MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Phill Stone

Cr Peter Borda
Cr Mark Inglis
Cr David Knox
Cr Bill Simpson
Cr Zia Westerman
Cr Kathryn Campbell
Cr Peter Klobucar
Cr Tamy Pond
Cr Sharon Todd

NOTICE OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

TO YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 83 of the Local Government Act that the next **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic on Grundel, 21 Grundel Street, Whyalla Norrie on **MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2025** commencing at 5.45 pm.

The Ordinary Council Meeting is open to the public and we encourage you to attend in person. If you're unable to attend the meeting in person, you can join electronically via Microsoft Teams
Click here to join the meeting

When attending the meeting via Microsoft Teams, participants' are agreeing to *Microsoft's Terms and Conditions* – follow this link Microsoft Privacy Statement – Microsoft privacy to view *Microsoft's Privacy Statement*.

A copy of the Agenda for the above meeting is supplied as required.

JUSTIN COMMONS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated: 11 December 2025

AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 15 DECEMBER 2025

1. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Video presentation

2. OATH TO WHYALLA

We, the Whyalla Council Members, commit to serving the community of which we are a part and will work together diligently and collaboratively to create a prosperous future in which we all can share.

3. OBITUARY NOTICES

4. ATTENDANCE RECORD

Apologies – Nil
Leave of Absence – Nil

5. COUNCIL MEMBER / EXECUTIVE DECLARATIONS

5.1 Conflicts of Interest
5.2 Gifts and Benefits

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 17 November 2025 *Page 5*

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 17 November 2025, as per copies supplied to Members, be adopted as a true and correct record to that meeting.

7. MATTERS ADJOURNED / LAID ON THE TABLE – Nil

8. DEPUTATIONS – Nil

9. PETITIONS – Nil

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public Question Time Protocol

The Mayor will read submitted Questions (on the Public Question Time Template) at the time of the meeting and will give an officer's response at the time of the meeting. (A written response will be given if an officer's response is not available.)

11. COUNCIL MEMBER ACTIVITIES

12. PRESENTATIONS

12.1 Northern Water Project Delivery Office, re Desalination Project

- Tara Hage –Director ESG
- Stephanie Luyks – Manager, Engagement
- Lexi Schwarz – Manager, Environment
- Guinevere Flavel – Principal Engagement Advisor

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Nil

14. REPORTS – COUNCIL OFFICERS

14.1 Office of the Chief Executive – Ordinary Reports

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – December 2025 Page 16
14.1.2 Annual Community Survey Page 45

14.2 Corporate Services – Ordinary Reports

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – November 2025 Page 57
14.2.2 Requests for Services Policy and Procedure Page 73
14.2.3 Council Member Access to Documents Policy and Procedure Page 82
14.2.4 Whyalla Early Learning Centre Page 91

14.3 City Growth – Ordinary Reports

14.3.1 Community Grant Page 95
14.3.2 Central Sports Precinct Lighting – Financial Contribution Page 99
14.3.3 Economic Development Related Matters Page 106

14.4 City Infrastructure – Ordinary Reports – Nil

15. INFORMATION / DECISION REPORTS

15.1 Council Members

15.1.1 Mayor P Stone – List of Engagements Page 122

15.2 Corporate Services / City Growth

15.2.1 Monthly Information Report – November 2025 Page 141

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – Nil

17. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – Nil

18. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE *Page 190*

19. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE *Page 190*

20. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – Nil

21. CLOSE

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 19 January 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 27 January 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 2 February 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 16 February 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 20 February 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 2 March 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 16 March 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WHYALLA

HELD ON MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 5.45 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

PRESENT: Mayor P Stone, Deputy Mayor P Borda, Councillors T Pond, K Campbell, P Klobucar, B Simpson, S Todd, Z Westerman

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer *(Mr J Commons)*
General Manager City Growth *(Mrs J Perone)*
Manager Capital Works Delivery *(Mr L Jones)*
Manager Media and Communications *(Mr S Kelly)*
Manager Assets and Planning *(Mr Y Khan)*
Acting Manager People and Culture *(Mrs V Dempsey)*
Acting Manager Finance and Knowledge Management *(Mrs S Vigar)*
Acting Manager City Development *(Mr L Trevisan)*
Acting Events and Tourism Lead *(Mrs A Sanders)*
Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor *(Mrs M Armstrong)*
Executive Co-ordinator – Corporate Services *(Ms L Symons)*

1. Acknowledgement to Country

2. Oath to Whyalla

We, the Whyalla Council Members, commit to serving the community of which we are a part and will work together diligently and collaboratively to create a prosperous future in which we all can share.

3. Obituary Notices

Dal	OSBORN
Olive	SPROULE
Mark	HALLAM
Alex	BRINE
Monica	SCHUMANN
June	WILKINSON
Lois	CLASOHM
Chris	CAUST

4. Attendance Record

Apologies – Crs D Knox, M Inglis
Leave of Absence – Nil

5. Council Member / Executive Declarations

5.1 Conflicts of Interest – Nil
5.2 Gifts and Benefits – Nil

6. Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 20 October 2025

Moved Cr Simpson, seconded Cr Pond

C5800-2025

That the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 20 October 2025, as per copies supplied to Members, be adopted as a true and correct record to that meeting.

Carried

7. Matters Adjourned / Laid on the Table – Nil

8. Deputations – Nil

9. Petitions – Nil

10. Public Question Time – Nil

11. Council Members Activities

11.1 Cr Z Westerman

Cr Westerman advised of her attendance at the following:

- 20 October 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 24 October 2025 – Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network Whyalla Hospital Wayfinding Audit
- 25 October 2025 – Multicultural Fashion Show
- 27 October 2025 – Governor of South Australia Visit to Whyalla
- 28 October 2025 – Little Athletics SA and Disability SA Inclusion Workshop
- 1 November 2025 – Whyalla Suicide Prevention Network: 'Let's Chalk About It' event
- 4 November 2025 – International Day of People with Disabilities event meeting
- 7 November 2025 – Whyalla Disability Inclusive Reference Group Meeting
- 9 November 2025 – Official Opening of Civic Park Playground

11.2 Cr B Simpson

Cr Simpson advised of his attendance at the following:

- 20 October 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 27 October 2025 – Governor of South Australia Visit to Whyalla
- 29 October 2025 – Community Engagement Survey – Westland Shopping Centre
- 9 November 2025 – Official opening of Civic Park Playground
- 10 November 2025 – Empowering Leadership and Community Session
- 11 November 2025 – Remembrance Day Ceremony
- 12 November 2025 – Community Engagement Survey – Westland Shopping Centre
- 12 November 2025 – Empowering Leadership and Community Session – Homework

11.3 Cr P Klobucar

Cr Klobucar advised of his attendance at the following:

- 20 October 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 21 October 2025 – CEG Retention and Remuneration
- 23 October 2025 – Health Advisory Committee Meeting
- 27 October 2025 – Governor of South Australia Visit to Whyalla
- 31 October 2025 – CEG Board Meeting
- 9 November 2025 – Official Opening of Civic Park Playground
- 10 November 2025 – Empowering Leadership and Community Session
- 10 November 2025 – Empowering Leadership Action Meeting

11.4 Cr T Pond

Cr Pond advised of her attendance at the following:

- 20 October 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 20 October 2025 – Meeting with Rotary
- 23 October 2025 – Breast Cancer Awareness Event
- 23 October 2025 – Children's Week Event
- 23 October 2025 – Dementia Awareness Event
- 23 October 2025 – Whyalla News article
- 24 October 2025 – Christmas on the Avenue Meeting
- 24 October 2025 – Publicity for Christmas event and Whyalla News photo
- 24 October 2025 – Coffee with a Cop
- 24 October 2025 – Meeting with resident, re playgrounds
- 24 October 2025 – Clontarf Awards
- 25 October 2025 – Dementia Afternoon Tea
- 25 October 2025 – Filipino Cultural Association – Multi-cultural Event
- 26 October 2025 – Whyalla Little Athletics
- 27 October 2025 – Governor of South Australia Visit to Whyalla
- 28 October 2025 – Triple Y Council Show
- 28 October 2025 – Plaza Youth Meeting
- 28 October 2025 – Training at Council – Disability inclusion in sports
- 28 October 2025 – Whyalla Little Athletics
- 29 October 2025 – Community Engagement Survey – Westland Shopping Centre
- 30 October 2025 – Pageant Incentive Meeting
- 30 October 2025 – Whyalla Little Athletics Meeting
- 31 October 2025 – Christmas on the Avenue Meeting
- 1 November 2025 – 'Let's Chalk About It' Event
- 2 November 2025 – Whyalla Little Athletics
- 3 November 2025 – Pageant Incentive Meeting
- 4 November 2025 – Disability Inclusion Event Meeting
- 4 November 2025 – Triple Y Council Show
- 7 November 2025 – Christmas on the Avenue Meeting
- 7 November 2025 – Shooting Stars Awards
- 8 November 2025 – V Stop – new business walk-around
- 9 November 2025 – Whyalla Little Athletics
- 10 November 2025 – Whyalla Hospital Advisory Council – Induction Meeting
- 10 November 2025 – Meeting with resident, re flag protocol
- 10 November 2025 – Empowering Leadership and Community Session
- 12 November 2025 – Family Violence – Annual General Meeting

13. Committee Reports

13.1 Draft Minutes and Summary of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 1 October 2025

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Deputy Mayor Borda

C5801-2025

Council notes the draft Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 1 October 2025.

Carried

13.2 Mount Laura Homestead Advisory Group Meeting – 7 October 2025

Moved Cr Todd, seconded Cr Simpson

C5802-2025

Council notes the Minutes of the Mount Laura Homestead Advisory Group Meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2025.

Carried

12. Presentations

12.1 Mr S Hams – Korda Mentha

OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Limited – Update – Confidential

Moved Cr Todd, seconded Cr Simpson

C5803-2025

Pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999, Council orders that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of Justin Commons; Chief Executive Officer, Jodie Perone; General Manager City Growth, Sandra Vigar; Acting Manager Finance and Knowledge Management, Vanessa Dempsey; Acting Manager People and Culture, Les Jones; Manager Capital Works Delivery, Sean Kelly; Manager Media and Communications, Lucas Trevisan; Acting Manager City Growth, Yusuf Khan; Manager Assets and Planning, Ali Sanders; Events and Tourism Lead, Tom Spirat; Acting Manager City Operations, Adelaide Smith; Information Services Support Officer, Michelle Armstrong; Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor and Lisette Symons; Executive Co-ordinator – Corporate for Agenda Item 12.1 – KordaMentha – OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Limited – Update.

Council considers that the requirement for the meeting to be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in circumstances whereby the Council will receive a presentation containing commercial information of a confidential nature, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the Council.

Carried

Moved Cr Todd, seconded Cr Simpson

C5804-2025

Council:

1. notes the KordaMentha – OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Limited – Update; and
2. having considered Agenda Item 12.1 – KordaMentha – OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Limited – Update in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act orders that this Presentation be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until November 2030, on the basis that it contains commercial information of a confidential nature the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Cr Pond

C5805-2025

Council returns to Ordinary Meeting Procedures.

Carried

12.2 Ms A Sanders – Acting Events and Tourism Lead
Tourism Triumphs – Wild Vision, Real Action

13. Committee Reports – *refer Page 4 of these Minutes*

14. Reports – Council Officers

14.1 Office of the Chief Executive Officer – Ordinary Reports

14.1.1 Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Deputy Mayor Pond declared a material conflict of interest in relation to Agenda Item 14.1.1 "Appointment of Deputy Mayor", as the successful nominee for the role of Deputy Mayor.

Cr Pond vacated the meeting at 6.48 pm.

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Cr Simpson

C5806-2025

Council elects Cr Tamy Pond as the Deputy Mayor, for a period of 12 months, until the November 2026 Local Government elections.

Carried

Deputy Mayor Pond resumed her seat at 6.49 pm.

14.1.2 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – November 2025

Moved Cr Todd, seconded Cr Campbell

C5807-2025

Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – November 2025.

Carried

14.1.3 Tracking of Council Resolutions

Moved Cr Simpson, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C5808-2025

Council notes the Tracking of Council Resolutions Report.

Carried

14.2 Corporate Services – Ordinary Reports

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – October 2025

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Todd

C5809-2025

Council notes the Monthly Budget Report – October 2025.

Carried

14.2.2 Decommissioning of the Lacey Street Playground

Moved Cr Simpson, seconded Cr Klobucar

C5810-2025

Council

1. notes the information within this report and the concerns raised by the residents regarding the decommissioning of the playground located at 205 Lacey Street;
2. upholds the resolution made on 28 April 2025 (C5577-2025), to remove and not replace the playground at 205 Lacey Street; and
3. the Chief Executive Officer writes to the residents who requested the review of the decision to close the playground located at 205 Lacey Street, to formally communicate the decision of Council.

Carried

14.2.3 Cemetery Operations and Administration Policy Review

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Simpson

C5811-2025

Council:

1. revokes the 2021 Version 5 Cemetery Operations and Administration Policy; and
2. endorses the 2025 Version 6 Cemetery Operations and Administration Policy, attached at Annexure "A".

Carried

14.3 City Growth – Ordinary Reports

14.3.1 Outdoor Dining Policy – November 2025 Review

Moved Deputy Mayor Pond, seconded Cr Borda

C5812-2025

Council endorses the updated Outdoor Dining Policy, as attached at Annexure "A".

Carried

14.3.2 Changes to the Enrolment Policy for the Whyalla Early Learning Centre

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Todd

C5813-2025

Council endorses the proposed changes to the Enrolment Policy, Version 3.

Carried

14.4 City Infrastructure – Ordinary Reports

14.4.1 Update on Mount Laura Conservation Reserve

Moved Cr Todd, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C5814-2025

Council supports the "soft start' approach to the Trail and Bike Master Plan through minimalist signage, QR codes with maps and post-style maps identifying where the existing trails are, level of fitness required, and risk to rider acceptance as an early stage implementation to the Master Plan.

Carried

15. Information / Decision Reports

15.1 Council Members

15.1.1 Mayor P Stone – List of Engagements

Moved Cr Todd, seconded Cr Borda

C5815-2025

Council receives and notes the Mayor P Stone – List of Engagements report.

Carried

15.2 Corporate Services/City Growth

15.2.1 Monthly Information Report – November 2025

Moved Cr Todd, seconded Cr Borda

C5816-2025

Council notes the:

1. calendar of information reporting over the course of 12 months;
2. indicative schedule of upcoming items, to be considered at future Council meetings;
3. staffing update; and
4. November 2025 activity reports for the following services:

    - Corporate Services
    - Regulatory Services
    - Economic Development; and
    - Tourism and Events.

Carried

16. Notices of Motion

16.1 Cr Z Westerman

16.1.1 Secure Public Lockers at the Beach

Moved Cr Westerman, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C5817-2025

That Council investigate the feasibility of installing secure public lockers at the beach, to provide swimmers and beachgoers with a safe place to store their personal belongings.

Carried

17. Questions on Notice – Nil

18. Questions without Notice

18.1 Cr B Simpson

18.1.1 *Illegal Dumping and Rubbish*

Q1. *With reference to a previous suggestion proposing that Council staff (who are regularly out and about within their role), carry a standard pad of letters to request residents to "tidy up of their verge" and pop these into letterboxes belonging to residents with illegal dumping on their verge – has anything been undertaken in this regard?*

A1. Mr Commons; Chief Executive Officer, advised that Administration is currently investigating this proposal with staff.

A Council Members Workshop will be held on Monday 24 November 2025, whereby the subject matter will be illegal dumping and hard waste collection – seeking suggested improvements and a refinement of the current process.

18.1.2 *Local Property – Vandalism and Illegal Dumping*

Q1. *For a long time now, a property located in Mitchell Street has been the site for illegal dumping, regular vandalism and destroyed fencing – what is happening with this property?*

A1. Mr Commons took the question on notice and will bring a response back to the Council Members Workshop to be held on Monday 24 November.

18.2 Cr P Klobucar

18.2.1 *Foreshore Cameras*

Q1. *When will the security cameras be operational at the foreshore again?*

A1. Mr Commons took the question on notice and advised that he will provide an update to the Council Members (via email) on the current progress.

Mrs Jodie Perone; General Manager City Growth advised that software required for the cameras, has recently been received by Council.

18.3 Deputy Mayor T Pond

18.3.1 *Correspondence from Point Lowly Ratepayers Association Inc*

Q1. *Has Administration met with the Point Lowly Ratepayers Association yet, with regard to their recent correspondence?*

A1. Mr Commons advised that a meeting was scheduled for this week; however, it has since been rescheduled – Council Administration will now meet with the Point Lowly Ratepayer Association on Monday 24 November.

19. Motions without Notice – Nil

20. Consideration of Confidential Items – Nil

Close – *meeting concluded at 7.09 pm*

21. Date of Next Meetings

- 24 November 2025 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 9 December 2025 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 15 December 2025 – Ordinary Council Meeting

Confirmed: ……
Presiding Member – December 2025

14.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – December 2025 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Justin Commons – Chief Executive Officer **File No.:** 1-0
Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Annexures:
A – Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – December 2025
B – Committee/ Working Party/ Workshop/ Sub-committee Meetings Listing
C – Summary of Key Meetings and External Engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest: *In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120*		**Status:** *Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act*	
☐ **Yes**	☑ **No**	☐ **Yes**	☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

This report details the specific actions taken by administration, in respect to resolutions of Council, together with information regarding CEO activities and an update on a variety work in progress (WIP) matters.

SUMMARY

Council resolutions to be actioned are listed within **Annexure "A"**. This enables Council Members to view outstanding resolutions and gives advice as to the timeframe for the completion and outcome of the said resolutions.

Annexure "B" lists Council Member representation at meetings held during the month and meetings to be held over a period of three (3) months.

Annexure "C" provides a summary of key meetings and external engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer during the period 17 November – 14 December 2025, inclusive.

The body of the report also provides an update on a variety of work in progress (WIP) matters, together with an indication of when these matters will next be presented to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – December 2025.

DUE DATE

Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – December 2025 – For Noting	15/12/2025

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – December 2025 – <u>For Noting</u>

<u>REPORT</u>

DISCUSSION

This report details the specific actions taken by administration, in respect to resolutions of Council.

Also contained herein, is a summary of key meetings and external engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer during the period 15 September – 19 October 2025, inclusive.

Annexures "A" and **"B"** list outstanding Council resolutions and meetings with Council Member representation, held over the month and meetings to be held over a period of three (3) months. Each outstanding resolution item has been allocated to a relevant Director/Council officer. This report, and annexures, provides a description of the process, which is to be followed, and timeframe allocated to outstanding resolutions.

Annexure "C" provides a summary of engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer during the period 17 November – 14 December 2025, inclusive.

<u>Updates – Various Matters</u>

1. **<u>Executive Recruitment</u>**

   I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Paul Day, to the position of General Manager-Infrastructure.

   With more than 25 years' experience, Paul brings a wealth of knowledge and executive capability gained across multiple local government areas.

   Paul will be starting with Council on Monday 12 January 2026 and his appointment completes the recruitment process for the Executive Leadership Team.



2. **<u>Online Camp Booking System</u>**

   The online booking system (Bookezy) has gone live and improvements to car parking areas at Pointt Lowly improved, to facilitate booking and billing for camp areas from 1 December 2025.

3. Annual Community Survey

Council's Annual Community Survey has been completed. Results are being collated with a summary report to be provided to the December 2025 Council meeting and a detailed report together with to key findings and recommendations arising from this feedback to be presented to the January 2026 Council meeting.

4. Demonstration of Excellence

In addition to the WBAT Annual Awards 'Contribution to Tourism Award' and the SATC Tourism Awards 'Visitor Information Centre' award, Whyalla received two further acknowledgements of excellence, being:

- National Australian Airports Association
- Premiers Energy and Mining Awards

Fulton Hogan was recognised with the Corporate Project of the Year honour in the Small Regional Airport/Aerodrome at the **Australian Airports Association** industry awards!

🏅 *Small Regional Airport/Aerodrome – Whyalla Airport Runway Upgrade Project*

A transformative investment in South Australia's regional aviation, this project delivered strengthened runway 17/35, wider taxiway Alpha, reconstructed RPT apron bays for Q400 compliance, and a new airfield lighting system including a Precision Approach Path Indicator and upgraded flood lighting. In partnership with local stakeholders, we've ensured Whyalla remains connected to Australia's regional air network.



Tanvir Sadeque (Airport Operations Lead) and Chloe Fisher (Community Activation Officer) also attended the AAA Conference and together with Fulton Hogan, spoke at this conference regarding the Whyalla Airport Runway Upgrade.





Resources and Engineering Skills Alliance (RESA) won the Premier's Energy and Mining – Resources Community and Collaboration Award for the Career Transition Service – Whyalla.

It is wonderful recognition of the power of collaboration to change lives and the incredible commitment of those in our regions supporting their communities. During a period of significant stress for our city, RESA and partners stood up a Careers Transition Unit to support workers impacted by the steelworks and supply chain challenges . RESA - Resources and Engineering Skills Alliance partnered and collaborated with City of Whyalla, Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula , Local Jobs Program North West Country, Department of State Development, Department for Energy and Mining, South Australia, and the South Australian Skills Commission to deliver this support to our city and the broader region.



