE MT LOFTY RANGES 53 comments

Bushwalker, member of Adelaide Walkers and Joggers, frequent traveller of the Yurrebilla Trail  
Field botanist

Have friends that live in the area.

Have lived here and walked widely for 30 years

Have lived in Adelaide all my life and in Balhannah for the last 25 years.

Have lived in MLR for 6 years and know small parts very well and little of most.

Have lived in Stirling for last three years.

Have worked all over the MLR for 25 years

Home

I assume the Barossa is part of Mt Lofty Ranges

I have been visiting the Ranges all my life, with having many family picnics as a child and also driving my children around.

I have lived here for 25 years

I have lived here for over 30 years

I have lived here for over 30 years and really enjoy being a part of the community in which I live. If I travel away I always look forward to come home.

I have lived in Cudlee Creek for 25 years

I have lived in Uraidla for 25 years and am a keen bushwalker

I have lived in the Adelaide Hills for over 50 years

I live and work in the Mt Lofty Ranges

I live close

I live in Aldgate and have lived here for 24 years

I live in Crafers since 1974

I live in Melbourne but has visited often since childhood

I live in the hills

I live there

I undertake bird surveys for the NRM

I visit at least once a week

I walk Waterfall Gully to Mt Lofty every week and drive in the hills once a month.

I love a drive through particularly in Autumn and one of my favourite places to take visitors

Lifetime resident

Lifetime resident in foothills

Live in MLR, been an active CFS Officer responding to incidents in MLR for 50 years.

Live there.

lived here for 75 years

Lived in them for many early years

Lived there as a child

Love visiting the parts near our home, especially in autumn.

Most familiar with environs south of Mt Lofty

My family settled in Gumeracha in 1837 as land managers and has remained in the Ranges since.

Owned property and lived in area for 39 years

Raised and lived there large part of my life

Regular visitor and have worked in parts of the area but have never lived there

Travelled with FGC for 40 years

Very familiar with some of it, e.g. around Waterfall Gully, walking hiking and bike riding, other areas  
very unfamiliar

Visit frequently

Visit often and live on foothills

Visit twice a year most years  
Walk twice a week  
We live in the Mount Lofty Ranges  
Where else would you live?  
Wish to live in Hills  
Work there  
Worked and lived in MLR  
Worked and lived there for 31 years.

**DO YOU LIVE IN OR COMMUTE THROUGH THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES? 55 comments**

A very special place  
Athelstone  
Best place to be in South Australia.  
But I have bought land in the ranges and hope to build soon  
Coast to hills  
Commute from SE approx. once per 2 months.  
Drive through once a fortnight on average.  
Go through when go to Adelaide  
Have always felt it is a slice of paradise and a well-kept secret  
Have covered much with the FGC  
Have watched the decline of vegetation  
I am a resident of the Bremer Ranges, but have ridden, walked and driven through the Mt. Lofty Ranges since 1968, when my husband and I moved to South Australia from Interstate.  
I am an avid bush walker and spend every weekend bushwalking the Mt Lofty or Flinders ranges  
I did live in the area 1984-2013  
I did live there for 40 years  
I do spend considerable time visiting the Mount Lofty Ranges  
I go to the Mount Lofty Ranges on a regular basis although I don't live in them.  
I have a holiday house at Cape Jervis (tip of the range) and also work at Waite/Urrbrae and walk in the hills/Waite Conservation Pk 3 x per week  
I have lived in the ranges in the past  
I have lived in the ranges since 1987  
I have property in the eastern Mount Lofty Ranges  
I live in country town on the edge of the Mount Lofty Ranges  
I live in Goolwa and regularly travel through the ranges to the City  
I live in Sellicks Beach which is, I believe, where the ranges meet the Gulf.  
I live in Willunga, at the foothills  
I Live much further out and occasionally pass through. less often we visit or take other routes to our normal ones  
I lived in the Adelaide Hills when I was young  
I lived in the Mount Lofty Ranges (Stirling) for 25 years and I regularly walk in the Mount Lofty Ranges with a walking group.  
I lived there for 10 years until 3 years ago  
I look across to the ranges everyday where we live in the foothills. Visit regularly for walks  
I regularly go to and travel through the Mount Lofty Ranges  
I used to live in the Southern Mt Lofty Ranges  
I walk twice a week - different walks up to Mt Lofty  
I was last there in 2006; and back this October.  
I've lived in Hahndorf 46 years  
Live 4 hours drive from the region  
Live close by at Athelstone  
Live close to hills in Adelaide foothill suburbs  
Live in northern foothills  
Live on hills face zone with a view of city

