



Nomination for **URBAN AWARD**

Willunga Mainstreet

Willunga, SA



Photo c/o Mulloway Studio

The recent redevelopment and upgrades to the main streets of Willunga illustrate a number of key approaches to the design process for urban settings such as this with a highly defined character.

- Story-telling was the main design driver, with the whole considered a form of museum/gallery
- The emphasis was on repair rather than replacement

The design had to incorporate all the functional requirements of upgraded stormwater, amenity infrastructure, carparking and wayfinding, but the manner in which these have been organised was based on the narrative. At the same time, it is critical that in such areas, the designs do not erode that character and understanding the significance of the place, which is key to sensitive and sympathetic built outcomes. It was noted that:

- Willunga was the first town surveyed outside of the Adelaide metropolitan area and has a unique history that has shaped its urban form. The interrelationship between the surveyed grid and the natural hilly terrain gives Willunga much of its character.
- Many of the buildings remaining in the main street are heritage listed, either at a local or State level, and these form another starting point as tangible evidence of that history.
- There is a series of oral histories and recollections that provide further illumination of the underlying stories.