5. City-wide Dry Area

The city-wide Dry Area was gazetted on 27 November 2025, coming into operation on Monday 1 December 2025 – refer Attachment 1. Signs have been installed on key roads leading into the city and internal signs around various parks/public areas within the city will be in place by Wednesday 17 December 2025.



6. Cultural Survey

The first activity – being the conduct of the values and behaviours survey; has been completed, with 130 responders (approximately 76% of all staff and councillors) participating – which is a fantastic response rate.

In addition to the survey, Reveur facilitated a series of listening groups last week. These sessions provided valuable context, real examples, and deeper insight into how people experience our culture today and what they hope to see in the future. The focus group feedback is themed and then combined with the CVA and communication results as a key input into the development of the future culture definition which will be undertaken mid-January 2026.

Financial Implications – Nil

Strategic Plan

Objective 1.1 – Unearth community pride within the city

Strategy 1.1.1 – Regularly inform the community of Council activities, decisions and actions by promoting positive stories and positive images

Legislation – Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

The Executive Management Team are aware of their obligations in declaring a 'conflict of interest' regarding any items discussed within this report.

Risk Assessment – Nil

Social Considerations – Nil

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

Council Administration ensures that all outstanding Council resolutions are completed within an appropriate timeframe. Council Members are advised, via the attached annexures, of the process to be followed and timeframes to be applied.

Attachment 1

LIQUOR LICENSING ACT 1997

South Australia

Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas) Revocation Notice 2025

under Section 131(1c) of the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997*

1—Short title

This notice may be cited as the *Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas) Revocation Notice 2025*.

2—Commencement

This notice comes into operation on 1 December 2025.

3—Revocation of *Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas) Notice 2022*

This notice will have the effect of revoking the *Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas) Notice 2022* published in the Gazette at pages 6151-6153 on 22 September 2022.

Made by the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs

On 24 November 2025

LIQUOR LICENSING ACT 1997

South Australia

Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas) Notice 2025

under Section 131(1) of the *Liquor Licensing Act 1997*

COPY

1—Short title

This notice may be cited as the *Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas) Notice 2025*.

2—Commencement

This notice comes into operation on 1 December 2025.

3—Interpretation

(1) In this notice—

principal notice means the *Liquor Licensing (Dry Areas) Notice 2015* published in the Gazette on 5.1.15, as in force from time to time.

(2) Clause 3 of the principal notice applies to this notice as if it were the principal notice.

4—Consumption etc of liquor prohibited in dry areas

(1) Pursuant to Section 131 of the Act, the consumption and possession of liquor in the area described in the Schedule is prohibited in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule.

(2) The prohibition has effect during the periods specified in the Schedule.

(3) The prohibition does not extend to private land in the area described in the Schedule.

(4) Unless the contrary intention appears, the prohibition of the possession of liquor in the area does not extend to—

(a) a person who is genuinely passing through the place if—

(i) the liquor is in the original container in which it was purchased from licensed premises; and

(ii) the container has not been opened; or

(b) a person who has possession of the liquor in the course of carrying on a business or in the course of their employment by another person in the course of carrying on a business; or

(c) a person who is permanently or temporarily residing at premises near the public place and who enters the public place solely for the purpose of passing through it to enter those premises or who enters the public place from those premises for the purpose of leaving the place; or

(d) a person who possesses or consumes the liquor for sacramental or other similar religious purposes.

Schedule 1—Whyalla—City Wide Dry Area

1—Extent of prohibition

The consumption of liquor is prohibited and the possession of liquor is prohibited.

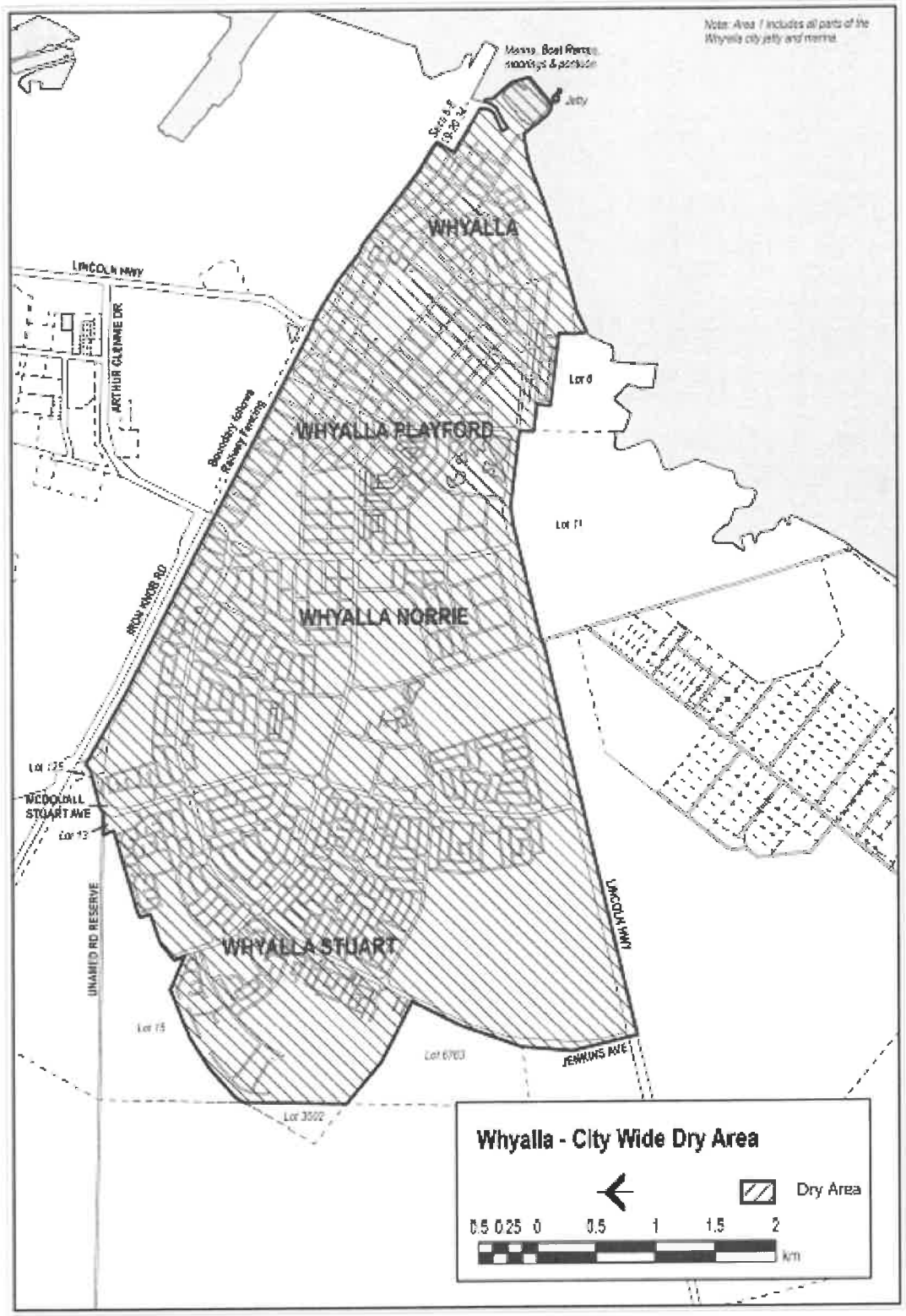
2—Period of prohibition

Continuous.

3—Description of area

Using Parcel Identifiers described on Plan SA's SA Property and Planning Atlas, the dry area of the Corporation of the City of Whyalla township is bounded as follows:

Commencing at the eastern most boundary point of H560500SE125 (Lot 125 McBryde Terrace Whyalla Norrie), traversing anticlockwise in a north-westerly direction, following the northern boundary of H560500SE125, including the prolongation of that boundary through McDouall Stuart Avenue road reserve to the western most point of H560500SE125 then following the western boundary to the northeast corner of D74902QP14 (Lot 13 McDouall Stuart Avenue Whyalla Stuart), following the northern and western boundaries of D74902QP14 to the south-eastern corner of D74902AL15 (Lot 15 McDouall Stuart Avenue Middleback Range) following its southern boundary in a westerly direction to the northern corner of D89185AL3002 (Lot 3002 Jenkins Avenue Middleback Range), following the eastern boundary of DP89185AL3002 in a southerly direction to the northern corner of T560501AL6763 (Lot 6763 Jenkins Avenue Whyalla Jenkins), following the northern boundary of T560501AL6763 to the western boundary of Jenkins Avenue road reserve, following the western boundary of Jenkins Avenue road reserve southerly to the intersection of Lincoln Highway (B100) road reserve, following the prolongation of the southwestern point of the western boundary of Jenkins Avenue road reserve to intersect with the southern boundary of Lincoln Highway (B100) road reserve, following Lincoln Highway/Broadbent Terrace (B100) road reserve southern boundary in an easterly direction to the northwestern corner of D26386AL6 (Lot 6 Newton Street Whyalla), following the northern and eastern boundaries of D26386AL6 to the shoreline, following the entire shoreline easterly, encompassing D61444AL100 (Lot 100 / 1A / 1B Cudmore Terrace Whyalla), D26088AL3 (31-58 Buttlingara Way Whyalla), breakwater, jetty and marina to the intersect of the northern most point of D26088AL3 and the Corporation of the City of Whyalla's Local Government Boundary, following this boundary north-westerly to the southeastern point of D61915QP80 (26806 Lincoln Highway Whyalla Barson), then following the eastern and northern boundaries of D61915QP80 to Lincoln Highway (B100 / Playford Avenue extension) road reserve, following the prolongation of the northern boundary of D61915QP80 to the northwestern corner of D61915QP81 (26806 Lincoln Highway Whyalla Barson), following the northern and western boundaries of D61915QP81 to the intersect of McBryde Terrace road reserve, following the prolongation of the northern boundary of McBryde Terrace road reserve, through Arthur Glennie Drive road reserve and the continuation of the northern boundary of McBryde Terrace road reserve to the starting point of H560500SA125



Made by the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs

On 24 November 2025

Annexure "A"

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5088-2024 19/02/24	**Lot 126 (Horseshoe Road) Mullaquana – Revoke Community Land Status, Remove Airport Encumbrance and Rezone** Council: 1. requests the individual Ministers to allow Council to undertake the process of revoking Lot 126 (CT 6171/890) Mullaquana from community land status; 2. requests rezoning of Lot 126 (CT 6171/890) Mullaquana to Rural Living; and 3. requests the Commonwealth Government remove the encumbrance from Lot 126 (CT 6171/890) Mullaquana.	GMCG			10%	***In progress*** *Administration preparing documents to support the notification/ consultation to the community, to seek support to revoke the community land status. This action will take approximately 12 months.* *Administration is seeking to engage qualified support to assist with the rezone of the site – it is anticipated that this process could take up to 6 months. This action will not commence until formal feedback is received from the Commonwealth Government, regarding the encumbrance.* *A request has been made through Kelledy Jones Lawyers, to the Commonwealth Government, to remove the encumbrance from the site. Support from the Government was sought approximately 6 months ago, and initial feedback is that they will support the removal; however, it is difficult to advise a timeframe in relation to this request, as the Government appear to be slow in providing correspondence back to Council's lawyers.* *Kelledy Jones are following up with the Commonwealth regarding the encumbrance.* *Kelledy Jones continue to chase a formal response.* *Still waiting on a formal response from the Commonwealth Government, regarding the removal of the encumbrance.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
						Commonwealth have still not responded. Kelledy Jones seeking a response.
C5089-2024 19/02/24	**Removal of Easements at Lot 126 McIntyre Road** Council endorses the removal of the easements that no longer accommodate infrastructure within Lot 126 McIntrye Road.	GMCG			75%	***In progress*** *Approval to remove the easements has now been granted by KordaMentha.* *Paperwork currently being prepared to lodge with the Land Titles Office.*
C5234-2024 17/06/24	**Unsolicited Proposal – Purchase of Crown Land** Council provides support for the proposal to gain access to Crown Land at Colebrook Street Reserve and provides delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to progresses the process with Crown Lands, including the revocation of community land process.	MF			50%	***In progress*** *This land parcel is included in the revocation of community land process that was approved by Council, which will assist to unlock the parcel for development.* *Consultation is currently underway, and a report will be brought back to the January Council Meeting.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5301-2024 16/09/24	**Whyalla Wanderers Soccer and Social Club – Lease Agreement** Council: 1. endorses the granting of a Lease to the Whyalla Wanderers Soccer and Social Club over Part Section 74 Playford Avenue, CR 6164/810 for a period of five (5) years commencing on 1 November 2024 and ending on 31 October 2029, with a further five (5) year right of renewal subject to the outcomes of public consultation being undertaken as per Council's Public Consultation Policy; and 2. notes the Lease will be finalised and executed under delegated authority on the proviso that no substantial submissions are received following public consultation. Should substantial submissions be received, the item will be referred to Council.	FC				***Complete*** *Lease now executed by both parties.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5409-2024 16/12/24	**Whyalla Jetty – Additional Seating** Council: 1. to install two bench seats, in a style as closely matched as possible to the existing seating closest to the jetty carpark, located on the marina side of the path and facing the marina equally spaced between the two existing seats between the car park closest to the jetty and the beginning of the up ramp to the jetty (per attached plan as a guide); 2. install a suitably durable fold-out double bench seat at the top of the ramp up to the jetty on the marina side; and 3. if the costs are to exceed $10,000 for this work, Administration are to come back to Council for final approval	MO	05/12/25	10/12/25	70%	***Complete*** *Concrete bases, seats and tops installed and completed during the week 8 – 12 December 2025.*

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5527-2025 17/03/25	**Defence Land at Fitzgerald Bay Lookout Boundary Realignment** Council: 1. resolves to support the boundary realignment required to create the portion of land to purchase for the formalisation of the Fitzgerald Bay Lookout from the Australian Government for the amount of $30 plus GST; and 2. provide the Chief Executive Officer with the delegations to finalise the realignment and land transaction.	GMCG				***In progress*** *Contract now received, currently being reviewed for signing.*
C5533-2025 17/03/25	**GFG Ex-gratia Payment** Council: 1. requests the Chief Executive Officer to formally write to the current Administrators of the Steelworks (Korda Mentha) and the State Government, to request consideration of an increase in the ex-gratia payment amount payable by OneSteel to Council, to align with the rates that would be payable under Council's rating policy, if hypothetically, the Steelworks was on Council land; and 2. that this communication will be completed by no later than 18 April 2025.	MF				***In progress*** *Sam Crafter; State Lead – Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation advised at the Council Members Briefing Session held on 29 September, that this matter was being progressed.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5597-2025 19/05/25	**Dry Zone Arrangements in Whyalla** Council: 1. notes the consultation feedback received during the statutory process for the replacement of the existing "Whyalla – 2 dry zone" with a new "City-wide dry zone" as one of the strategies to address the current alcohol-related problems and anti-social behaviour in public areas; 2. endorses proceeding with the introduction of a City-Wide Dry Zone, given the majority support from the community for this intervention to assist with addressing alcohol-related problems and anti-social behaviour in public areas; 3. endorses the application to the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner to replace the current dry zone known as 'Whyalla – Area 2 (Civic Park)' with a city-wide dry zone known as 'Whyalla – City Wide Dry Zone' to encompass the area shown on the map provided at Annexure "G"; 4. note the legal description for the (new) Whyalla – City Wide Dry Zone – The area of the City of Whyalla township bounded as follows: Commencing at the north eastern corner boundary of parcel PT SEC 125 McBryde Terrace traversing the southern side of the Railway boundary fence line in an easterly direction to the western boundary of property 26806 Lincoln Highway (CL6268/422 Crown Reference OP008518) and Lot 2 Lincoln Highway (CT6144/965) up to the shoreline,	CEO/GMCS				***Complete*** *Dry Zone Gazetted by the Minister, effective 1 December 2025.* *Permit received from DIT for highway signage. Works commenced installing city-wide signs on 5 December, to be completed by 8 December.*

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
	traversing the shoreline south to south westerly to the eastern boundary of property Lot 11 Broadbent Terrace (CL6207/432 Crown Reference OP012974), following northward to the eastern corner of Lot 11 Broadbent Terrace then traversing the southern side of Lincoln Highway road reserve to the western boundary of Jenkins Avenue road reserve, traversing northwards to the northern boundary of property Lot 6763 Jenkins Avenue (CR5361/754) to the boundary of property Lot 1012 Jenkins Avenue (CT6119/643), following the southern and western boundary of Lot 1012 Jenkins Avenue, traversing the boundary of property Lot 500 Robinson Street (CT6299/150) to the northeastern boundary of property Lot 501 Robinson Street (CT6299/151), traversing the northern boundary of Lot 501 Robinson Street to the boundary of property Lot 3002 Jenkins Avenue (CT6107/184), traversing northerly along the eastern side of property Lot 3002 Jenkins Avenue to the southern corner of property boundary Lot 15 McDouall Stuart Avenue (CR5998/434), traversing north easterly along the south and south easterly side of property Lot 15 McDouall Stuart Avenue , crossing property Lot 13 McDouall Stuart Avenue (CR6088/162) north easterly to the western side of McDouall Stuart Avenue road reserve, following the western side of McDouall Stuart Avenue in a northerly to north easterly direction to the commencement point;					

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
	5. write to the Police Commissioner, formally requesting additional police resources to be deployed to Whyalla to assist with the monitoring and enforcement of the dry zone, and to attend to anti-social behaviour attributed to alcohol and/or youth crime across the city, and that Assistant Police Commissioner be invited to a future Council Meeting to discuss this request; and 6. notes that Council's Administration will continue discussions with relevant service agencies and the Westland Shopping Centre Management, to build the business case(s) for broader local level strategies to address anti-social behaviour attributed to alcohol and/or youth crime across the city.					