Macclesfield

My doctor is at Uraidla and I volunteer at the Norton Summit NRM Centre

My home is in Old Noarlunga - the foothills

On the edge of- Strathalbyn

On the fringe - Victor Harbor

Part of the time I live in the Ranges. Formerly have lived there for 19 years

Rail service from Adelaide to Belair is an attractive area with excellent tourist attraction. The line should be extended to at least Mount Barker to cover an extensive tourist train journey and to cater for residents along the length of the line.

Recently moved to edge of the Ranges

Resident of Blackwood

Strathalbyn

Victor harbor

We live on the fringe of the ranges.

We used to live in Bridgewater

Weekly travel from Adelaide to the eastern edge of the ranges not far from Murray Bridge

Willunga

### **COMMENT ON SURVEY 100 comments**

A balance between land available for agriculture pursuits and retention and planting of natural vegetation I tended to score higher on the other hand overgrazing and lack of preventing stock from entering remnant vegetation I scored lower-This was also true for other agriculture pursuits.

A good survey. Best wishes on the project. A point: I wonder about the terminology. You call it a landscape quality survey however ask people to rate scenic quality -a difference in these. No explanation to participants until at the end I see a reference to your website. I'll look at that to understand more. Very interesting. Thank you.

A large percentage of our Mount Lofty Ranges are both inaccessible and under-utilised. The region is not that beautiful and sacred that it should be over protected. The beauty to be extracted from the area is the close proximity to the city and the potential to create a tourism area to put us on the map. With some forward thinking this region could put Adelaide on the "world map" as a place to visit. Sadly, in my lifetime the blinkered and conservative will see that a place that could be one to visit and or live in instead remains a backwater...

A long survey, but worth it.

A lot of the pictures were very repetitive.

A lot of the scenes were taken in a very dry season. I would be likely to have rated the same place higher when it looks lush and green.

A lot of the scrub shots were poorly framed or cropped.

A place we need to look after - a place of valued biodiversity. Where we can connect with the natural world

A wonderful area - must be protected against exploration for gold, silver, copper etc see the link for further details <https://sarig.pir.sa.gov.au/Map>

Andrew-just a small nit pick. I got pissed off having to scroll down each time to submit my choice. Why couldn't they have compressed the scale a bit and put the submit button at the end of the scale?

As a photographer, I found it difficult to judge the terrain over the photographic perspective and quality of the image. But I tried to set quality aside and give 1st impression.

As indicated, I'm into native vegetation not pine trees and grapevines!

At times I find it difficult to know whether I am judging the landscape or the quality of the photograph since there is some variation in these. Also images of dry summer landscapes are difficult to rank when place in comparison to lush damp autumn or winter scenes. Some of the drier scenes could be lower ranked simply because they are so dry, whereas if the same scene was taken in winter spring they could well be far more appealing, or rank higher.

Better quality photographs taken in early morning or late afternoon light would enhance many views.

CLOSE UPS REQUIRED FOR 10/10 SHOTS i RECKON

Degraded farmland has a very low rating, productive vineyards and orchards have a higher rating. Plantation timber has a low rating

Difficult but interesting exercise; more like 30 minutes. I'd like to receive the results please.

Difficult to sustain consistency

Enjoyed doing the survey

Enjoyed the photos of Flinders Ranges.

Having hiked and travelled a lot there are many jewels in the Mt Lofty Ranges for all to discover along the many walking trails it has to offer.

I am a Friend of Black Hill & Morialta & many scenes seemed familiar to me. I love the way when driving through the ranges, the scenery constantly changes.