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5602-2025 19/05/25	**Tanderra Village – Future Asset Management Proposal** Council: 1. endorses the Chief Executive Officer entering into negotiations for a five-year lease term, for the Tanderra site with the current lessee, noting the parameters set out in the report; ~~2. reduces the service level for the following buildings at the Tanderra site to 'zero', with no future renewal to occur for the following two buildings at the site:~~ ~~a. Open Shed;~~ ~~b. Old Bake House – Storage Building~~ ~~3. reduces the service level for the following buildings at Tanderra, with future renewals to be kept to a preservation and public safety level for the following buildings at the site:~~ ~~a. J Block~~ ~~b. K Block~~ ~~c. H Block~~ ~~d. R Block~~ ~~e. Market Hall and Café~~ ~~f. Plant Nursery (Old Laundry); and~~ 4. notes that Administration will commence development of a masterplan for the 'tourism precinct' that seeks to improve visitation, activation and the overall visitor experience from an integrated precinct encompassing Tanderra Village, Steel Cap Gallery, Visitor Information Centre, Maritime Museum and a proposed Designated Overnight Stay RV Camping area.	GMCG				***In progress*** *Lease signed on 19 August 2025.* *The Master Plan works require agreement from the administrators regarding the short stay accommodation proposal at Tanderra, which currently sits with Korda Mentha. Once this matter is addressed, the small committee formed to undertake the master planning of the site can meet with stakeholders and begin the process.* *Still awaiting confirmation from OneSteel Manufacturing (via Korda Mentha).*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5612-2025 19/05/25	**Section 184 Process Update** Council: 1. notes that seven properties, which are not primary places of residence, will be listed for sale over the coming months; 2. approves for eight properties that are primary places of residence to be listed for sale over the coming months;	MF			10%	***In progress*** *Council has appointed a Real Estate Agent to undertake the sale process, with the auctions planned for February.* *The majority of properties to be sold are investment properties. Letters are soon to be sent to tenants of these properties, to obtain lease information for the sale process.*
C5649-2025 16/06/25	**Revocation of Dedication to Council and Community Land Status** Council: 1. supports the commencement of the formal process for the revocation of community land status for the following land parcels: a. Lot 130 Lincoln Highway b. 20 Whitehead Street 2. supports the commencement of the formal process for the revocation of both community land status and care, control and management for the following land parcels: a. Lot 5437 Nicolson Avenue b. 15 Ayliffe Street c. Lot 1134 Playford Avenue	GMCG			50%	***In progress*** *Consultation is currently underway, and a report will be brought back to the January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5648-2025 16/06/2025	**Community Grants** Council: 1. approves the application for Community Grant Funding, as listed below; • $4000 to Youth Opportunities Australia Ltd for their 2025 Whyalla Personal Leadership Program • $4500 to Eyre Gymnastics Club Inc for their Whyalla Gymnastics Invitational 2. invites South Whyalla Junior Football Club to present to Council regarding their community grant application.	MCA				***Complete*** *Formal correspondence was sent on 15 October, no response by phone or in writing has been received, this matter is to be closed out*
C5702-2025 18/08/25	**Honouring 'Whyalla Legends' like Barrie Robran** Council Administration prepare a report, for Council to consider how Whyalla can formally acknowledge, celebrate and provide a lasting tribute to honour the life and achievements of extraordinary people from Whyalla, and also serve to inspire the youth and future generations of Whyalla to strive for excellence.	MCA				***In progress*** *The Robran family, the Whyalla Football League and North Whyalla Football Club all support the honouring of Barrie Robran, this support has been received in writing.* *A report with regards to investigating the proposal will be submitted to January 2026 Council Meeting.*
C5724-2025 15/09/2025	**Closure of Business Units and Provision of Servies for the 2025/26 Christmas/New Year Period, as follows:** That Council communicates the 2025/26 Christmas/New Year business hours to the public.	MMC				***Complete*** *Public notice(s) have been provided to the community.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5730-2025 15/09/2025	**Point Lowly Camping Fees** Council adopts an updated fee of $20 per night for camping at Point Lowly, to be implemented at the time that online bookings go live.	MF	Dec 2025			***Complete*** *Commenced on 1 December 2025.*
C5732-2025 15/09/2025	**Open Space Delivery Levels** Endorse the recommendation for a review of the trial results of the Whyalla City Maintenance and Level of Service Standards at Annexure "B" to be presented to Council in April 2026, with recommendations and intent to gain final approved endorsement of their implementation.	GMCS/MO	April 2026		30%	***In Progress*** *Trial data is being collated and will be included within the infrastructure reports to inform progress.*
C5739-2025 15/09/2025	**Weeroona Bay** That Council discusses with SANTOS the potential to return the use of Weeroona Bay to the community, with a report to come back to Council from the discussion.	CEO	Nov 2025			***Complete*** *SANTOS have advised that … "Port Bonython will remain a major hazard facility, and the port will remain in use for product shipment. There is a legislative requirement to have a 1170m restricted zone around active ports, which includes the area of Weeroona Bay".*
C5740-2025 15/09/2025	**Program Maintenance Plans** That a report be prepared on program maintenance plans for Council's structural assets, paying particular attention to assets that are not currently included within such plans.	MAP				***In progress*** *Manager Assets and Planning is in the process of collating information that will inform a report on program maintenance plans for Council's structural assets.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5780-2025 20/10/2025	**Regional Development Australia – Eyre Peninsula – Transitioning of the Steelworks** That the RDA Eyre Peninsula be asked to advise on how it can assist with the transitioning of the Steelworks and in particular, how it can assist Council in maximising downstream opportunities from the construction and demolition works and downstream opportunities for both local and new local businesses that will provide services to the works on completion.	CEO				***Complete*** *Refer report Item 14.3.3 contained within this Agenda.*
C5781-2025 20/10/2025	**Construction of New Steelworks – Opportunities** That a report be prepared for Council's December meeting, covering how Administration will pursue opportunities for both business and city growth arising from both the construction of the new Steelworks and the subsequent operation of those works and that the report address any perceived shortcomings in Council's Administration in terms of actioning the identified opportunities and the costs to address those shortcomings, if any.	CEO	Dec 2025			***Complete*** *Refer report Item 14.3.3 contained within this Agenda.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5782-2025 20/10/2025	**Re-establishment of Council's Economic Development Working Party** That a report be provided to Council on the merits, or otherwise, of re-establishing Council's Economic Development Working Party, how it would operate and potential membership.	CEO/GMCG	Dec 2025		50%	***Complete*** *Refer report Item 14.3.3 contained within this Agenda.*
C5783-2025 20/10/2025	**Whyalla Early Learning Centre** That a report be presented to the December meeting of Council, providing details on the current impediments to Council making a profit, or at least breaking even at the Whyalla Early Learning Centre, and the steps which are being taken together with timelines to overcome the impediments.	MF	Dec 2025			***Complete*** *Refer report Item 14.2.4 contained within this Agenda.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5810-2025 17/11/25	**Decommissioning of the Lacey Street Playground** Council 1. notes the information within this report and the concerns raised by the residents regarding the decommissioning of the playground located at 205 Lacey Street; 2. upholds the resolution made on 28 April 2025 (C5577-2025), to remove and not replace the playground at 205 Lacey Street; and 3. the Chief Executive Officer writes to the residents who requested the review of the decision to close the playground located at 205 Lacey Street, to formally communicate the decision of Council.	CEO				***Completed*** *Correspondence forwarded to residents who requested the review of Council's decision to close the Lacey Street Playground – 26/11/25.*
C5814-2025 17/11/25	**Update on Mount Laura Conservation Reserve** Council supports the "soft start' approach to the Trail and Bike Master Plan through minimalist signage, QR codes with maps and post-style maps identifying where the existing trails are, level of fitness required, and risk to rider acceptance as an early-stage implementation to the Master Plan.	MCWD				***In progress***

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – December 2025

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5817-2025 17/11/25	**Secure Public Lockers at the Beach** That Council investigate the feasibility of installing secure public lockers at the beach, to provide swimmers and beachgoers with a safe place to store their personal belongings.	GMCG				***In progress***

COMMITTEE / WORKING PARTY / WORKSHOP / SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING(S)

Meetings held: 17 November – 14 December 2025

Meeting Date	*Name of Meeting*	*Quorum*
17 November	Ordinary Council Meeting	Y
24 November	Council Members Briefing Session	–
2 December	Talent Management Approach and Organisational Cultural Program – Listening Group	–
9 December	Council Members Briefing Session	–

Future meetings: December 2025 – March 2026

Meeting Date	*Name of Meeting*
15 December	Ordinary Council Meeting
19 January 2026	Council Members Briefing Session
27 January	Ordinary Council Meeting
2 February	Council Members Briefing Session
16 February	Ordinary Council Meeting
20 February	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
2 March	Council Members Briefing Session
16 March	Ordinary Council Meeting

Annexure "C"

BACKGROUND

A summary of key meetings and external engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer, is provided on a monthly basis.

DISCUSSION

Monday 17 November 2025

- Empowering Leadership and Community Workshop
- Weekly briefing with CEO and Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor
- Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 November 2025

- Spencer Gulf Cities – CEO/EO Catch-up
- Empowering Leadership and Community Workshop

Wednesday 19 November 2025

- Meeting with Mr Daniel Price; Regional Manager SA & NT – QANTAS, re Council Roundtable Conversation

Thursday 20 November 2025

- LGA Mutual – Quarterly CEO Scheme Briefing
- Informal lunch with Alligator Energy Board

Friday 21 November 2025

- Local Government Association – Annual General Meeting and Conference – Adelaide

Monday 24 November 2025

- Meeting with Point Lowly Ratepayers Association Inc
- EPLGA Waste to Resource Committee Meeting
- Council Members Briefing Session

Tuesday 25 November 2025

- Driver Safety Briefing, re Whyalla Christmas Pageant
- 'Movember' Morning Tea



Wednesday 26 November 2025

- Operation Flinders Whyalla Youth Award Ceremony
- Meeting with resident, re Freedom of Information – review of Determination

Thursday 27 November 2025

- Cuttlefish Tourism Workshop
- Meeting with Football SA
- Eyre Peninsula CEOs Meeting
- Samaritan College – Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2025

Friday 28 November 2025

- Whyalla Asbestos Victims Memorial Service

Saturday 29 November 2025

- Participated in the Whyalla Christmas Pageant



Monday 1 December 2025

- Meeting with Ms Gianna Murphy; Chief Executive Officer – Renew Adelaide
- Regular catch-up with OHPSA Industry Development Team
- Meeting with resident, re unsightly property/various matters
- Whyalla Secondary College Presentation Night

Tuesday 2 December 2025

- Spencer Gulf Cities – Board Meeting
- Talent Management Approach and Organisational Cultural Program with Council Members

Wednesday 3 December 2025

- EPLGA Conference Planning Meeting with Open Eyre Events
- RAP Meeting
- Meeting with Harp n Shamrock Club, re lease fees

Thursday 4 December 2025

- Meeting with Mr Stevie Sanders; WHS and Risk Manager – LGA Mutual Liability Scheme and LGA Workers Compensation Scheme
- Whyalla Delivery Co-ordination Group Meeting
- Presentation to Regional Development Australia Board
- Uni Hub – Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday 5 December 2025

- Fortnightly LGA Algal Bloom Briefing
- Attended Premiers Energy and Mining Collaboration Award Ceremony – Adelaide

Monday 8 December 2025

- Northern Water SRG – Desalination Plan Announcement Meeting
- Upper Spencer Gulf Workforce and Skills Advisory Group Meeting
- Weekly briefing with CEO and Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor

Tuesday 9 December 2025

- Monthly Executive Meeting with Whyalla Steelworks Transformation Unit
- Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce Meeting

Wednesday 10 December 2025

- OneSteel Whyalla Forum
- NWC Local Jobs Taskforce Meeting
- Meeting with Housing SA, re unsightly properties
- Networking Event

Thursday 11 December 2025

- EPLGA Workshop and Tour – Elliston
- Upper Spencer Gulf Housing Advisory Meeting
- EPLGA Networking Dinner

Friday 12 December 2025

- EPLGA Board Meeting – Elliston

14.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14.1.2 Annual Community Survey – For Noting

Council Meeting: 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Sean Kelly – Manager Media and Communications **File No.:** 1-0
Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Annexures:

A – High Level Summary
B – Score Comparison Graphs
C – Average Score for Service Delivery

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest: *In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120*		**Status:** *Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act*	
☐ **Yes**	☑ **No**	☐ **Yes**	☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To provide Council Members with a high level summary, including score comparison graphs, from the recent Annual Community Survey.

SUMMARY

Council's Annual Community Survey has been completed.

Results are being collated with a summary report to be provided to the December 2025 Council Meeting and a detailed report, together with to key findings and recommendations arising from this feedback, to be presented to the January 2026 Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the Annual Community Survey report.

DUE DATE

Annual Community Survey – For Noting	15/12/2025

Annexure "A"

High-level summary

Please see the more detailed documents for graphs and further detail / context

Number of responses

- Lowest number of respondents since 2020 (347 – see fig 1 in 'Score Comparison Graphs' doc for how it compares)
    - This could highlight less dissatisfaction with council services (people are often more likely to fill out a survey when they're dissatisfied)
    - The survey took respondents more than double the time it took to complete last year's (~20 minutes, compared to ~9 minutes) and nearly 5 times as long as 2020's (~4 minutes), so that may have made it overbearing for people
    - We also had the lowest completion rate of any year (84% vs 100% most years)
    - Another factor could be timing – the survey was open while we were calling for pageant float applications and we extended Citizen of the Year nominations, meaning they overlapped with this. We'd also just called for Garage Sale Trail submissions, so it may have been too much at once
        - Given the timing of the other events can't be changed, the survey should be shifted to a different time of the year to avoid overlap
        - We should also consider whether it's conducted during election years (there was no survey in 2022)

Scores *(out of 5 unless otherwise specified)*

- From a year-on-year perspective, most have recovered to close to 2023 levels (see 'Score Comparison Graphs' doc for full detail)
    - Ease of contact / satisfaction with contact / engagement / information exceeded 2024 levels
    - 'A place to do business' had the least 'recovery' from 2024
    - These comparisons are only for questions that are similar across all 3 years, as this year's had a lot of new questions and didn't use a lot of the broader ones from previous years (ie I feel safe, I feel healthy, we look after our environment etc)

Services

- 14 are 'leaning positive' (scored between 3-4). Standouts:
    - Library (4.03)
    - Kerbside collection (3.95)
    - Cemetery (3.78)
    - VIC (3.74)
- Only 5 are average / 'leaning negative' (scored between 2-3)
    - Illegal dumping (2.3)
    - Trees / weeds / verges (2.6)
    - Roads / footpaths (2.65)
    - City improvements / future planning (2.69)
    - Compliance (2.78)

- Most-used services: *(don't add up to 100%, as respondents could choose multiple)*
    - Roads / footpaths (66.28%)
    - Parks / gardens / playgrounds (53.31%)
    - City maintenance (51%)
    - Foreshore / jetty / marina (44%)

Customer service

- Overall positive in terms of:
    - Ease of contact
    - Having their issue addressed / resolved
    - Professionalism of staff
    - Satisfaction with interaction
- Most customer requests didn't receive a notification for tracking progress

Council Members

- Positive interactions (3.55), but low agreement re delivering on oath (2.83)

Communication + Engagement

- Nearly 70% participated in engagement and were satisfied with the experience (3.4)
- Facebook still the predominant platform; closely followed by direct email
    - Other main platforms were the council website, My Local Services app and traditional media
- Positive score for satisfaction with communication (3.29)
- Most voted 'no' or 'unsure' regarding more comms or engagement (~76%)

Liveability *(scores out of 10)*

- Leaning positive:
    - Accessibility (6.69)
    - Inclusivity (6.56)
    - Place to live (6.32)
- 'A place to do business' more neutral (5.75)
- Most are interested in being involved in a verge-planting program (~70% very or somewhat interested). Most voted incentives:
    - Free plants (64.46%)
    - Mulch / compost / soil (57.85%)
    - Preparation of area (45%) the most voted incentives
    - *These don't add up to 100%, as people could choose multiple*

Demographics

Respondents predominantly:

- Female (57.82%)
- 55-64 (25.85%)
- Lived in Whyalla more than 30 years (55.25%)
- Non-Aboriginal (82.37%)
- Not living with a disability (72.88%)
- English speaking (96.61%)
- Living in Whyalla (23.71%) + Norrie (25.43%) + Stuart (26.12%)

Comment themes

These are only high-level themes, not specific comments, and only reference sections that had themes with large numbers of mentions.

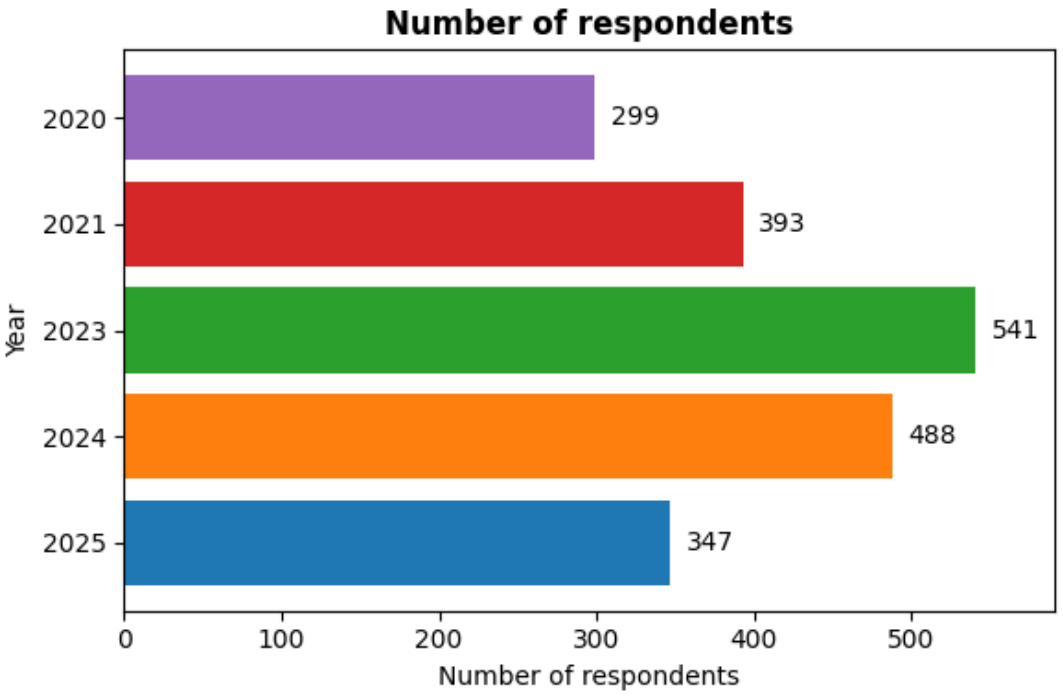
It's also important to note that we had about 350 respondents and not every one of those commented on each question, so these themes don't necessarily represent the majority of the community (rather the majority of comments).

- General overall main themes *(in order of number of mentions)*
    - Positive
        - Parks + gardens maintenance
        - Community services + engagement
        - General satisfaction
        - Kerbside collection
        - Playground upgrades
    - Negative
        - Illegal dumping / waste fees
        - Rates
        - Road condition
        - Maintenance / cleanliness / weeds
        - Playground removals
        - Lack of visibility / accessibility / direct engagement
        - Footpaths
- Council services in a sentence
    - ~40% positive. Predominantly:
        - General satisfaction with services
        - Council responsiveness and improvements
    - ~60% negative. Predominantly:
        - Poor service delivery + maintenance
        - Management, leadership + accountability
        - Lack of communication + consultation
- Council member oath
    - Acting in self-interest + lacking visibility
    - Lack of engagement / consultation / communication
- Engagement
    - Lack of visibility / accessibility / direct engagement
    - Lack of time / personal barriers main reason for not participating
- Communication
    - More transparency / honesty / accountability
    - Improved channels / frequency
- Why proud to call Whyalla home
    - 76% positive comments
        - Friendly / supportive community
        - Family history / personal connections
        - Foreshore / natural environment
        - Community spirit
        - Easy living
    - 13% negative (remainder neutral)
        - Mostly about 'nothing to be proud of'

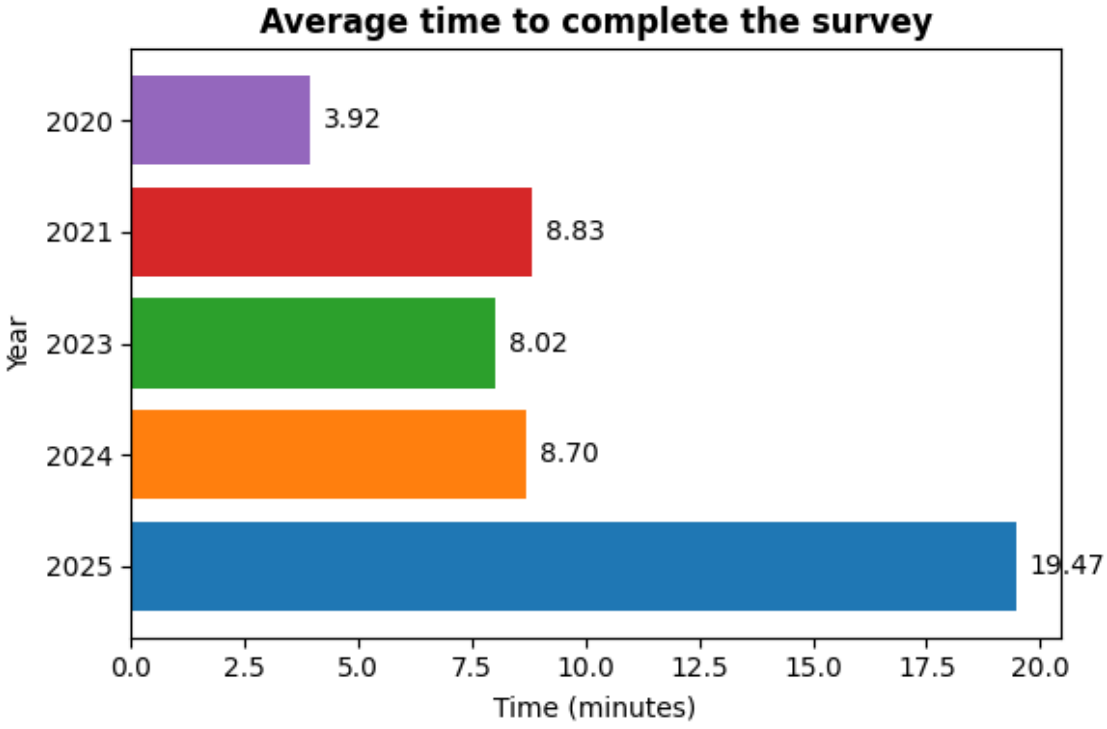
- Place to live
    - 67% negative
    - Predominantly related to steelworks uncertainty / reliance
- Place to do business
    - 65% negative
    - Predominantly related to business closures / economic decline
- Council could capitalise on:
    - Business growth / support / economic diversification
    - Tourism / events / beautification
    - Community engagement / pride / social initiatives
    - Infrastructure / roads / facilities
- What could the community / you do differently
    - Be more positive

Annexure "B"

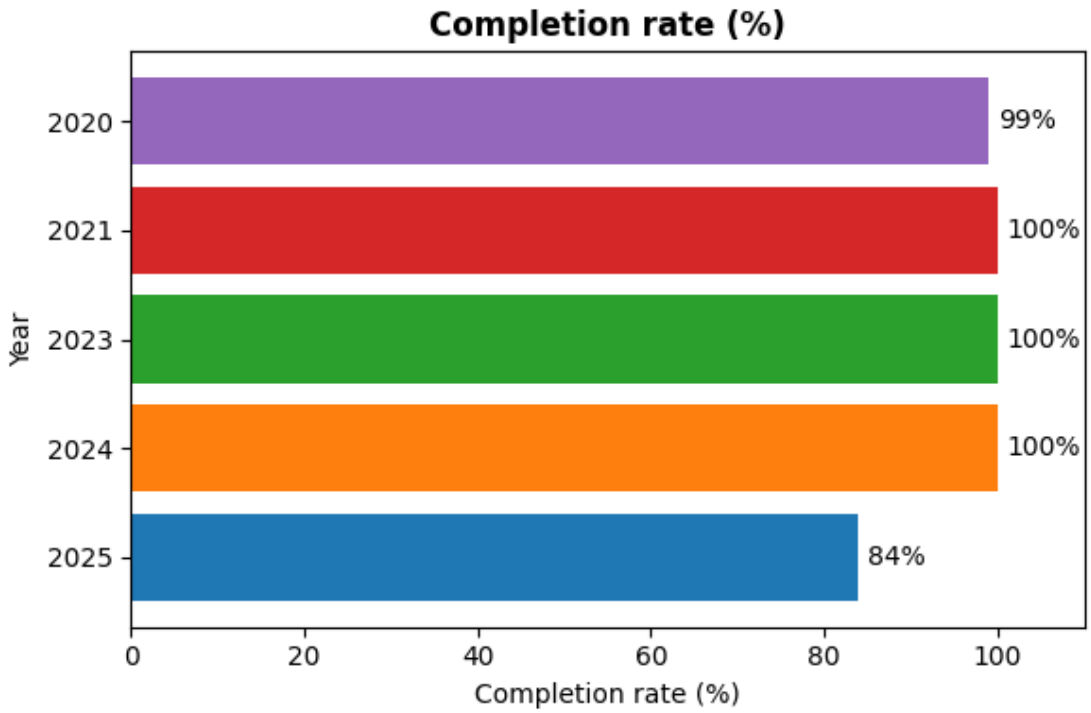
1. **Number of respondents (year-on-year)**



2. **Average time to complete survey (year-on-year)**

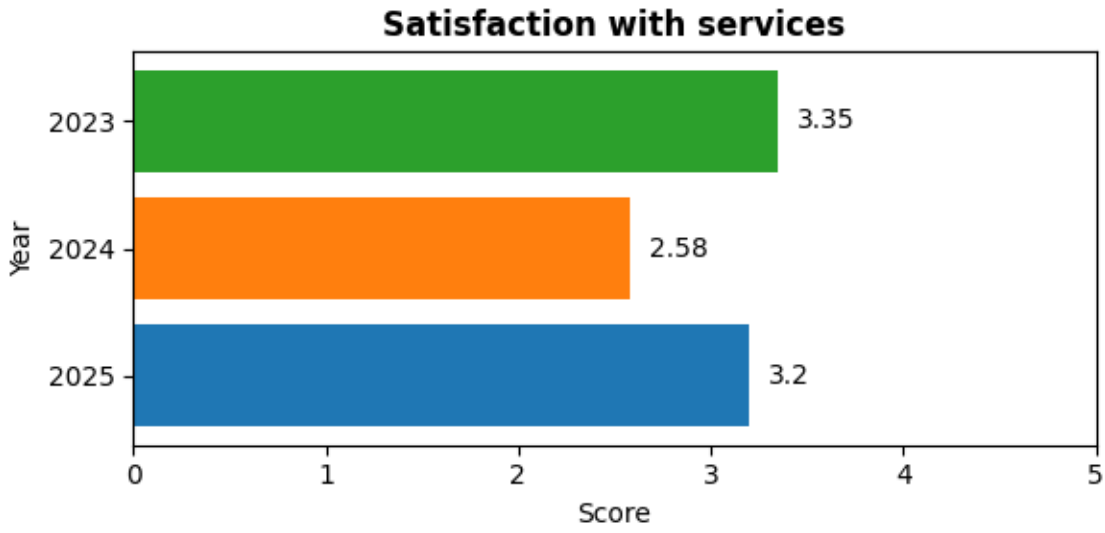


3. **Percentage of respondents completing the survey (year-on-year)**

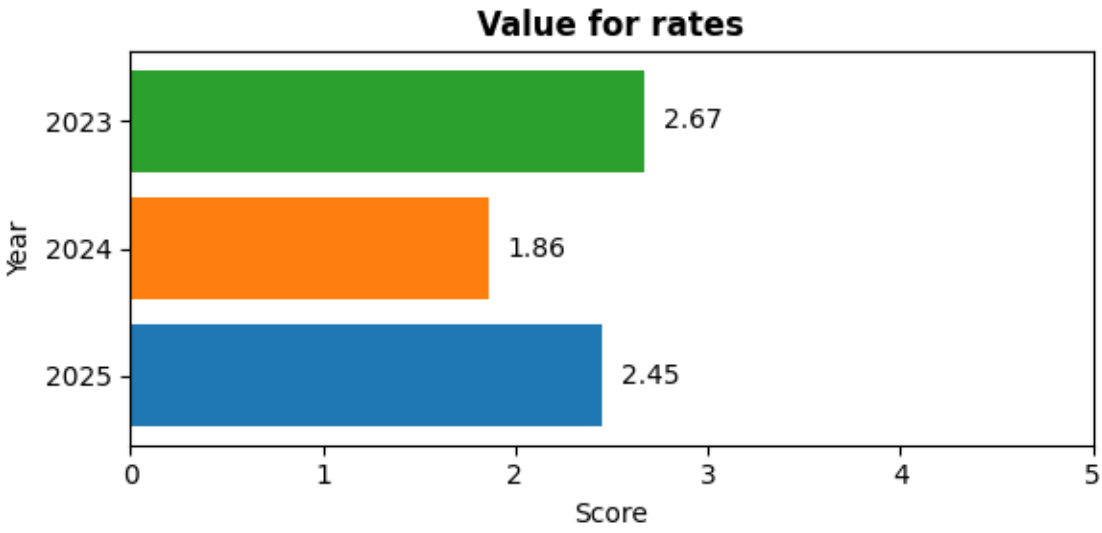


Score Comparison Bar Graphs

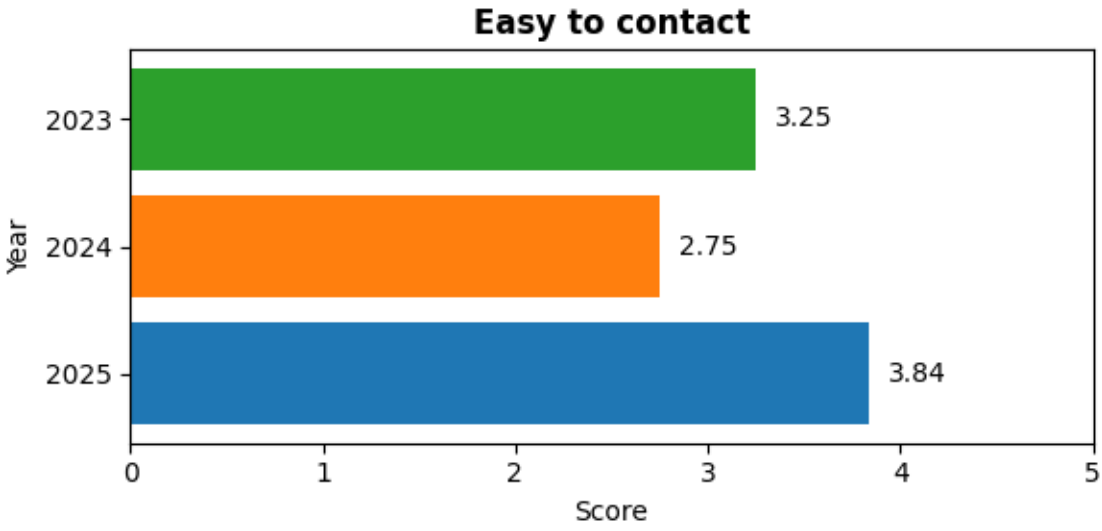
Satisfaction with services



4. Value for rates

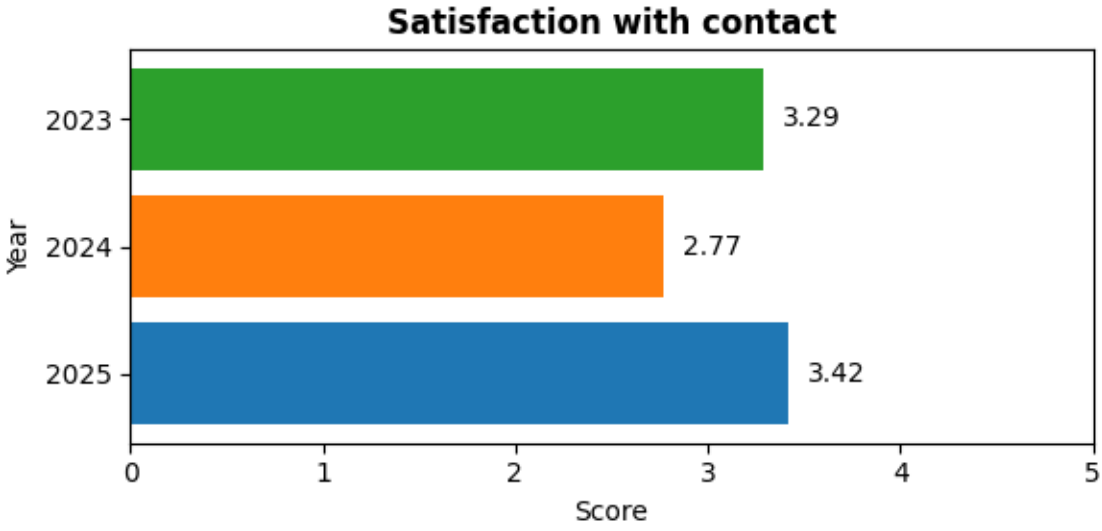


5. Easy to contact / do business with

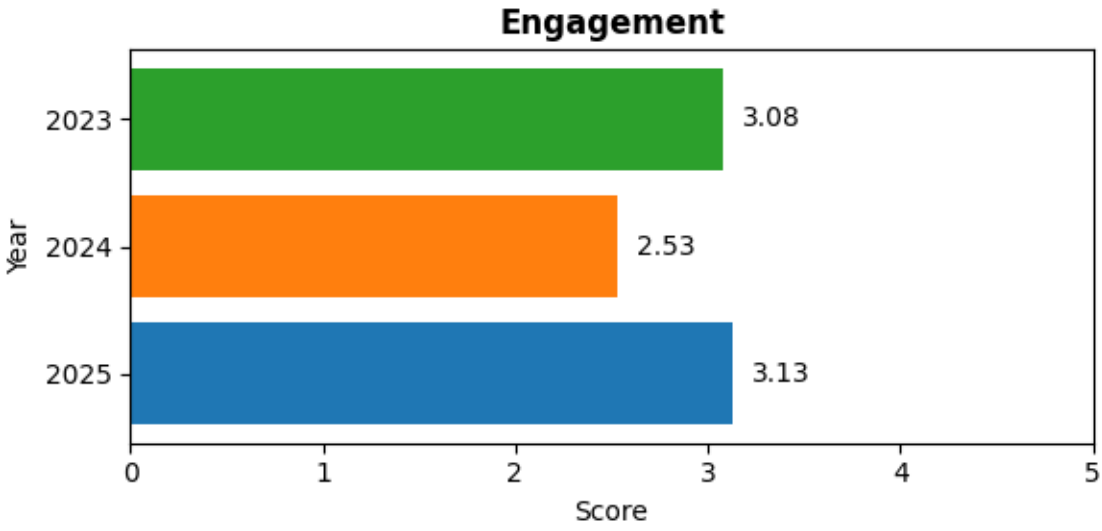


- **NOTE**: Pre-2025, this question was 'I find it simple and convenient to access and do business with council'
- This year, there were several questions that represented this:
    - How easy was it to make contact (with council)? Scored 3.84
    - How would you rate the ease or difficulty in your query / customer request being addressed / resolved? Scored 3.25

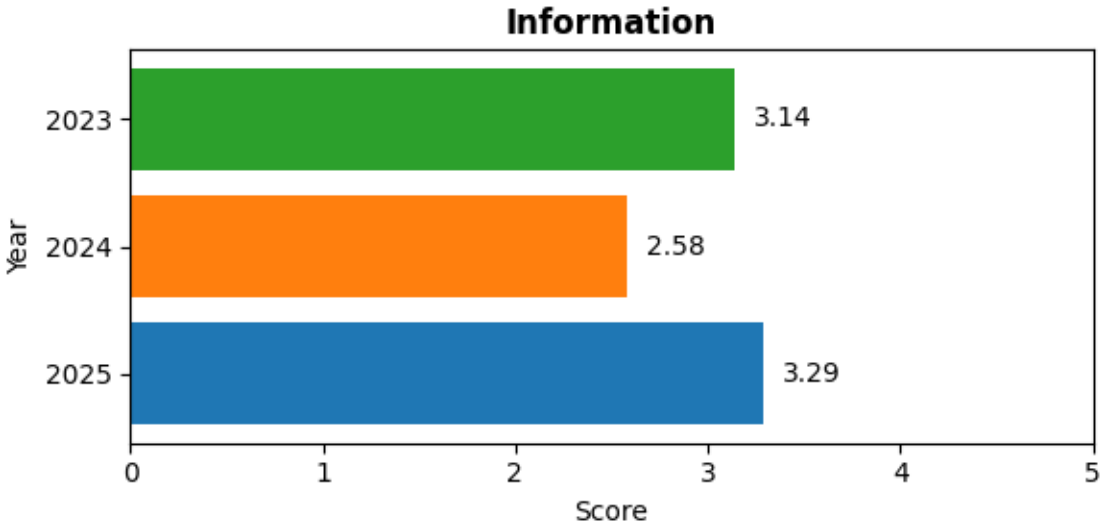
6. Satisfaction with contact



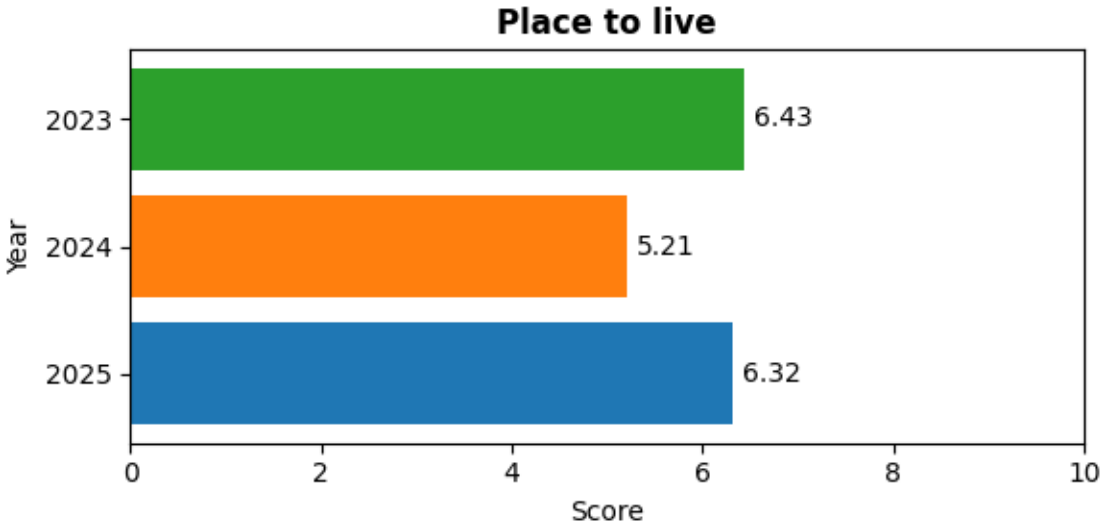
7. Engagement



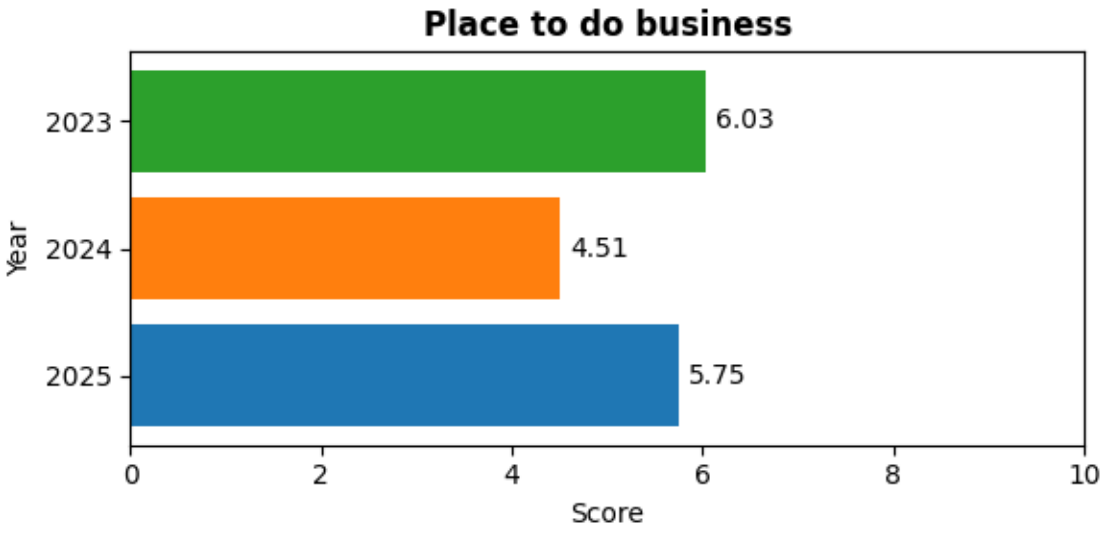
8. Information



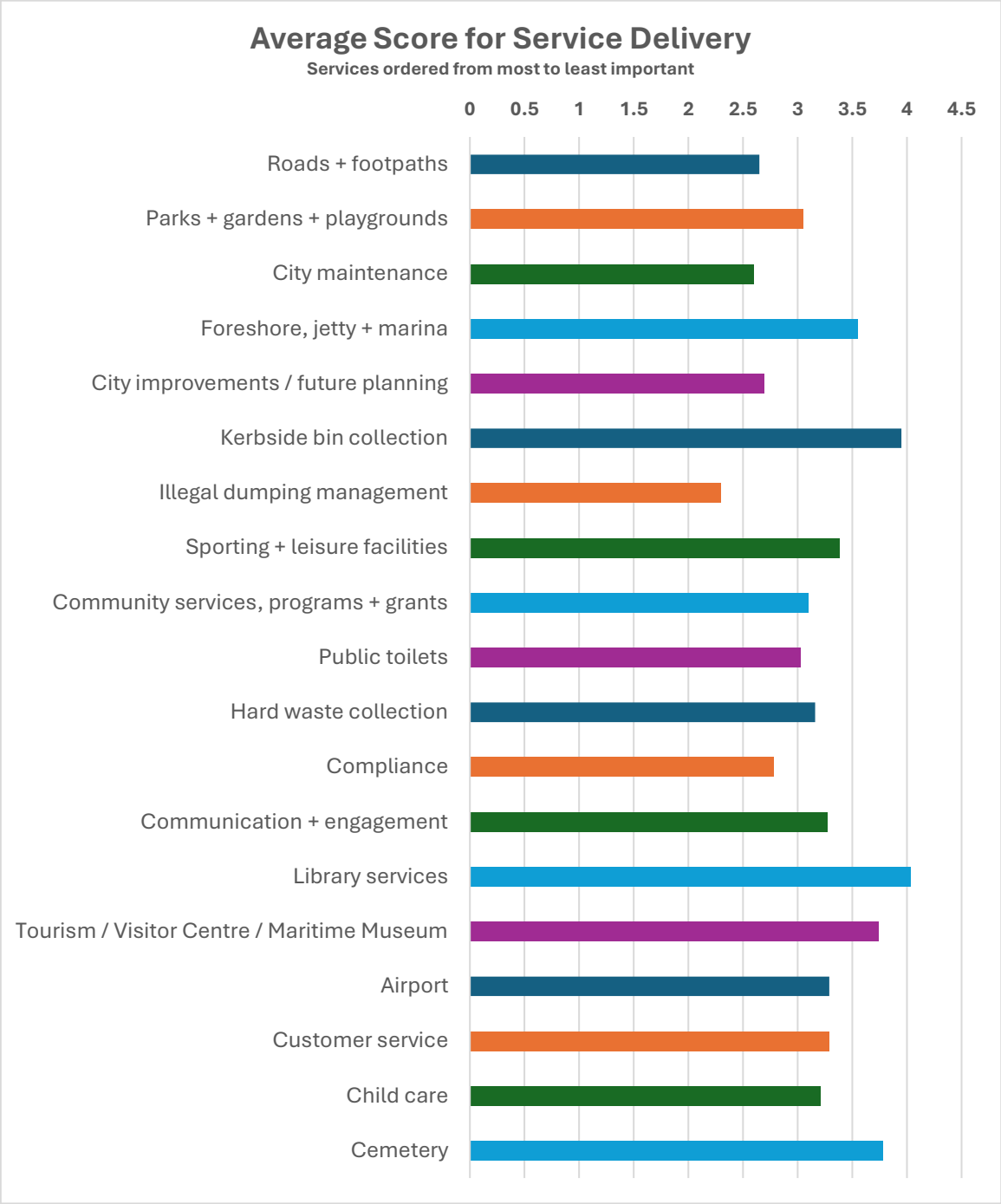
9. Place to live



10. Place to do business



Annexure “C”


Average Score for Service Delivery
Services ordered from most to least important
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
3
3.5
4
4.5
Roads + footpaths
Parks + gardens + playgrounds
City maintenance
Foreshore, jetty + marina
City improvements / future planning
Kerbside bin collection
Illegal dumping management
Sporting + leisure facilities
Community services, programs + grants
Public toilets
Hard waste collection
Compliance
Communication + engagement
Library services
Tourism / Visitor Centre / Maritime Museum
Airport
Customer service
Child care
Cemetery

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – November 2025 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 17 November 2025
Author's Title: Grant Jennings, Manager Finance and Knowledge Management
File No.: 0-216, 0-209
Directorate: Corporate Services

Annexures:
A – Monthly Budget Report – November 2025

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:
In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Status:
Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To provide Council a regular update on Council's financial position, identified budget issues and progress on Council's Major Projects.

SUMMARY

The report provides Council's financial position at the end of November 2025 and includes year to date income and expenditure figures for the 2025/26 financial year as at that date.