I do not like to see bald hills and rivers dammed and ruined and plantation trees unless the plantation is planted with gum not pine and farm land utilised attractively with other scrub. I hate the look of denuded exploited eroded bare land it is to me an unsightly rape or abuse of resource of our nature resource. I love to see old stone farms and land care farms with trees and bush and farming coexisting and productive. I also love wild bush scapes and long distant views giving an overall impression. I am very keen on roads and tall gum trees that line, shade and beautify and stand so tall and majestic over the houses and fences and nature shows her seniority and prominence in our lives balance, Best wishes in your work may it bring excellent development policy and planning for the beautiful Mount Lofty Ranges and towns.

I do not think the photos give justice to the fantastic region

I expected to see a little more built environs and more of creeks, ponds and rivers. More of specific trees or other singular features.

I felt that I was probably harsher on the photos that I would be if I was experiencing them in the flesh. Somehow you don't get the smells / sounds and sense of well-being when you are out experiencing it.

I found myself automatically not liking scenes with pine forests & overhead wires. Scenes with multiple textures & long views were most appealing. As a person who has walked & been in such landscapes I could feel the appeal of both the dry and green scenes & relate to the temperature & aromas. I wondered whether the tourist who drives to a spot and looks as opposed to entering would have the same reaction.

I found this quite challenging as many of the areas are quite familiar to me.

I know a number of locations included in the photo album, and feel that many of your photos do not do the landscapes justice. Colours are dull, lighting is dull, season of photo shoot is not always flattering. Needless to say that I am eager that the unique NATURAL beauty of the MLR is preserved and rehabilitated where feasible. Woodlots are unattractive. Diversity of vegetation IS attractive to me.

I live in the hills on a daily bases. I see far more beauty than these photos, you need a better photographer

I love nature, landscapes and gnarled gum trees. Consequently all photos for me were great, from the Stony desert to the narrow tree lined roads. The many different shades of green against the dry background would be a photo stop for me.

I noted a few photos were repeated, no doubt deliberately!

I noticed most of the photos were taken in summer, i.e. with brown grass. The same scene may appear more scenic in winter, i.e. with green grass.

I prefer the native landscapes to the man-made but gave points where an attempt has been made to retain as much of the native vegetation as possible. I was surprised that I did not mark many highly. Obviously we cannot restore what has been irrevocably destroyed, but congratulations on making the attempt to increase awareness of the value of the land we plundered and what we need to do to prevent further degradation.

I rated the non-Adelaide Hills shots very low as I considered that they didn't meet the criteria. To rate them highly, even though they were of high scenic value, would have seemed peculiar. I don't think it was a good idea to construct the survey in this way. In my view the Mt Lofty Ranges rate only in a low-key way, scenically. That is partly their charm.

I think I might be guilty of preferring the exotic (Flinders) to the familiar (Adelaide Hills)

I think my marking became more harsh as the photos continued. There were some beautiful places that got few or no photos, eg the rocky and tree-studded land in the eastern edge of the ranges

I thought I could identify some locations and this probably affected my ratings.

I thought that on the whole the photos did not do justice to the Mt Lofty Ranges. I found it hard to rate them, as I could not help being biased by the quality of the photos eg the coastal photos, which actually show stunning scenery, were not of good quality. It might have helped if clearer instructions were given on how to judge the photos eg try to ignore photo quality and just focus on the landscape. I must admit I have doubts about the validity and usefulness of the survey, but I enjoyed looking at the photos and hope that my responses may be useful. As a resident of, and