Only a small number of new variances are identified in this report, however, work has commenced on detailed analysis of the budget for the Second Quarter Budget Review, so more variances are likely to be identified next month.

RECOMMENDATION

Council receives and notes the Monthly Budget Report – November 2025.

DUE DATE

Monthly Budget Report – November 2025 – For Noting	15/12/2025

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – November 2025 – <u>For Noting</u>

<u>REPORT</u>

BACKGROUND

As part of the Corporate Reporting Framework, a monthly report is presented to Council, outlining the current financial position, any identified budget variances and progress on Council's Major Projects. On a quarterly basis, an update on all projects over $100,000 is also included.

DISCUSSION

Refer **Annexure "A"** – Monthly Budget Report – November 2025

The report provides Council's financial position at the end of November 2025 and includes year to date income and expenditure figures for the 2025/26 financial year as at that date. High level analysis of transaction data has been undertaken and any identified budget variances not already reported through a Budget Review are listed for information.

Council's budget is extremely tight, with little capacity to absorb unexpected increases. Some areas of Council continue to experience budget pressure consistent with the previous years, including hard waste and illegal dumping, information technology, building maintenance and recreation and open space. These continue to be monitored and strategies for keeping Council within overall budget are being discussed.

Work has commenced on detailed analysis of the budget for the Second Quarter Budget Review, so other underlying variances may be identified over the coming month and reported to Council in January.

Financial Implications

This report is intended to provide Council with timely information on the state of Council's finances. There are no financial implications related to receiving this report. Any identified budget items will be reported during the next Budget Review, or at year end.

Strategic Plan

Objective 4.1 – Whyalla Council Members commit to serving the Community

Strategy 4.1.2 – We will make decisions based on facts, not emotions

Legislation

The information has been presented in a format consistent with the requirements of Section 9(1)(a) of *the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011*, so that it is comparable to the information presented during the Budget Review process.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

Nothing identified within the report is of a significant nature, so the financial risk to Council is considered to be low.

Social Considerations – Not applicable

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

This report provides Council a regular update on Council's financial position, identified budget issues and progress on Council's Major Projects.

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - November 2025

Annexure "A"

UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCES	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000	% Budget
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Income				**40%**
Rates	27,968	27,968	11,754	42%
Statutory Charges	476	476	276	58%
User Charges	5,794	5,794	2,339	40%
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	617	822	-	0%
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	7,069	7,133	2,571	36%
Investment Income	12	22	54	245%
Reimbursements	9	9	12	133%
Other Income	1,143	1,203	197	16%
Expenses				**42%**
Employee Costs	(15,917)	(15,977)	(6,575)	41%
Materials, contracts & other expenses	(19,116)	(19,235)	(8,124)	42%
Depreciation, amortisation & impairments	(9,588)	(9,823)	(4,145)	42%
Finance Costs	(541)	(541)	(98)	18%
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	**(2,074)**	**(2,149)**	**(1,739)**	
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES				
Net Outlays on Existing Assets				
Capital Expense on Renewal and Replacement of Existing Assets	(10,537)	(12,484)	(2,287)	18%
add back Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	9,588	9,823	4,145	42%
add back Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	85	130	97	75%
Net Outlays on Existing Assets	**(864)**	**(2,531)**	**1,955**	
Net Outlay on New and Upgraded Assets				
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	(10,492)	(14,867)	(4,540)	31%
add back Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Asse	7,985	11,139	4,059	36%
add back Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets	-	-	-	
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets	**(2,507)**	**(3,728)**	**(481)**	
Net Lending/ (Borrowing) for Financial Year	**(5,445)**	**(8,408)**	**(265)**	
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
New Borrowings	1,400	7,300	-	
Repayment of Principal	-	-	(600)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Cash and Investments	(30)	7,883	7,975	
Net Balance Sheet Funding (Debtors & Creditors etc)	4,075	(6,775)	(7,110)	
Total Financing Transactions	**5,445**	**8,408**	**265**	

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - November 2025

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
INCOME			
Rates	27,968	27,968	11,754
Statutory Charges	476	476	276
User Charges	5,794	5,794	2,339
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Capital	617	822	-
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Operating	7,069	7,133	2,571
Investment Income	12	22	54
Reimbursements	9	9	12
Other Income	1,143	1,203	197
TOTAL INCOME	**43,088**	**43,427**	**17,203**
EXPENSES			
Employee Costs	15,917	15,977	6,575
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	19,116	19,235	8,124
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairments	9,588	9,823	4,145
Finance Costs	541	541	98
TOTAL EXPENSES	**45,162**	**45,576**	**18,942**
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**(2,074)**	**(2,149)**	**(1,739)**
Amounts Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets	7,985	11,139	4,059
Net Gain (Loss)	-	-	82
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**5,911**	**8,990**	**2,402**
Other Comprehensive Income	6,143	6,143	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	**12,054**	**15,133**	**2,402**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - November 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	8,129	216	124
Trade & Other Receivables	3,790	7,140	2,485
Inventories	2,548	2,548	2,517
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**14,467**	**9,904**	**5,126**
Non-current Assets			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	429,786	435,828	418,951
Other Non-Current Assets	2,264	2,264	2,364
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**432,050**	**438,092**	**421,315**
Total Assets	**446,517**	**447,996**	**426,441**
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	11,995	4,495	3,384
Short Term Borrowings	500	400	400
Short Term Provisions	2,503	2,503	2,796
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**14,998**	**7,398**	**6,580**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Term Borrowings	5,400	11,400	3,500
Long Term Provisions	1,219	1,219	1,114
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**6,619**	**12,619**	**4,614**
Total Liabilities	**21,617**	**20,017**	**11,194**
NET ASSETS	**424,900**	**427,979**	**415,247**
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	71,211	74,290	71,023
Asset Revaluation Reserve	350,135	350,135	343,992
Reserves	3,554	3,554	232
TOTAL EQUITY	**424,900**	**427,979**	**415,247**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
Accumulated Surplus			
Balance at Beginning of Period	65,300	65,300	68,621
Change in Financial Position Resulting from Operations	5,911	8,990	2,402
Transfers from Other Reserves	-	-	-
Transfers to Other Reserves	-	-	-
Balance at End of Period	**71,211**	**74,290**	**71,023**
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance at Beginning of Period	343,992	343,992	343,992
Revaluation Increment	6,143	6,143	-
Balance at End of Period	**350,135**	**350,135**	**343,992**
Other Reserves			
Balance at Beginning of Period	3,554	3,554	232
Transfers to Accumulated Surplus	-	-	-
Transfers from Accumulated Surplus	-	-	-
Balance at End of Period	**3,554**	**3,554**	**232**
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD	**424,900**	**427,979**	**415,247**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - November 2025

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Rates	27,968	24,468	11,754
Statutory Charges	476	476	276
User Charges	5,794	5,794	3,645
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Operating	7,069	3,783	2,571
Investment Income	12	22	54
Reimbursements	9	9	12
Other Income	1,143	1,203	197
Payments			
Employee Costs	(15,917)	(15,977)	(6,575)
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	(19,041)	(23,160)	(16,540)
Finance Costs	(541)	(541)	(98)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	**6,972**	**(3,923)**	**(4,704)**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	7,985	11,139	4,059
Grants Utilised for Capital Purposes	617	822	-
Sale of Replaced Assets	85	130	97
Sale of surplus assets	-	-	-
Payments			
Purchase of Renewal/Replacement Assets	(8,537)	(10,484)	(2,287)
Purchase of New/Expansion Assets	(8,492)	(12,867)	(4,540)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities	**(8,342)**	**(11,260)**	**(2,671)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Proceeds from Borrowings - Council	1,400	7,300	-
Payments			
Repayment of Borrowings	-	-	(600)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities	**1,400**	**7,300**	**(600)**
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	30	(7,883)	(7,975)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	8,099	8,099	8,099
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	**8,129**	**216**	**124**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - November 2025

Loans - November 2025

Fixed Loans

Loan	Term	Loan Value	Interest Rate	Expiry
139	3 years	$2,500,000	5.60%	17/07/2026
		$2,500,000		

Variable Loans

Loan	Total Facility Value	Drawn Down Value	Interest Rate	Expiry
139	$11,500,000	$1,400,000	5.25%	15/07/2030
140	$5,000,000	$0	5.25%	15/12/2031
141	$7,000,000	$0	5.25%	15/01/2028
	$23,500,000	**$1,400,000**		

Loan Summary

Fixed Loan Balance	$2,500,000	64%
Variable Loan Balance	$1,400,000	36%
Total Loan Balance	**$3,900,000**	
Loan Funds Available	$22,100,000	
Weighted Interest Rate	5.47%	

Accounts Payable - November 2025

Total Value of Payments made this month	$2,511,425
Total Value of Oustanding Accounts Payable	$77,602

Rates - November 2025

Value of Rates Payments received this month		$2,945,918	
Overdue Rates Value		$1,969,202	$1,735,207

Age of debt	Properties	Value	Comparative
Current Year	960	$351,735	$400,196
Last Year	392	$736,217	$584,055
Two Years ago	185	$336,219	$273,260
Three Years ago	105	$178,642	$175,944
Four or more Years ago	77	$366,388	$301,751

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - November 2025

Accounts Receivable - November 2025

Value of Invoices issued this month	$293,533
Value of Payments received this month	$346,626
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Receivable	**-$53,093**
Total Value of Oustanding Accounts Receivable	$489,211
Value of Doubtful Debt Provision	-$32,100
Expected value of Accounts Receivable to be received	**$457,111**

Consultants - November 2025

Total value of consultants used this month	$49,290
Total value of consultants used year to date	$245,015

High Value Operating Contracts - November 2025

Kerbside Waste Collection

Total estimated annual value of contract	$	2,997,700
Total expected spend year to date	$	999,200
Actual spend year to date	$	993,887
Variance	$	5,313

Comments

The estimated value of the contract is based on past number of bins collected and total tonnages. Increases in these items lead to increased costs to Council. The estimated contract figure is based on the updated budget as at the most recent budget review.

Airport Security Screening

Total estimated annual value of contract	$	1,240,000
Total expected spend year to date	$	413,300
Actual spend year to date	$	440,587
Variance	-$	27,287

Comments

The estimated value of the contract is based on the updated pricing agreed with the contractor.

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT – November 2025

Operating Income

Operating income is consistent with budget projections at this time of year. The expected increase in the quantum of Financial Assistance Grants that Council will be allocated in 2025/26 and future years will allow Council to address some budget pressures. Two quarters of the Financial Assistance Grants for 2025/26 were received in advance in late June 2025. The Financial Assistance Grants consist of two components, a general-purpose component and a local road component. Both components are untied, meaning Council can utilise these funds according to local priorities.

Council received a bonus payment from the Local Government Finance Authority based on their performance, which is the reason that investment income is tracking above initial projections.

A number of income streams are received in arrears, meaning that they look low early in the financial year, but will increase as the year progresses.

Operating Expenditure

Operating expenditure is progressing as expected. Finance Costs are currently below budget but are expected to increase when cash advance debenture (CAD) facilities are drawn down as capital projects progress through the year.

Budget pressures continue in known areas, such as hard waste management, building maintenance, IT and rec and open space. These will continue to be monitored and reported via budget reviews.

Capital Activities

Approximately 25% of the capital program budget has been spent to date.

Loans

Council's target is for fixed loans to make up between 30% and 70% of total loan balances. Currently they are within this range at 64%. The decision was taken not to fix additional loans in July, when a previous portion expired, due to the fact that loan balances are much lower than they have been over previous years, a result of the strategic land sale in June 2025. Council may operate outside of its target range over the next 12 months because of this.

Council's weighted interest rate is currently 5.47%, with this figure expected to remain fairly stable over this year. Council's current available loan capacity is $22.1 million.

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT – November 2025

Rates

Overdue rates balances are currently above where they sat at the same time 12 months ago. This could partly be attributed to financial stress on ratepayers however, legal costs, fines, interest and rates raised on the Section 184 properties are also connected to this increase. Payment arrangements have been made with some of these properties. The Section 184 properties will be reviewed early in 2026, and property sales may commence to recover rates arrears.

Short term arrears are lower than the same time last year, but the arrears for properties that are between 5 months and 2 years behind are up approximately 25%, which will continue to be monitored.

Approximately 59% of properties with arrears are one quarterly payment or less behind.

Consultants

The majority of consultant expenditure to date has related to:

- Employee Recruitment
- IT Migration project
- Asset Management
- Planning and Building Assessment

Additional expenditure has also occurred in minor amounts in other areas.

Monthly Project Update - November 2025

2025-26 Capital Program - Monthly Reporting

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Transport Renewal Program**	$ 2,712,000	$ 169,197	$ 351,926	Delivery	6%	10%	June 2026
Description:	After the large program undertaken over the previous three years to address a large number of end of life assets, this new three year program returns to a more "normal" annual budget level. This program will renew kerb, footpath and road assets prioritised using extensive Council data.		Progress:	The road sealing, kerb and footpath program contracts are in the process of being signed, for periods between 3 and 5 years. Works on these programs will commence in 2026. The unsealed road program will be delivered by Council staff. Traffic signal projects will be delivered on a project by project basis.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Airport Runway Upgrade**	$ 6,542,000	$ 4,158,789	$ 4,388,639	Completed	64%	100%	Complete
Description:	Urgent works required to the main runway to allow for Q400 flights to service the airport on an ongoing basis. The project is over 90% grant funded jointly by the State and Federal Governments.		Progress:	This project was completed on time and under budget. The State and Federal Governments recently provided permission to use the underspend on a number of other airport projects, however they did not extend the funding end date of 30 June 2026, so work is happening internally to understand what can be achieved.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Foreshore Plaza**	$ 7,060,000	$ 8,010	$ 14,147	Tender	0%	10%	2026-27
Description:	Delivery of the first stage of the Foreshore Masterplan consisting of a plaza precinct including water play. This project is 50% externally funded.		Progress:	Significant value management has been undertaken to establish a revised target budget of $7.06m with additional funds available from retimed Renewal funding from 2030. Currently out to tender. Tenders originally closed on 21 November 2025, but this has been extended into December, to try and achieve the best outcome possible.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Marina Renewal**	$ 2,467,000	$ 21,793	$ 2,340,193	Delivery	1%	10%	February 2026
Description:	Based on urgent need, these funds will focus on renewal of the boat ramp and pontoons in the Whyalla Marina, while also decommissioning the Point Lowly wharf which is at end of life.		Progress:	Site establishment for works at Whyalla Marina commenced on 10 Nov 2025, with work to continue over the coming months.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Recreation Centre Improvements**	$ 992,000	$ -	$ -	Planning	0%	5%	June 2026
Description:	Installation of a significant solar array, with roof repairs to allow this to occur. Retiling and painting of the toilets to bring them up to the standard of the rest of the centre.		Progress:	Resources are expected to become available to support progression of the planning phase around December 2025.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Civic Park Upgrades**	$ 755,000	$ 690,242	$ 693,497	Delivery	91%	95%	February 2026
Description:	Replacement of playground equipment at Civic Park, including improvements to the surroundings.		Progress:	The Civic Park playground replacement has been completed as part of the Stimulus Project. Some minor improvements around the main playground will be completed over coming months.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

2025-26 Significant Operating Projects - Monthly Reporting

Project	**Marina Dredging**	$ 950,000	$ -	$ 943,977	Delivery	0%	10%	February 2026
Description:	Dredging of both the Whyalla and Pt Lowly marinas.		Progress:	Site establishment for works at Whyalla Marina commenced on 10 Nov 2025, with work to continue over the coming months.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

2025-26 Capital Program - Quarterly Reporting

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Plant Replacement Program**	$ 540,000	$ 333,254	$ 514,099	Delivery	62%	50%	June 2026
Description:	Each year Council replaces items of plant and machinery that are no longer fit for purpose to ensure the fleet is up to date and operable in a safe condition. This year's program includes: Tipper; 3 Mowers; 6 Light Fleet vehicles and 2 minor plant items.		Progress:	All originally budgeted plant items have now been ordered and the majority have arrived over the last month. A mini agitator truck has also been added to the program, to allow Council to get concrete to site, with local deliveries hard to book due to a number of large projects occurring in the region. This will be ordered soon.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

Project	**Public Toilet Upgrades**	$ 737,000	$ 73,526	$ 190,246	Delivery	10%	20%	June 2026
Description:	Refurbishment of the existing toilet at Civic Park as well as the construction of a new one near the upgraded playground to replace the Schulz Reserve toilet. Renewal works may also be undertaken at Wilson Park and Visitor Information Toilets after this time.		Progress:	Refurbishment of existing toilets in Civic Park is complete.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

Project	**Library Renewal**	$ 446,000	$ 95,219	$ 95,219	Delivery	21%	95%	2026-27
Description:	Replacement of the air conditioning system, replacement of blinds and shade sails, electrical works and the replacement of furniture.		Progress:	An investigation confirmed that only one unit is damaged and will be replaced under insurance in the coming week. As a result, the project's focus will now shift to the installation of new blinds and shade sails.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

Project	**Child Care Centre Upgrade**	$ 680,000	$ 54,227	$ 234,310	Delivery	8%	100%	June 2026
Description:	Includes renewal works to the existing building, as well as the installation of new play spaces and fencing.		Progress:	Following numerous meetings and ongoing efforts to provide clarity to SWGB it has become evident that continuing the contract works with SWGB is unlikely to yield a satisfactory outcome. Council remains committed to holding SWGB accountable for delivering the remaining scope with diligence and competence. In response, SWGB has proposed that the contract be formally concluded upon completion of Stage 1, foregoing the remaining refurbishment stages. This approach offers an opportunity to close out the project efficiently, in contrast to the challenges experienced thus far. We will now proceed with finalising the contract close-out and manage the remaining works with another contractor(s).				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

Project	**Irrigation Renewal Program**	$ 537,000	$ 76,610	$ 138,875	Delivery	14%	20%	June 2026
Description:	Replacement of the irrigation network based on sections identified as being at end of life, with Civic Park being the first priority.		Progress:	Replacement of irrigation in Civic Park is currently underway for the area immediately surrounding the new playspace with the balance being targeted for delivery later this financial year. The Asset Management Coordinator is facilitating an irrigation audit to shape future works. Minor works were undertaken on the Searle Street pump station.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**HMAS Whyalla**	$ 312,000	$ 302,010	$ 321,930	Delivery	97%	100%	November 2025
Description:	Painting program to finalise the water proofing of the vessel.		Progress:	This project was completed in Sept 2025.				
			On Time		**On Budget**			

Project	**Tanderra Renewal**	$ 274,000	$ 10,149	$ 10,149	Planning	4%	100%	June 2026
Description:	Upgrade of electrical switchboards to meet modern standards.		Progress:					
			On Time		**On Budget**			

Project	**Stormwater Levee Repair and Extension**	$ 172,000	$ 31	$ 31	Detailed Design	0%	30%	Unknown
Description:	Includes works to the existing levee bank to ensure continued functionality as well as the installation of bunds to retain water outside the city to improve overall flood mitigation.		Progress:	Design now completed, DA lodged, clearance form for native veg to be lodged. Given the presence of higher-priority initiatives and the resources required to deliver them, the ability to progress this project may be impacted. As a result, it may be deferred to a subsequent year.				
			On Time		**On Budget**			

Project	**Signal Renewal**	$ 359,000	$ 63,739	$ 63,739	Delivery	18%	25%	June 2026
Description:	The koala crossing on Nicolson Avenue is due for renewal, as is the traffic light controller for the intersection of Nicolson and Norrie. Other minor crossing upgrades across the city will also be progressed.		Progress:	Koala crossing refurbishment works were completed in early July 2025, significantly under budget due to the responsible and well-defined scoping of the project. DIT have confirmed Whyalla Secondary School will have 40km/hr reduction zone as a permanent fixture, location of exact sign placement to be confirmed in due course. Other minor school crossings will be delivered as part of the program throughout the year.				
			On Time		**On Budget**			

Project	**Jubilee Park Electrical and Fire**	$ 275,000	$ 36,626	$ 289,260	Tender	13%	10%	June 2026
Description:	Delivery of an upgraded switch board that meets modern standards, as well as the installation of a fire safety tank for the Basketball Stadium.		Progress:	Contract to upgrade switchboard has been let with completion anticipated in early 2026. Engineering documentation for the fire safety tank is underway with an RFT for delivery expected in late November.				
			On Time		**On Budget**			

Project	**Ada Ryan Gardens Renewal**	$ 118,000	$ 84,976	$ 114,376	Delivery	72%	75%	December 2025
Description:	Resurfacing of the basketball court and replacement of fencing.		Progress:	Project underway with the following activities remaining to bring the works to completion: •seal handstand •install irrigation & lay turf •court surfacing and linemarking of basket ball court-note resurfacing delayed due to change of ownership of contracted company doing this component of the project.				
			On Time		**On Budget**			

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Maritime Museum Renewal**	$ 237,000	$ -	$ -	Not Started	0%	0%	2025-26
Description:	Ceiling, flooring and lighting works.		Progress:	Project still in the scoping phase.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

Project	**Pt Lowly Lighthouse Renewal**	$ 294,000	$ -	$ -	Planning	0%	5%	Unknown
Description:	Works to refurbish the structure and allow for the removal of safety fencing that has been required to be in place for an extended period.		Progress:	A report will be tabled with Council, providing a strategic overview of progress to date and outlining the next steps to support informed decision-making, proposed works and future management and planning.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

Project	**Hummock Hill Open Space Renewal**	$ 289,000	$ 5,600	$ 118,712	Planning	2%	5%	June 2026
Description:	Replacement of lighting that has been damaged by vandalism. Works to replace retaining walls that are at end of life.		Progress:	Lights ordered with installation scheduled for later in November.				
			On Time			**On Budget**		

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.2 Requests for Services Policy and Procedure – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Joanne Peden – Customer Experience Co-ordinator **File No.:** 0-161
Directorate: Corporate Services

Annexures:
A – Requests for Services Policy and Procedure *(with tracked changes)*

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest: *In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120*		**Status:** *Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act*	
☐ **Yes**	☑ **No**	☐ **Yes**	☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

Council's current policies have been undergoing a review process, and Council is now requested to consider the Requests for Services Policy and Procedure Version 1, and its replacement with the updated Version 2.

SUMMARY

Council's policies and procedures are designed to guide decision-making and actions across all areas of Local Government business and service delivery. They provide clear direction for Council, staff and the community; ensuring that matters are managed in a fair, transparent and consistent manner and that Council remains accountable for its decisions.

Regular review of policies ensures Council remains aligned with current legislation, technological advancements and contemporary best practices, thereby maintaining the relevance, consistency and effectiveness of its governance framework.

- 4.2 – Social Media Platform has been added – Receiving request for service
- 4.5.1 – Executive Management has been changed to Executive Leadership

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

1. **revokes the 2021 Version 1 Requests for Services Policy and Procedure; and**
2. **endorses the 2025 Version 2 Requests for Services Policy and Procedure, as attached at Annexure "A".**

DUE DATE

Requests for Services Policy and Procedure Review – For Endorsement	15/12/2025

14.2.2 Requests for Services Policy and Procedure – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Governance is the mechanism by which an organisation is held accountable. In the context of Local Government, governance encompasses the accountability of staff to the elected Council and of both Council Members and staff to the community.

Outdated policies can expose an organisation to risk. Policies that are not regularly reviewed may fail to comply with current legislation or regulations, and may not reflect contemporary systems, technologies, or practices; leading to inconsistency in decision-making and operations.

Regular review of Council's policies and procedures ensures alignment with legislative requirements, technological advancements and best practice. This process maintains the consistency, effectiveness and relevance of Council's governance framework.

The Requests for Services Policy and Procedure is set to be reviewed every four years in alignment with the Council term. The documents were newly presented and adopted at Council on 28 June 2021.

The updated Requests for Services Policy and Procedure – Version 1 has been revised to ensure it is an enduring document, with the next scheduled review due in December 2029.

DISCUSSION

The Request for Services Policy and Procedure are mandatory under Section 270 of the Local Government Act. They provide a framework within which Council can assess requests from the community for new services or Council infrastructure.

An online form is available on the Council website for community members to make their requests for services in writing, so that a record of the requests can be maintained and considered afresh during the development of the Annual Business Plan and Budget each year.

Financial Implications – Nil

Strategic Plan

Objective 1.1 – Unearth community pride within the city

Strategy 1.1.1 – Regularly inform the community of Council activities, decisions and actions

Legislation

Local Government Act 1999, Section 270

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Not applicable

Social Considerations – Nil

Community Engagement – Nil

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication – Nil

Conclusion

As part of Council's comprehensive review of all public policies, Council is requested to consider and endorse the minor updates proposed in Version 2 of the Request for Services Policy and Procedure.

Annexure "A"

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

REQUESTS FOR SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURE	
Type	Governance
GDS Category	Governance – Public
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Procedure Adopted	28 June 2021
Review Period	4 years
Last Reviewed	
Next Review Date	December 2029~~25~~
Policy Version Number	2~~1~~
Applicable Legislation	• Local Government Act 1999
Related Documents	
Purpose	The Local Government Act, s270(a1)(a) requires Council to adopt a policy and procedure for dealing with any reasonable request for the provision or improvement of a council service.
File reference	

1 Purpose and Scope

Local Government delivers an extensive range of services and infrastructure to communities, and discharges obligations under many pieces of legislation. Providing services to the community is a key component of Council's operations and requests for work to be undertaken or a service provided are a daily occurrence.

Council is committed to the provision of quality service to customers and aims to provide services fairly and efficiently. It also monitors requests to identify ways in which it can proactively improve its services.

Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to maintain a procedure about "any reasonable request for the provision of a service by the Council or for the improvement of a service provided by the Council."

This Procedure commences at the point that a request for service is received and covers processes for

- distinguishing between requests, complaints and feedback to Council
- deciding how to respond to the request
- using requests to directly inform service improvements

The aim of this procedure, which is available on Council's website, is to ensure requests for service are addressed in a fair, consistent and structured process which is transparent to all customers. This procedure does not apply to matters that do not fall within Council's jurisdiction. These types of issues will be referred to appropriate external processes.

1.1 Responsibility

This procedure applies to all Council staff who may be involved in receiving or processing a request for service in the course of their work.

Officers will act reasonably and transparently, demonstrate good customer service, undertake their responsibilities in a proficient manner and use their judgement where necessary to ensure an outcome in line with Council's Request for Service Policy.

1.2 Legislation & Policy

Local Government Act 1999, section 270

Complaints Handling Policy

Customer Service Charter

Requests for Service Policy

1.3 Definitions

Business Day means a day when the Council is normally open for business, i.e. Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

1.4 General Notes

Council receives requests for service, complaints and feedback across all areas of operations. Clarification may be necessary to make the distinction for the purposes of this procedure.

Council defines a **Request for Service** as:

"an application to have Council or its representative take some form of action to provide or improve a Council service".

Complaints about the activities of third parties [e.g. barking dogs or food premises] are to be treated as Requests for Service in the first instance where this is a reasonable interpretation.

However, if the complaint is about the way in which Council has dealt with a matter concerning the activities of a third party, this will be dealt with as a complaint. (See Complaints Handling Policy)

A **Complaint** is an expression of dissatisfaction with a service which has, or should have, been received. Council's Complaints Policy defines a complaint as:

"An expression of dissatisfaction with a product or service delivered by the Council or its representatives that has failed to reach the standard stated, implied or expected. This includes complaints about a service that has been or should have been delivered."

Where Council has failed to meet the normal standards for a service which has been, or should have been, delivered the Complaints Policy and the associated procedures apply.

Feedback can take the form of comments, both positive and negative, about services provided by Council without necessarily forming the basis of a complaint or a request for service. Council welcomes feedback of all types as an important way of continually monitoring its service standards.

Communication with the customer is an important ongoing process while undertaking the actions necessary to resolve the request. When immediate resolution is not possible, the customer must be regularly kept informed of progress, either by email, letter, phone or personal contact.

1.5 Principles Underlying this Procedure

This procedure, and the policy it accompanies, is based on five principles, which will be fundamental in the way Council approaches requests for service. They are:

- Fairness: treating customers fairly requires impartiality, confidentiality and transparency at all stages of the process
- Accessibility: to be accessible there must be broad public awareness about Council's policy and procedure a range of contact options
- Responsiveness: this will be achieved by providing sufficient resources, well trained staff and review and improvement of the systems
- Efficiency: customer requests will be dealt with as quickly as practical while adhering to this policy and procedure
- Integration of different areas of Council where the customer request overlaps functional responsibilities

2 Relevant Documentation

Nil

3 Records Management

All documents, notes, telephone calls, photographs and correspondence must be retained and stored in accordance with Council's Records Management protocols as required by Section 125 of the *Local Government Act*.

All requests for service must be recorded in Council's records management system in such a way that the information can also be analysed for service improvement opportunities.

4 Procedure

Council welcomes requests for service as a way of improving its services and programs as well as fulfilling the needs of its customers.

4.1 Assisting with the lodgement requests for service

No one should be excluded from lodging a request for service because of any difficulties they may have representing themselves. All staff are expected to offer assistance where appropriate and provide it on request, including assistance in documenting the request in writing when circumstances warrant.

4.2 Receiving requests for service

A person can make a request in a number of ways:

- Complete the appropriate form on Council's website
- Telephone
- Fax
- Email
- Letter
- Visit to a Council customer service office
- Social Media platform

4.2.1 Recording requests for service

Record details of the request in Council's Customer Request Form, including.

- Date and time of call
- Taken by
- Customer's Name
- Customer's address
- Customer's contact phone numbers and email address
- Comprehensive information about the nature of the request
- Who assigned to
- Does the customer wish to be advised when the work is completed

4.3 Deciding how to respond to requests for service

Each request must be assessed to determine its nature, how it should be dealt with, when it should be dealt with, and who should be involved.

Experience suggests that the majority of requests can be scheduled and actioned promptly. Some will require direction from a manager or, occasionally, a decision of Council.

Council's policy provides guidance on how to respond to requests by considering:

- The content of Council's Strategic Management Plans, Annual Business Plans, annual works program and Annual Budget. Does the request fit within the directions and programs which Council has agreed to, and budgeted for?
- Relevant Council policies and codes. Does the request fit within other agreed positions documented by Council?
- Established service standards and response times for regular Council activities. Can the request be accommodated within Council's agreed operating standards?
- An assessment of risk. Does the request relate to a matter which may impact on a public risk or Council risk?
- Statutory responsibilities. Is the request about a matter which Council has a statutory obligation to act upon?

Before determining Council's response, it is also important to consider:

- Public safety and emergencies (the need and requirement of immediate action)
- Using Council resources efficiently and effectively
- The guidelines and conditions which apply to certain externally funded programs (eg. Home and Community Care)
- The complexity of the response by Council (does it require an integrated approach from more than one department?)

Where possible, Council should advise customers what action will be taken in response to requests at the time of lodging. For routine requests refer to Council's service standards and intended work programs. Lodge the request using Council's preferred customer request system and advise the customer of the next steps.

More complex requests should be forwarded to the relevant Manager for determination of how to respond. Ensure that the referral occurs promptly and the customer understands the process and timeline for the next action.

Where requests are for major work or new services they will be considered by Council in the preparation of the next Annual Business Plan.

4.3.1 Rejected requests for service

Where a request cannot be accommodated it is to be identified in the database as a rejected request.

4.4 Acknowledging requests for service and progress

Under the policy, Council aims to respond to customer requests as soon as possible, and at least in accordance with Council's Customer Service Charter, advising of Council's intentions in regard to the request.

If a request is rejected Council should explain the decision clearly and offer any possible alternative actions available to the customer, including reference to Council's Complaints Policy.

Where work is delayed customers should be informed of progress and the reasons for any delays.

If the customer has asked to be advised when the work is completed, this task is the responsibility of the employee who finalises the request.

4.5 Service Improvement

Learning from requests for service is a way of helping to improve Council's processes and procedures. Council therefore has systems to:

- record, analyse and report on the types of requests for service it receives
- apply the information to improve customer service.

Understanding the number and type of requests initiated by customers may suggest changes to policies, procedures or systems to improve service delivery. It is important to ensure that lessons learnt are put into practice.

All requests for service, including those which are rejected, must be recorded in Council's records management system in such a way that the information can also be analysed for service improvement opportunities.

4.5.1 At intervals determined by the number of requests received, the data on requests for service is reported to Executive Leadership~~Management~~ in order to ensure that systemic issues are identified and addressed.

4.5.2 Council should be provided with reports containing data about requests for service, actions taken to address them and changes made as a result at least once a year.

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.3 Council Member Access to Documents Policy and Procedure – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Sue King — **File No.:** 2-20
General Manager Corporate Services
Directorate: Corporate Services

Annexures:

A – Draft Council Member Access to Documents Policy *(with tracked changes)*
B – Draft Council Member Access to Documents Policy *(without tracked changes)*

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:
In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Status:
Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason –

PURPOSE

To provide copies of the reviewed and updated Council Member Access to Documents combined Policy and Procedure, in line with the 4-yearly review cycle.

SUMMARY

As part of the policy review cycle, the Council Member Access to Documents combined Policy and Procedure has been reviewed and updated, with limited changes from the original version adopted by Council in November 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Council, subject to any feedback, note and adopt the updated Council Member Access to Documents combined Policy and Procedure to be uploaded to Council's webpage.

DUE DATE

Subject to adoption – upload to Councils webpage	15/12/2025

14.2.3 Council Member Access to Documents Policy and Procedure – <u>For Endorsement</u>

<u>REPORT</u>

BACKGROUND

The Council Member Access to Documents combined Policy and Procedure is reviewed every four years in alignment with the Council term. The document was developed in March 2021 as a new combined Policy and Procedure following a governance compliance audit conducted by Kelledy Jones and subsequently adopted by Council at its meeting held on 15 November 2021 (C4178-2021).

Minor updates have been made, and there are no legislative updates required.

DISCUSSION

The review confirmed that the combined Policy and Procedure continues to meet its intended purpose. Updates are minor with no legislative changes required.

The Council Member Access to Documents combined Policy and Procedure is designed to provide an appropriate avenue for Council Members to access documents.

The updated Policy and Procedure is provided at **Annexure "A"** *(tracked changes)* and **Annexure "B"** *(clean version)*.

Financial Implications – Nil

Strategic Plan

Objective 4.1 *Whyalla Council Members commit to serving the community*

Strategy 4.1.2 We will always make decisions based on facts, not emotions

Legislation

Local Government Act 1999
Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Not applicable

Risk Assessment – Not applicable

Social Considerations – Nil

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

As part of the Council's four-yearly review cycle, the Council Member Access to Documents combined policy and procedure has been assessed to ensure ongoing compliance with relevant legislation.

Annexure "A"

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Access to Documents - Policy and Procedure	
Type	Governance
GDS Category	Governance
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Policy Adopted	November 2021
Review Period	4 years within 12 months of a periodic election
Last Reviewed	November 2025
Next Review Date	November 2029
Policy Version Number	2~~1~~
Applicable Legislation	~~Section 61 of the~~ Local Government Act 1999 Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013
Related Documents	Code of Practice – Access to Council and Committee Meetings and Documents
Public Consultation Required	No
Purpose	To enable Council Members to have appropriate access to relevant Council documents

1. ~~Introduction~~INTRODUCTION

Under section 61 of the Local Government Act, a Council Member is entitled, at any reasonable time, in connection with the performance or discharge of the functions or duties of the member to have access to any relevant council document~~, where it is in connection with the performance and discharge of the functions and duties of the member.~~

2. ~~Policy Objectives~~OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are:

- to promote the accessibility of information to Council members
- to balance the important considerations of access to information by Council members, and the need to manage sensitive, personal, private and confidential information, the public availability of which may cause detriment to the Council, the community or another party; and
- to facilitate informed decision making in an environment of mutual trust and respect for the respective functions, roles and responsibilities of Council members and staff.

3. ~~Policy~~POLICY

In general, a Council member will be provided access to any documents held by Council unless they are demonstrably irrelevant to the member's function or duties. Council members will not be granted access to documents regarding the personal affairs of Council staff, except for the Register of Interests that must be maintained under section 116 of the Local Government Act and be made available for a Council member's inspection upon request, in accordance with section 118.

4. ~~Procedures~~PROCEDURE

A request for access to a Council document under section 61 must be directed in the first instance to the Chief Executive Officer. The request may be made in person, by phone or in writing, including by email. The request should identify the document being sought with enough detail for the document to be identified and retrieved and state the reasons for the request.

4.1 ~~Consideration of Request~~CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST

A Council member will be provided access to a document if they are held by Council, unless it is demonstrably irrelevant to a member's function or duties. Where access to a ~~document is~~document is not provided, the reason is to be provided to the Council member in writing.

4.2 ~~Provision of Access to Documents~~ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

The form of access to a document will be negotiated with the Council member to accommodate the ~~particular needs~~needs of the member and administrative efficiency. Where the document is publicly available, for example it is posted on Council's website, the member may be provided with a hard copy or sent a link to the relevant page on the website. Where access is granted to a document that is not publicly available and there is no sensitivity to the document, a copy of the document will be provided to the member in an agreed form.

Where there is a degree of sensitivity or there are other reasons to restrict distribution of a document (for example, if the documents contain legal advice, confidential information or internal corporate information) access may be limited to 'view only' access at a mutually convenient time at the Whyalla Civic Centre.

Email advice confirming the 'view only' access arrangements will be sent to the member. A Council member may seek to have the decision to only grant 'view only' access reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor. Where the document may be of a wide interest, a copy of the email advice will be sent to all Council members.

5. ~~Meeting Procedure Regulation~~MEETING PROCEDURES ~~18~~

Local Government (Procedure at Meetings) Regulations 2013, specifically ~~Procedure~~ regulation 18 enables a Council member to require the CEO to 'table' a document relating to a motion that is before the meeting, and the CEO must table the document within a reasonable time or at a time determined by the Presiding Member taking into account the wishes of the meeting. If the member requiring the tabling of a documents indicates that ~~he or she is~~they are unwilling to vote on the motion until the document is tabled, then the motion must not be put to the vote until the document is tabled.

~~The~~The ~~–~~ Chief Executive Officer may, in tabling a document, indicate that in ~~his or her~~their opinion, consideration should be given to dealing with the document on a confidential basis under Section 90 or Section 91 of the Act. The minutes of the meeting must record any request for documents tabled, as well as any documents tabled. If the required documents are not tabled at the meeting in which the request is made, a formal motion should be moved by a member who has not spoken~~,~~ to adjourn the item to a specific time or date.

6. ~~Requests for other information~~REQUESTS FOR OTHER INFORMATION

Where the information being sought is not in the form of an existing Council document, and the request requires more than a simple response, it will be treated as a request for a report to Council.

7. ~~Policy does not restrict other~~OTHER RIGHTS ~~rights of Council members~~

In accordance with Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013, ~~T~~this policy does not limit the rights of a Council member to ask Questions on Notice under Regulation 9 ~~(reg. 9)~~ or give Notice of Motion under Regulation 12 ~~(reg. 12) under the Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013~~, or to seek answers to questions or to request that a report be prepared on certain issues.

8. AVAILABILITY OF THE POLICY

8.1 This Policy will be available for inspection at the Council's offices during ordinary business hours and via the Council's website www.whyalla.sa.gov.au.

8.2 Copies will also be provided to the public upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with the Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

9. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE

Corporate Services

10. AUTHORITY

This policy was adopted by Council at its meeting held on [insert date].

Annexure "B"

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Access to Documents - Policy and Procedure	
Type	Governance
GDS Category	Governance
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Policy Adopted	November 2021
Review Period	4 years within 12 months of a periodic election
Last Reviewed	November 2025
Next Review Date	November 2029
Policy Version Number	2
Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999 Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013
Related Documents	Code of Practice – Access to Council and Committee Meetings and Documents
Public Consultation Required	No
Purpose	To enable Council Members to have appropriate access to relevant Council documents

1. INTRODUCTION

Under section 61 of the Local Government Act, a Council Member is entitled, at any reasonable time, in connection with the performance or discharge of the functions or duties of the member to have access to any relevant council document.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are:

- to promote the accessibility of information to Council members
- to balance the important considerations of access to information by Council members, and the need to manage sensitive, personal, private and confidential information, the public availability of which may cause detriment to the Council, the community or another party; and
- to facilitate informed decision making in an environment of mutual trust and respect for the respective functions, roles and responsibilities of Council members and staff.

3. POLICY

In general, a Council member will be provided access to any documents held by Council unless they are demonstrably irrelevant to the member's function or duties. Council members will not be granted access to documents regarding the personal affairs of Council staff, except for the Register of Interests that must be maintained under section 116 of the Local Government Act and be made available for a Council member's inspection upon request, in accordance with section 118.

4. PROCEDURE

A request for access to a Council document under section 61 must be directed in the first instance to the Chief Executive Officer. The request may be made in person, by phone or in writing, including by email. The request should identify the document being sought with enough detail for the document to be identified and retrieved, and state the reasons for the request.

4.1 CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST

A Council member will be provided access to a document if they are held by Council, unless it is demonstrably irrelevant to a member's function or duties. Where access to a document is not provided, the reason is to be provided to the Council member in writing.

4.2 ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

The form of access to a document will be negotiated with the Council member to accommodate the needs of the member and administrative efficiency. Where the document is publicly available, for example, it is posted on Council's website, the member may be provided with a hard copy or sent a link to the relevant page on the website. Where access is granted to a document that is not publicly available and there is no sensitivity to the document, a copy of the document will be provided to the member in an agreed form.

Where there is a degree of sensitivity or there are other reasons to restrict distribution of a document (for example, if the documents contain legal advice, confidential information or

internal corporate information) access may be limited to 'view only' access at a mutually convenient time at the Whyalla Civic Centre.

Email advice confirming the 'view only' access arrangements will be sent to the member. A Council member may seek to have the decision to only grant 'view only' access reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor. Where the document may be of a wide interest, a copy of the email advice will be sent to all Council members.

5. MEETING PROCEDURES

Local Government (Procedure at Meetings) Regulations 2013, specifically regulation 18 enables a Council member to require the CEO to 'table' a document relating to a motion that is before the meeting, and the CEO must table the document within a reasonable time or at a time determined by the Presiding Member taking into account the wishes of the meeting. If the member requiring the tabling of a documents indicates that they are unwilling to vote on the motion until the document is tabled, then the motion must not be put to the vote until the document is tabled.