frequent walker in the Ranges, I greatly enjoy their scenic beauty.  
I was disappointed that there a narrow range of landscapes and not many were as beautiful as the Adelaide Hills actually are.  
I wonder what impact the blue versus grey sky has on our ratings?  
I would have liked to rate some of the native tree photos higher but they looked blurred on my iPad  
I now realise that I live in one of the most beautiful places in the world  
Illustrates just how much of a human impact there's been on the Ranges. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.  
Image quality as limited, with many images taken when the landscape was very barren and lacking greenness.  
In international terms, the Mt Lofty Ranges are pleasant, but very far from spectacular. As a traveller here years ago, I remember laughing at the spots where the little brown camera sign post suggests good photographic spots. it was like " What.....is this as good as it gets?"  
Interested to see if there are variations in scoring with cultural background, city versus country etc  
Interesting - I found the landscapes with mixture of use, blue skies and contrasts in colours the most appealing.  
Interesting compositions and locations  
Interesting to see how real close ups can be great not just looking at a distant scene. The seasons vary the scenery greatly. Nice to see nature in different clothes. Variety of colour and shape often makes a sudden impact.  
It is unclear what sort of quality judgement is asked for, whether it be a low consciousness judgement of 'oh that looks pretty and green' compared to a higher consciousness judgment of 'this country is healthy and diverse ecologically, reminding me of the Peramangk heritage and dreaming'. My indicators of low quality landscape were; land degradation, fences, presence of introduced plants, industrial agriculture. Indicators of high quality landscapes; Presence and abundance of native vegetation, features such as trees, yuccas, mountains, rocks, creeks, waterfalls that would have a spiritual function for people, integrated agriculture - sustaining function for people. I question the extent to which European heritage may be prioritised over Peramangk heritage in this development. I know from this study you'll look at correlations in a participant's choices to democratically decide which landscapes are more valuable, but I ask you please consider the consciousness level of participants. Because in many ways our dominant culture is ignorant to what is really important and valuable - that is the land and our place within it and our connection to both ancestors of past and unborn of the future.  
Just love Australian bush. Missed it for many years due to living overseas first in UK then in South Africa. South African bush has its own beauty.  
Mmmm The Mount Lofty Ranges look better than the photos.  
Most of the landscapes were bereft of natural bushland which is the main thing that makes the ranges Australian. Understory on many lacking species. For me nothing beats natural bushland. Very little left in good condition. Apathy and weeds are taking over.  
No winter shots? nor autumn? skew the results?  
Not enough scenes of veg and fruit production. Too many scenes taken in summer with brown landscape, would have been nicer with green grass.  
Not many close up pics or winter scenes here.  
Not very comprehensive of MLR in total. Not shown at its best.  
Noticed a couple of shots that looked suspiciously like Flinders Ranges. Also many shots taken in summer, not a lot of greenery. Some photos pretty poor quality.  
Noticed some repeated, perhaps to check the scoring is consistent.  
Odd that the best panoramas were from the Flinders ranges  
Photographs are not of good quality and clarity. No autumn colouring either, nor winter scenes which are beautiful in the ranges!  
Poor photos most taken in February in a drought. Did not understand if I was to judge as photographs for display or as advertisements to visit scenic places. Too many shots of new tree plantings and grapevines.  
Quite a few scenes would have been more attractive if taken in winter when the grass was green, or if taken in the morning with low light, so it's a bit difficult to be quite fair at times.  
Rugged factor in the Flinders - hard to beat.  
Saying that quality is simply a measure of personal aesthetics is in my opinion not true. The quality of a landscape is a measure of its biodiversity, ecological sustainability, degree of natural features, whether or not it harbours unusual or unique species, and its visual structure. Using aesthetics

only with skew the preference towards an European concept of beauty, and away from natural environments to rural landscapes and from chaotic to neat landscapes, and from sustainable to unsustainable landscapes. By doing a survey with predominantly agricultural scenes shot from about 1500 mm above ground and at a distance almost exclusively from the subject, you are also presenting scenes which are specifically anthropomorphic... if you look through a macro lens, a different and wonderful world emerges for the observant...please google these miniature landscapes on my website, which can also be appreciated by human beings if they are willing to get down nearer to the ground and actually look, rather than play the time poor tourist.

<http://www.redbubble.com/people/fuzzi>

Scenes from elsewhere not a fair benchmark, in that they seem to be 'postcard' shots. In contrast, only poor photos selected of Mt Lofty Ranges. Why only below average areas chosen?

Seemed a bit repetitive but I assume that this is intentional in the methodology.

Should have taken more photos in winter when everything is green.