The Chief Executive Officer may, in tabling a document, indicate that in their opinion, consideration should be given to dealing with the document on a confidential basis under Section 90 or Section 91 of the Act. The minutes of the meeting must record any request for documents tabled, as well as any documents tabled. If the required documents are not tabled at the meeting in which the request is made, a formal motion should be moved by a member who has not spoken to adjourn the item to a specific time or date.

6. REQUESTS FOR OTHER INFORMATION

Where the information being sought is not in the form of an existing Council document, and the request requires more than a simple response, it will be treated as a request for a report to Council.

7. OTHER RIGHTS

In accordance with Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013, this policy does not limit the rights of a Council member to ask Questions on Notice under Regulation 9 or give Notice of Motion under Regulation 12, or to seek answers to questions or to request that a report be prepared on certain issues.

8. AVAILABILITY OF THE POLICY

8.1 This Policy will be available for inspection at the Council's offices during ordinary business hours and via the Council's website www.whyalla.sa.gov.au.

8.2 Copies will also be provided to the public upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with the Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

9. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE

Corporate Services

10. AUTHORITY

This policy was adopted by Council at its meeting held on [insert date].

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.4 Whyalla Early Learning Centre – For Information

Council Meeting: 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Grant Jennings, Manager Finance and Knowledge Management
File No.: 0-216
Directorate: Corporate Services

Annexures:
A – Financial Results for the Whyalla Early Learning Centre

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:
In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Status:
Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the financial position of the Whyalla Early Learning Centre.

SUMMARY

Changes implemented in the centre since 2020, have moved the result very close to break-even, with a very small surplus projected for the first time this year. This means that the centre is no longer acting as a drag on Council's financial position, as it was previously.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the update on the financial position of the Whyalla Early Learning Centre.

DUE DATE

Whyalla Early Learning Centre – For Information	15/12/2025

14.2.4 Whyalla Early Learning Centre – For Information

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At the October 2025 Council Meeting, the following resolution was passed:

C5783-2025

"That a report be presented to the December meeting of Council, providing details on the current impediments to Council making a profit, or at least breaking even at the Whyalla Early Learning Centre, and the steps which are being taken together with timelines to overcome the impediments."

DISCUSSION

Historically, the Whyalla Early Learning Centre (previously known as the Whyalla Child Care Centre) was running at a large financial loss, with a Service Review undertaken in 2019 to identify required improvements to the service to address this issue.

It was identified that a number of policy changes were required to increase the utilisation of the service, which included removing casual bookings and updating the cancellation policy, amongst others. It was also recognised that the centre fees needed to be increased above CPI for a period of time, to move them closer to other local centres. However, it was recognised that Council's facility was quite old and so fees needed to be lower than other centres, until such time as the centre could be upgraded.

Based on this, a grant application was submitted for funds to upgrade the centre, and while the works took much longer that hoped, the upgrade was opened for operation in 2025. Based on this, fees for 2025/26 were set at a level closely aligned with other local centres.

Once the next stage of these works are completed, the total capacity of the centre will increase, which will have a marginal positive impact on the centre's finances.

Financial Implications

Refer **Annexure "A"** – Financial Results for the Whyalla Early Learning Centre

Before the changes outlined above were implemented, the centre was running a direct loss of approximately $250,000 per annum, with this increasing by around $100,000 during 2019/20 and 2020/21, the two years most impacted by Covid.

Since that time, the changes have moved the result very close to break-even, with a very small surplus projected for the first time this year. This means that the centre is no longer acting as a drag on Council's financial position, as it was previously.

The direct result excludes the impact of Full Cost Attribution and is considered to be a good measure of the financial health of the centre.

Full Cost Attribution includes the costs of other internal services that support the centre, such as finance, payroll, human resources, IT, etc. Including these costs, shows the true total cost of providing the service and is a useful measure, and in a perfect world, the user-charges raised from the service would fully cover these costs as well. However, it is worth noting that if Council didn't provide the child care services, while some of these support costs would reduce, many of them would remain and so would then be allocated to the costs of other services.

The main factor that limits the ability of the centre to further improve its financial position further are the wages at the centre. Council needs to pay its child care staff under the Australian Services Union Award. This Award is not always well adapted to paying staff outside of the traditional administrative tasks undertaken by Council staff, and this means that our wages are higher than other child care centres.

Strategic Plan

Objective 2.3 – Advocate for outcomes that improve the quality of life of Whyalla's residents

Strategy 2.3.4 – Provide a safe and convenient city in which to work and live

Legislation

Child Care National Law and National Regulations

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

The financial risk to Council of providing a child care service has decreased drastically over the past five years, due to policy improvements and increases in user fees.

Social Considerations

It is likely that Council will only be able to increase child care fees in future years by close to CPI, as we are now charging at a level close to our competitors.

Community Engagement – Nil

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

Changes implemented in the centre since 2020 have moved the result very close to break-even, with a very small surplus projected for the first time this year. This means that the centre is no longer acting as a drag on Council's financial position, as it was previously.

Child Care	History							Projection
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Income								
User Charges - Fees	352	256	398	501	538	515	478	529
User Charges - Subsidy	468	610	629	731	927	1,140	1,287	1,556
Other Income	1	2	8	1	-	10	-	1
Total Income	**821**	**868**	**1,035**	**1,233**	**1,465**	**1,665**	**1,765**	**2,086**
Expenditure								
Employee Costs	923	1,014	1,186	1,277	1,442	1,434	1,519	1,744
Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses - Direct	128	136	177	156	199	211	231	245
Materials, Contracts and Other Expenses - Indirect	252	223	249	286	297	307	307	310
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	33	33	39	35	37	42	43	75
Total Expenses	**1,336**	**1,406**	**1,651**	**1,754**	**1,975**	**1,994**	**2,100**	**2,374**
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	**(515)**	**(538)**	**(616)**	**(521)**	**(510)**	**(329)**	**(335)**	**(288)**
Direct Result (excludes Full Cost Attribution)	**(263)**	**(315)**	**(367)**	**(235)**	**(213)**	**(22)**	**(28)**	**22**
Direct Cash Result (excludes Full Cost Attribution and Depreciation)	**(230)**	**(282)**	**(328)**	**(200)**	**(176)**	**20**	**15**	**97**

14.3 CITY GROWTH

14.3.1 Community Grant – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Gail Rostig – Manager City Activation **File No.:** 5-82
Directorate: City Growth

Annexures:
A – Community Grant Applications *(including financial statements)* – under separate cover

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:
In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Status:
Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To consider the allocation of Community Grant funding requests.

SUMMARY

One Community Grant application was received in round three.

The application has been assessed against Councils Community Grant Guidelines, with a recommendation made to approve funds to the community group as outlined below.

This current round will evaluate the application listed below, you will note that the organisation ***has not*** submitted a full audited financial statement, this will be addressed under the organisations heading.

RECOMMENDATION

Council approves the application for Community Grant funding as listed below:

Group	Project	Amount
Whyalla Steelers	**Whyalla Junior Basketball Carnival**	**$5,000**
	Total:	**$5,000**

DUE DATE

Community Grant – For Endorsement	15/12/2025

14.3.1 Community Grant – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

One Community Grant application has been received and reviewed within Council's assessment framework for a community grant, using the Councils Community Grant Guidelines, by the Manager City Activation in conjunction with the Executive Leadership Team.

DISCUSSION

The Community Grant budget has an allocation of $55,000 per annum.

The most recent grant round opened on 16 September 2025 and closed on 15 November 2025, with one application, requesting a total of $5,000 in funding.

The Manager City Activation has met with the grant applicant (by phone) to understand the breadth of the event put forward for funding.

The review process has determined that the applicant has supplied documentation and information pertaining to their organisation and event.

This current round will evaluate the application listed below, with the following synopsis of the application received.

Whyalla Steelers Basketball

Request of $5,000 to support the delivery of the Whyalla Junior Basketball Carnival in February 2026.

The Whyalla Annual Steelers Junior Basketball Carnival is a regional event which invites other regional sporting communities to our city to compete again each other. The carnival will be held over the weekend dated 7 – 8 February 2026, with high competitor numbers and with local satellite sites courts being utilised.

With the expected number of games being played during the carnival being estimated at 150, plus finals. Going on past competition numbers, it's expected that over 550 basketball players will play in the carnival over the weekend, add in family groups, this number equates to healthy injection of spending into Whyalla business economy including the areas of accommodation, eateries and shopping.

The direct and indirect benefits of supporting this type of event by way of grant funding is invaluable due to the way spending circulates through our local economy.

Junior players (and their families) are expected to come from the following towns:

- Port Augusta;
- Port Pirie;
- Port Lincoln;
- Broken Hill;
- Roxby Downs;
- Mid-North; and
- Cowell.

The request for funding is to cover costs incurred in the delivery of the carnival such as:

- Trophies;
- umpire fees, travel and accommodation; and
- hire of satellite facilities.

The most recent Economic Data Australia (*EDA) Report 2024* found that for every $1.00 Councils invest in economic development, events, and tourism, communities can receive up to $4.00 in return. Supporting events that are not directly delivered by Council further reinforces this principle, as these activities generate additional community benefits through the multiplier effect.

The Whyalla Steelers Basketball Club operates under the auspices of the Whyalla Basketball Association, therefore managing their own funds – Whyalla Steelers Basketball Club has provided a financial statement.

The total project is costed at $14,000

Grant funding recommended $5,000

Financial Implications

Budget 2025/26	$55,000
Amount Committed in Previous Rounds	$16,935
Amount Allocated this Round	$5,000
Remaining Funds:	**$33,065**

Strategic Plan

Objective 1.1	*To create a vibrant, diverse, actively engaged community with a sense of purpose*
Strategy 1.1.1	Host, promote and support events and activities which encourage community involvement, celebrate our diverse multicultural heritage, and foster a sense of belonging and pride in the community.
Objective 2.1	*Create a city that is attractive and showcases our natural and built assets*
Strategy 2.1.4	Provide accessible social/physical infrastructure that promotes and supports the health of our community through active and passive recreation opportunities

Legislation – Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Nil

Social Considerations

The provision of grant funding enables community groups to undertake activities and initiatives, purchase new equipment, make improvements to their facilities and host programs or events, ensuring our community stays vibrant, connected, and supported.

Grants also play a major role in promoting a safe, inclusive and an engaged community by providing inclusive activities and access for all.

Community Engagement – Nil

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication

All grant applicants will be advised of the outcome once Council makes their determination.

Conclusion

Council considers the current Community Grant application and makes recommendations accordingly.

14.3 CITY GROWTH

14.3.2 Central Sports Precinct Lighting – Financial Contribution – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Jodie Perone — General Manager City Growth
File No.: 2-20
Directorate: City Growth

Annexures:
A – Sports Precinct Lighting Plan

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:
In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Status:
Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To seek support for a budget variation to provide a financial contribution of $125,000 toward the lighting of the football oval at the Whyalla Secondary College. The financial contribution could be allocated over two financial years as the project will not be completed until the end of the 2026 calendar year.

SUMMARY

As part of the last State Government election promise, $6m dollars was allocated to Whyalla for a central sports facility. The sports facility consists of a new sports building with changerooms, grandstand, function space and lighting of the existing soccer pitch. Football South Australia (FSA) have secured the head lease for the building and will sublease to various clubs and associations, including Westland United Soccer Club, and anticipated to secure Whyalla Women's Football League and the Whyalla Junior Soccer Association as tenants also.

The construction costs have provided a favourable surplus which provides enough budget to fund more than half the cost of the football oval lighting if the lighting is all completed at the same time. The total cost of the football oval lighting is $411,000 (if the installation occurs during this construction period) of which FSA can cover a little over half of the costs, leaving a shortfall of $200,000.

Council has prepared a lodged a funding application with the SANFL Football Facilities Fund on behalf of the Whyalla Secondary College to hopefully secure $75,000, which will leave a shortfall of $125,000. FSA are seeking a contribution from the Council to assist with getting the entire sports precinct illuminated at the same time. Should Council be in a position to assist with funding for this current project, it will ensure a cost savings through mobilisation, trenching and cabling all being undertaken at the same time as the current lighting of the soccer pitches.

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves to commit to a contribution of $125,000 for the football oval lighting at the Whyalla secondary College to activate the space as part of the central sporting precinct.

DUE DATE

Central Sports Precinct Lighting –Financial Contribution – For Endorsement	15/12/2025

14.3.2 Central Sports Precinct Lighting –Financial Contribution – <u>For Endorsement</u>

BACKGROUND

Council has nominated the secondary college site as part of the central precinct zone, which has been reinforced through the establishment of the Whyalla Masterplan, a collaboration between the State Government and Whyalla City Council. The central precinct forms the foundation of the Regional Precinct Partnership funding application recently lodged with the Federal government to cement the central precinct as the heart of the city.

Council administration assisted in the negotiations to relocate the sports precinct from the Edward John Eyre High School site as originally proposed, to the rear of the Secondary College to take advantage of the existing sporting ovals and soccer pitches in the central location, owned and maintained by the education department. Assisting with the installation of the oval lighting will ensure the new sports building and oval can be utilised to their full potential. Activation of the football oval would promote shared use with the school, community and the Women's Football League games, and take advantage of the new building with modern changerooms, grandstand and food and beverage offerings.

DISCUSSION

Football SA have provision in their budget to pay for half of the oval lighting, which leaves a shortfall of $200,000. Council has submitted a funding application for $75,000 with SANFL Football Facilities Fund (which we are confident of receiving) to reduce the shortfall to $125,000. With the successful introduction of the women's football competition in Whyalla over the past 2 years, the oval at the school with the additional changeroom facilities, grandstand and food and beverage offerings, makes for a great home for women's football. Without lighting the oval, the fixture for the women's rounds would still require them to play at Memorial Oval or Bennet Oval in the evenings, therefore reducing the activation possibilities for the precinct.

FSA have kindly offered to extend their project (including project management of the installation) to the football oval due to the costings for their soccer pitch lighting coming in under expectations. If their surplus budget allocation for lighting can be utilised for the oval lighting with a Council contribution and grant funding, it will complete the first stage of the activation of the sports precinct.

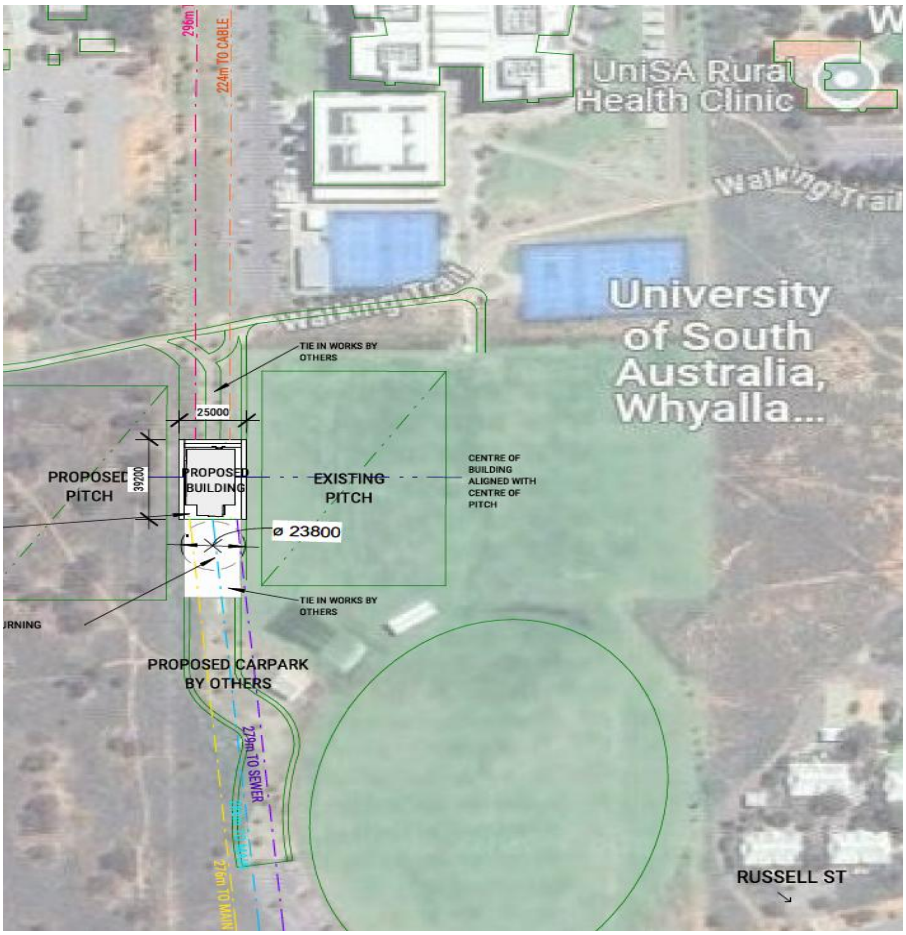
The oval lighting construction occurring in conjunction with the lighting of the soccer pitches has significant cost savings that will not be achievable should the project be undertaken as an individual project in the future due to mobilisation costs mainly.

Whyalla hosts country championships for both football and soccer which contribute significantly to the economy of Whyalla. Having the ability to extend fixtures into the evenings provides the 2 codes with the ability to strengthen their application to host these events with more games being able to be played in the one location and into the evenings, and with all the modern amenities.

The image below is the new building with grandstand being constructed to the rear of the existing secondary college complex.



The image below shows the location of the new building with grandstand.



Financial Implications

$125,000 over two financial years

Strategic Plan

Objective 1.1 – Unearth community pride within the city

Strategy 1.1.1 – Regularly inform the community of Council activities, decisions and actions by promoting positive stories and positive images

Legislation - Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Nil

Social Considerations

Lighting the ovals within the secondary college facility provides for complete activation of the existing underutilised ovals to enhance a sports precinct.

Community Engagement

Surrounding properties have been notified of the sporting facilities and provided the opportunity to make representation through the notification period under the PDI Act during the assessment of the development.

Environmental Implications – Nil

Conclusion

Contributing toward the lighting of the football oval during the current building construction and pitch lighting provides opportunity to activate the site for evening games and training at a reduced cost, and the activation aligns with Councils desire to establish the sports component of the central precinct.

The $125,000 could be split over 2 financial years due to the construction period extending to the end of the 2026 calendar year.

Annexure "A"

TigerTurf™
A TENCATE COMPANY

WHYALLA SECONDARY COLLEGE

FACILITY UPGRADE WORKS

RFQ. REVISION 03 - MUSCO LIGHTING OPTION

Item	Description	Amount ($)
1.0	SOCCER FIELDS 1 & 2	$663,591.40
2.0	AFL FIELD	$411,765.80

Equipment List For Areas Shown

Structure				Fixtures			
QTY	STRUCTURE ID	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	ABOVE FIELD LEVEL	FIXTURE TYPE	QTY/POLE	THIS GRID	OTHER GRIDS
4	P1-P4	27.40m	-	27.40m	TLC-LED-1500	6	6	0
2	P5-P6	21.30m	-	21.30m	TLC-LED-1500	5	5	0
2	P7-P8	21.30m	-	21.30m	TLC-LED-1500	5/3*	8	0
2	P9-P10	21.30m	-	21.30m	TLC-LED-1500	3	3	0
10				Totals		56	56	0

Above Field Level is height of fixtures above area shown
*This structure utilizes a back-to-back mounting configuration



SCALE IN METERS 1 : 1500
0m 75m 150m

ENGINEERED DESIGN By: John(Sunnie) • File #248727_A • 9-OCT-25

Pole location(s) dimensions are relative to 0,0 reference point(s)

Whyalla Secondary College

Whyalla Norrie,SA

Grid Summary

Name:	08 Luminous Intensity #Housing
Spacing:	2.0m
Height:	1.5m above grade

Illumination Summary

	Entire Grid
Maximum:	11997.23
Minimum:	0.04
No. of Points:	113
FIXTURE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits:	A,B,C
No. of Fixtures:	**56**
Total Load:	78.96 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume 73% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

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ILLUMINATION SUMMARY

14.3 CITY GROWTH

14.3.3 Economic Development Related Matters – For Endorsement

Council Meeting 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Jodie Perone – General Manager City Growth **File No:** 2-62
Directorate: City Growth

Annexures:

A – RDAEP Letter re Economic Development Support
B – Economic Development Strategy 2022-30
C – City of Whyalla Advocacy Priorities

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:
In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Status:
Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To provide Council with requested information regarding maximising downstream opportunities from the construction and demolition works and downstream opportunities for both local and new local businesses and the possible benefits of establishing an Economic Development Working Party (or similar title), to advocate for economic development outcomes for Whyalla that take advantage of the State Government's State Prosperity opportunities, and align with Council's vision for Whyalla as a City with a diversified and sustainable economy.

SUMMARY

Given the prevailing economic conditions in Whyalla and the impending sale of the steelworks, it is timely to look at what role Regional Development Australia – Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP), Council and others will play in securing a sustainable economy for our city.

The introduction of the Planning Development and Infrastructure Act on March 2021, removed the requirement under the now repealed Development Act, for Council to have a City Strategy and Policy Committee, which amongst other matters such as planning policy, integrated transport and land use planning functions and responsibilities, was to consider matters pertaining to economic and social development. As a result of the change in legislation, Council held its last City Strategy and Policy Committee meeting in February 2025 and no longer has a committee that focuses solely on strategic policy or economic development.