Some nice photos of the Flinders Ranges

Some of the images seemed to have greater potential but were in poor focus or printed to be quite dreary. How the images are to be used and for what audience would probably change my rating. I have a visual art background so I was looking for images that had a sense of harmony, light and a personal attractiveness that exemplified the hills region. No black and white images?

Some scenes were marked high for their tragedy or sadness factor.

Someone has had a great time taking the photos!

Sometimes I felt I knew the area to be beautiful and very familiar to me, but did not think the photo did much and could not help but rate it down.

Stick to natural beauty. What's with the grape vines?

Survey showed a comprehensive range of options within what you would expect to see in the Mount Lofty Ranges

The depth of colour in the photos greatly affects the scenic quality. Some photos would have been more scenic if the greens for example were enhanced....

The Mount Lofty Ranges has a diverse range of landmarks and sights covering cultural, social, historical, agriculture, horticulture and recreation. I have lived in the Tea Tree Gully foothills of the Mount Lofty Ranges for 45 years. The backdrop of the hills feels just 40 minutes from Adelaide City is very attractive and easily accessed in just one day.

The Mount Lofty Ranges is a very large and beautiful place to visit in all seasons. The photos in this survey did not do it justice.

The parts of the ranges least affected by grazing and vineyards and still have remnant vegetation intact are by far the most attractive landscapes

the scenes from elsewhere did throw me and could have confused my ratings as I did assume they were on the northern part of the Ranges possibly not Mt Lofty Ranges

The survey was far too long.

There are many more scenic spots than these in the Mt Lofty Ranges

too long

too many images in the survey, should have a cut and run option half way through

Too many photos

Too many photos, got fatigue.

Too many photos. Lots of photos very similar. Lead to boredom. Keep to half that number

Too many vineyards. Too much cleared land that looked very dry. Majority look like they have been taken at the end of a hot dry summer.

Too many!

Unfortunately many photos suffered from very bad composition.

Unmolested is better

Very disappointing all photos were taken during summer months, the ranges look even better with a covering of green

Very hard to do. I don't really like agricultural crops but some of the mixed landscapes were quite appealing and some of the natural landscapes were very brown and arid so I found myself redoing many from an 'are they mostly native plants?' or 'are they weeds/introduced plants?' viewpoint. As an environmental volunteer the latter get a strong thumbs down! So my best scores went to areas with native understoreys as well as gums etc. in the canopy. The jibber landscape also got marked up as natural though very brown. Green landscapes do appeal though even if agricultural crops - I come from Kent originally so they look like my homeland -and so there is a



- bit of inconsistency in my marking!
- Way too many pictures to review. My commitment to good research was truly tested. You should have limited this to a max of 50 pictures
- We are very concerned about the loss of large trees from back yards, roadsides and areas. Partly from policy changes but also by human activities. Have a good look at Germantown hill - 1990 it was great vegetation - today it's nearly lost. The stringy barks are dying rapidly and replaced with Pittosporum or other weeds. Fear re fires losing significant vegetation and cutting vegetation under power lines is disappointing. It is true the pressure is high - needs a better coordinated approach - NRM does not have vision or skills.
- Well - I hate gum trees, apple orchards with netting and monoculture potatoes (DOH !) how can anyone rate a field of spuds !! I also hate farms with rubbish machinery outside - where on earth did you get these photos from?? Also, the quality of the photos was poor. There was only one picture which rated 6. Sorry - but we are a family of photographers - the photos don't do justice to the Mount Lofty Ranges. Am I on the wrong foot. See us on [www.tiersview.com.au](http://www.tiersview.com.au) Best wishes.
- Wow, there are a lot of grape vines!!!!
- Yes, photos 38, 46 & 158 are of the Flinders Ranges. Photo 151 of coastal location is unlikely to be in the region. Several photos are of revegetation rather than remnant vegetation.
- Yes, there did seem to be a lot of photos from landscapes that could be anywhere in SA or Victoria. But seriously, compared to Kakadu, Willandra Lakes or the Blue Mountains most of it was pretty average. One also wonders who or what a World Heritage inscription would benefit too given as it seems to be mainly an agricultural area.