Many activities are occurring in and on behalf of Whyalla given the announcement of the Sovereign Steel Capability package and the State Government placing GFG Alliance into Administration in February 2025. This has created a flurry of activity – both in averting the fallout of the steelworks decline and its impact on the regional supply chain, but also to prepare the steelworks for sale.

As a result of the above, many agencies, entities and businesses, at both local, state and federal levels, are working on plans associated with Whyalla's transition at this time. As such, it is appropriate to consider whether Council needs to formalise an avenue to discuss and/or advocate more strenuously for economic development outcomes for the city – ultimately to ensure our community's and business voices are 'heard' by stakeholders making decisions about business/economic opportunities for Whyalla.

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

a) considers the information within the report;

b) writes to the South Australian Premier requesting that the Whyalla Steelworks Transition Unit and Whyalla Regional Co-ordinator provide a quarterly update to a Whyalla Business and Economic Stakeholder Group comprising the State Member for Giles, Council, RDAEP and WBAT;

c) Council, RDAEP and WBAT also provide a quarterly update to a Whyalla Business and Economic Stakeholder Group regarding economic opportunities and challenges in Whyalla and the region; and

d) Whyalla Business and Economic Stakeholder Group to discuss economic opportunities and challenges in Whyalla and the region and make recommendations to Council for consideration (as required).

DUE DATE

Establishment of a Whyalla Business and Economic Stakeholder Group – For Endorsement	15/12/2025

14.3.3 Economic Development Related Matters – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At its October 2025 meeting, Council resolved:

> **Regional Development Australia – Eyre Peninsula – Transitioning of the Steelworks (C5780-2025)**
>
> *"That the RDA Eyre Peninsula be asked to advise on how it can assist with the transitioning of the Steelworks and in particular, how it can assist Council in maximising downstream opportunities from the construction and demolition works and downstream opportunities for both local and new local businesses that will provide services to the works on completion."*
>
> **Construction of New Steelworks – Opportunities (C5781-2025)**
>
> *"That a report be prepared for Council's December meeting, covering how Administration will pursue opportunities for both business and city growth arising from both the construction of the new Steelworks and the subsequent operation of those works and that the report address any perceived shortcomings in Council's Administration in terms of actioning the identified opportunities and the costs to address those shortcomings, if any."*
>
> **Re-establishment of Council's Economic Development Working Party (C5782-2025)**
>
> *"That a report be provided to Council on the merits, or otherwise, of re-establishing Council's Economic Development Working Party, how it would operate and potential membership."*

Council continues to strive for a secure and diverse economic future for Whyalla and meets frequently with State (and infrequently with Federal) agencies, advocating for development opportunities in Whyalla, as well as businesses seeking to establish new or improved business operations in Whyalla.

Council has spent considerable time and afforded great effort in supporting the State Government over the last few years in their ambition to construct their Hydrogen Jobs Plan project and supporting the transition of the State to a greener economy, including green iron and the green steel transition, as this aligns with Council's vision for a stronger and more diversified economy.

Late in 2024, it became apparent to that our largest employer, GFG Alliance/One Steel Manufacturing, was in serious financial and operating difficulty. Intervention by the State Government ensured the survival of the steelworks and mining business, as well as the supporting local contractors/businesses within the supply chain. With that, in February of this year, the business was placed into administration by the State Government and Whyalla suppliers/contractors who could provide proof of debt, had their debt paid by the State Government. These payments assisted local suppliers/contractors in securing their businesses financially in preparation for them to support the efforts required to make the repairs and maintenance to the steelworks and mining plant, to ensure steel production could continue safely, as well as prepare the steelworks for sale.

The administration of our largest employer placed Council's strategic commitment to a prosperous and thriving future for Whyalla in a vulnerable position for the second time in nine (9) years, resulting in conversation about what Council could do to influence the future of steelmaking and mining in Whyalla, and sure up the future of the city.

Since administration commenced, the State Government has introduced various working parties and committees to workshop and debate the future of Whyalla and the Upper Spencer Gulf, some of which includes the membership of Whyalla Council Mayor and/or Council's CEO.

In particular, the Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation Unit (WSITU) has been established to lead the South Australian Government's co-ordinated response to the Whyalla Steelworks administration, and to support the broader industrial and economic transformation of Whyalla.

The unit is responsible for engaging with the steelworks administrator, working closely with the Australian Government on the design and delivery of funding programs, and ensuring the state's strategic interests are represented in the transition to new ownership.

The WSITU also chairs a cross (state) government Whyalla Project Co-ordination Group (WPCG) to co-ordinate the alignment of government-led initiatives in Whyalla, bringing clarity, structure and accountability to this nationally significant transition. Council's CEO is a member of the WPCG.

DISCUSSION

The RDAEP has provided a response to C5780-2025 as per **Annexure "A"**.

In relation to C5781-2025**,** Council's Administration will continue to advocate on behalf of Whyalla in various forums, committees and work groups to maximise the opportunities for both business and city growth arising from both the construction of the new Steelworks and the subsequent operation of those works.

In particular, Council has/will participate in a number of groups where business and city growth opportunities are discussed either directly or indirectly, including:-

- Upper Spencer Gulf Intergovernmental Group (Mayor and CEO)
- Spencer Gulf Board (Mayor and CEO)
- Workforce Advisory Group (CEO)
- Housing Advisory Group (CEO)
- Whyalla Project Co-Ordination Delivery Group (CEO)
- Monthly Executive Meetings with Whyalla Steelworks Transformation Unit (ELT)
- North-West Local Jobs Taskforce (CEO/GMCS)
- TACTIC Conference (Mayor and CEO)
- Workforce Summits (Care Industry and Resources and Construction Industries)

In addition to the above, Council has/will continue to participate in many of the economic development activities that happen within our city, including:-

- TACTIC Meet the Buyer forums.
- Community Engagement Activities (e.g. Korda Mentha 'One Whyalla' forums, Retrenched workers forums, etc.).
- Tours of our city provided and/or presentations to various Visitors/Groups (e.g. TAFE SA, UniSA, RDAEP, LGA/SAROC, WBAT, companies looking to invest in Whyalla, StudyAdelaide, Australian Migrant Resource Centre events).
- Careers roadshows.
- Various Networking and Business Training opportunities (e.g. Whyalla Business and Tourism (WBAT), Enterprising Women, SA Chamber of Commerce, Office of Small Business, Skills Commissioner).

Council is also seeking to leverage the investment in Sovereign Steel Capabilities in Whyalla in line with it's Advocacy Priorities (refer **Annexure "C"**).

Council's focus at this stage in our discussions with various parties has been:

- Housing – both temporary construction workforce accommodation AND permanent housing.
- Workforce attraction and 'grow your own' local employment/training opportunities.
- SA Water infrastructure – seen as an inhibiter to housing and other development.
- Sale/leasing of Council owned land.

Council's Administration are highly engaged with the regional 'eco-system' comprising education, RTOs, industry groups, government agencies, business groups, service providers, contractors. Through this eco-system, relationships and partnering opportunities are always being nurtured.

Council may be satisfied that the representation, advocacy and feedback provided via the Mayor and CEO provides a sufficient 'voice' to Government regarding Whyalla's interests, or that more involvement and input from the Council is desired.

In regards to the merits of re-establishment of Council's Economic Development Working Party (C5782-2025), the key starting point is to determine what is the objective of the party/committee?

Is the purpose of the working party/committee:

a) to be a platform to advocate for development opportunities, ensure Whyalla is front of mind to the State Government and their development and investment teams; or

b) is it to for Council gain further understanding and updates regarding current and future economic development opportunities (and challenges) in the city?

Regarding a) If the preference is for a working party/committee that is seeking to be more involved in economic development opportunities and direct advocacy on behalf of Whyalla, it should include third party representation that can contribute to the conversation/advocacy, provide updates to the committee/working party, and have a direct relationship with State and/or Federal Government and other key stakeholders including major employers/businesses in the city, industry groups, etc.

In 2023, Council renewed its financial membership with Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP), which is an Australian Government initiative established to encourage partnerships between all levels of government and industry to enhance the growth and development of regional communities. RDAEP is funded under a tripartite agreement between Federal, State and Local Government and quote the following on their website:

> *"RDAEP is the lead regional agency for economic, business and tourism development in the region, including:*
>
> - *Developing and reviewing the region's Strategic Plan;*
> - *Facilitating sustainable industry growth and diversification;*
> - *Supporting regional procurement and job creation;*
> - *Encouraging regional tourism initiatives to grow the visitor economy;*
> - *Advocating for the provision of economic enabling infrastructure;*
> - *Assisting with regional workforce attraction, retention and development;*
> - *Fostering partnerships for collaboration to deliver regional development;*
> - *Promoting greater regional awareness of and engagement with Government policies, grants and programs; and*
> - *Improving regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to Governments on regional development issues."*

Council should seek to have RDAEP as a representative on the committee/working party, as they meet the requirements in relation to Government and industry connections and will provide a visual presence and tangible benefit for Whyalla Council in relation to our membership. Their representation on the committee will also assist in reinstating a more mature connection and relationship between the Council and the RDAEP.

Consideration should also be given to Whyalla Business and Tourism as an organisation that provides leadership, advocacy and promotion of local businesses, including new businesses establishing in Whyalla. This will ensure a voice for the business community to strengthen our advocacy position with the Government.

Terms of reference should be established to determine how the working party/committee will operate, and how the recommendations of the committee will be distributed to Government.

Regarding b) Alternatively, if there is little desire to commit to establishing a working party/committee that has a significant direct advocacy component, there is limited benefit for the introduction of such a working party/committee. Rather, it may be appropriate for a more formal or robust reporting structure be put in place to inform Council regarding what key stakeholders are doing to advance Whyalla's interest, with say WSITU, RDA, WBAT and Council's CEO providing a regular update regarding the activities being undertaken and key outcomes.

If Council adopts this option, it is recommended that Council write to the SA Premier requesting that the Whyalla Steelworks Transition Unit (WSITU) and Whyalla Regional Co-ordinator (John Chapman) provide a quarterly update to a newly formed Whyalla Business and Economic Stakeholder Group, and this forum also receive updates from the RDAEP, WBAT and Council CEO.

It is suggested that this Whyalla Business and Economic Stakeholder Group to discuss economic opportunities and challenges in Whyalla and the region and make recommendations to Council for consideration (as required), with membership comprising:

- the State Member for Giles
- Council Members
- Regional Development Australia – Eyre Peninsula
- Whyalla Business and Tourism
- Whyalla Steelworks Transition Unit

Financial Implications – Nil

Strategic Plan

Objective 3.2 – Deliver outcomes outlined in the Economic Development Strategy

Strategy 3.2.1 – Collaborate with relevant industry groups to generate leverage economic opportunities for Whyalla and the region

Legislation – Not applicable

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Not applicable

Risk Assessment – Not applicable

Social Considerations – Not applicable

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

Should Council consider a formal working party/committee that seeks to focus solely on economic development with a strong advocacy role/outcome, it is suggested that investigations are undertaken for the establishment of that working party/committee which consists of third-party representatives such as RDAEP and Whyalla Business and Tourism.

If a more robust workshopping of economic development matters is more desirable, it is suggested that administration format a reporting mechanism which provides detailed updates from the existing taskforce/committee/working party groups which the CEO is a member, along with the occasional workshop.

An Australian Government Initiative

Regional Development Australia

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA EYRE PENINSULA

Justin Commons
Chief Executive Officer
Whyalla City Council
WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608

Annexure "A"

BY EMAIL: justin.commons@whyalla.sa.gov.au

13 November 2025

Dear Justin,

Maximising the benefit of the Steelworks transformation locally.

Thank you for your letter dated 30 October 2025 advising of Council's Ordinary meeting resolutions from 20 October 2025 regarding transitioning of the Steelworks, and how Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula can assist in maximising downstream opportunities for both local and new local businesses.

Following the State Government's decision to place GFG into administration on the 19 February 2025, and to assist the State Government as part of the initial response, RDAEP has been instrumental in delivering a raft of support services to the community on behalf of the Government.

This includes working closely with the Industry Advocate and Whyalla Regional Coordinator and Administrators to disseminate important information to the local business community about the Administration process, and the Government's support package. RDAEP has also delivered mentoring and financial services to affected businesses via funding from the Office for Small and Family Business.

RDAEP has also taken the lead in the delivery of Career Transition Services for those made redundant by ongoing disruptions to the Steelworks. This has included access to a $1.1 million training package via funding from the Department of State Development to ensure Whyalla and the broader region retains its active and skill-ready workforce.

As we move from the initial response phase through to stabilisation and recovery, ahead of transformation, RDAEP is once again positioning itself as a trusted delivery partner for the State Government, both in the dissemination of critical information to the business community about future opportunities, and in the delivery of key enabling services.

5 Adelaide Place | Port Lincoln, SA, 5606
Phone: (08) 8682 6588 | Email: reception@rdaep.org.au

EYRE STH•AUS

To achieve this RDAEP is already in ongoing discussions with the Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation Unit to identify these opportunities, and ensure local businesses are well positioned to obtain maximum benefit from any pending investment. Acknowledging that billions of dollars will be spent transitioning the Steelworks over the next 5 years by both the Australian and State governments and its future owner/s and the plan for this investment likely to be announced in early/mid 2026.

Taking a lead role in the provision of Career Transition Services, and other workforce related initiatives, has been a strategic decision made by RDAEP. The RDAEP Board recognises that without a locally based and job ready workforce our local businesses will simply not be in the position to scale-up to maximise on the significant investment that will be made by the Government and the future owner/s of the Steelworks as part of its transformation.

While our focus to date has been on retaining the local workforce through Career Transition Services, our focus is now starting to shift to that of recovery and transformation to upskill workers and workforce attraction. Acknowledging that additional workers will be required to support local business growth, and the key to achieving this aspect will be the provision of housing, childcare and other related support services.

RDAEP key initiatives include:

Career Transition Service:

The Career Transition Service (CTS) was an initiative of the Local Jobs Program, Jobs Coordinator for North-West Country in collaboration with Resources Engineering Skills Alliance (RESA), Local Jobs Program and RDAEP. This service initially supported those facing redundancy due to the Whyalla Steelworks issues.

RDAEP assumed delivery of the CTS in Whyalla on 20 January 2025 from RESA with the appointment of Career Practitioner Paula Wilson. The CTS was increased to 5 days per week thanks to additional funding from the Office of the SA Skills Commissioner. Then, as of 1 July 2025, RDAEP continued the delivery of the CTS via a new funding agreement with Department of State Development (DSD) under the Regional Industry Partnerships Program.

The CTS has been complemented by the launch of the $1.1m Whyalla Skills Fund by the Department for State Development. Partners have worked closely with the South Australian Government to define the referral and reporting process with the CTS being the access point to the fund, supporting the delivery of the fee free training fund. Since its commencement the initiative has supported over 200 people resulting in more than 70 reported employment outcomes.

Whyalla Skills Fund

Established by Skills SA from 20 February 2025 with delegated authority for approval to RDAEP Career Transition Service. Since commencement:

- 63 candidates referred to training

- over 140 training programs have been accessed by these candidates

Additional referrals made to Workforce Australia providers APM and Workskil to support truck licences not included on Subsidised Training List / Training Priorities List. Candidates have also been referred to Fee Free TAFE for qualifications where appropriate.

A quarterly Career Transition Service Report is provided to DSD directly but due to candidate confidentiality is not included in this report. A summary of training referrals is provided below. Note – candidates are provided with details for all approved providers to select the service that will best meet their needs.

Spencer Gulf Jobs Platform

To complement the package of support services funded by the State Government and being delivered by RDAEP in Whyalla, particularly the Career Transition Service, RDAEP has been successful in securing further funding from the Department for State Development for the creation of a Spencer Gulf Jobs Platform.

This will provide one centralised platform, linking workers made redundant due to Steelworks operational restructuring; people accessing support services (Career Transition Service and Training Package) with locally advertised job opportunities. This will keep people employed locally during this transitional period, enabling businesses to scale-up and maximise from the future investment being made by the Australian and State governments, and future owner/s of the Steelworks, as part of its future transition.

The platform will have two key areas:

Talent Community - Showcases the breadth of opportunities across each region, including the local industries, alongside the diversity of jobs on offer.

Employer Directory - Employer brands can be significant pillars in communities and industries and play an important role regarding total employment and supply chain opportunities.

Showcasing employers, their workplaces and their career opportunities can therefore have a significant pull effect to attract job seekers.

Employer Profiles enables employers to engage and connect with a project, region or industries talent by communicating the company's story, workplace, value proposition and vision to attract job seekers to live roles.

The Employer Profile page content will include:

Employer’s name, logo, images, description, location, map, industry and contact details, Youtube and Vimeo videos.

Each profile page has a unique url, in context of the Talent Community url.

Employer Profile pages are automatically attached to live jobs.

Local Government partners can be featured on the Jobs Platform and as a significant employer in each RDA region will be able to post employment opportunities which will be advertised across all three RDA regions.

Heavy Industry Multi Skills Program

RDAEP is currently in advanced negotiations with the Department of State Development for funding to deliver a Heavy Industry Multi Skills (HIMS) Program in Whyalla.

This program will provide tailored solutions to address barriers to employment for local jobseekers in Whyalla. The unique partnership between prominent employers representing the mining, manufacturing, construction and engineering industries within the region offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to a simulated industry environment, providing necessary accredited and non-accredited training and mentoring supports required for successful workforce transitions.

Where possible, Industry site visits will be included to allow participants direct experience of job and work sites as well the opportunity to meet with employers to hear first-hand the requirements for working within these industries.

The program will be delivered in Whyalla and provide job seekers with a diverse range of skills, experience and support across a range of trade and heavy industry sectors, to ensure the region has a pool of work-ready people to meet the current and future workforce needs of these sectors. Job seekers who successfully complete the course will have the skills required to commence entry-level positions including labourers, operators, apprenticeships, traineeships and trades assistants.

This unique program gives participants the opportunity to complete accredited training including:
- Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure
- Enter and work in confined space
- Work safely at heights
- Licence to operate a forklift
- Basic Welding Skill set (MIG, TIG etc)
- White Card

This accredited training in conjunction with daily safety huddle meetings, soft skills and personal development workshops, drug and alcohol awareness, resume & interview preparation and industry site visits will provide participants with a skill set highly regarded by industry and enable participants to transition to the workplace.
The HIMS program is proposed to be delivered full time (Monday – Friday) at the Whyalla TAFE SA campus over 12 weeks.

As mentioned, and in addition to the above initiatives that are principally focused on workforce retention RDAEP is continuing its ongoing work on workforce attraction, in particular the provision of additional housing and childcare services. Noting RDAEP's work in relation to both areas has now been recognised nationally.

The work the Whyalla City Council is undertaking in relation to it's foreshore upgrades and improving urban amenity for enhanced liveability is also key to workforce attraction and should be commended.

RDAEP also continues to look to diversification of the local economy and seek new and innovative ways to attract, develop and initiate activities relating to Circular Economy, Tourism, Education, Healthcare, Aviation, Defence and Construction. An example of the significant opportunities emerging because of the change in ownership of the Steelworks is the impending sale of the Foreshore Motel. A developer seeking to build a multi-storey hotel and accommodation complex would create enormous ongoing benefit economically during the design and construction phase as well as once operational.

In relation the merit, or otherwise, of re-establishing Council's Economic Development Working Party I believe there would be benefit, and that RDAEP would be more than willing to be a member and contribute where appropriate.

Other potential organisations/members represented could include:

- Justin Commons - CEO, Whyalla City Council (Chair)
- Ryan Viney - CEO, Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula
- Sam Crafter - State Lead, Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation Unit
- John Chapman - Industry Advocate and Whyalla Regional Coordinator
- Robin O'Dea - Manager, Spencer Gulf Workforce
- Matt Hunt - Director for Regional Housing
  Malcolm McLeod - Chair, Whyalla Business and Tourism

If you have any questions or would like further clarification, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Viney
Chief Executive Officer
Director Regional Development

City of Whyalla Advocacy Priorities (as at Nov 2025)

Annexure "C"

Advocacy Goal

To secure key stakeholder commitment and co-ordinated intervention to evolve Whyalla into a contemporary exemplar South Australian Regional Capital City – one that is not only economically productive, but also socially vibrant and environmentally resilient - with sustained targeted population growth, renewed city infrastructure, modern affordable housing, and improved services, amenity and resilient liveability - to underpin the city's sovereign green steel and hydrogen capability and it's contribution to sustainable regional capacity building.

> **Action #1:** Whyalla designated 'Regional Capital City' status and a 'Whyalla Regional Capital City Committee' established to oversee associated social planning and co-ordinated funding and implementation of projects and programs to support sustained population growth, housing and liveability, and skilled workforce attraction/development.

Elements: -

1. **Regional Precinct and Partnership Project – Central Precinct**

Reimagining our city centre to better align with where our community lives, learns, and works, including co-locating education, health, arts, recreation, and civic facilities to create a vibrant, accessible and walkable hub in the centre of our city.

> **Action #2**: State Agencies and other relevant key stakeholders to actively support and participate in the Council initiated Federal Government Regional Precinct and Partnership Project for Whyalla's Central Precinct.
>
> Key Link:
> - Regional Precinct and Partnership Program
> - PLUS City of Whyalla Masterplan
> - Housing roadmap | Department for Housing and Urban Development

2. **Housing and Urban Development - quality diverse accommodation offering and urban renewal**

Contemporary housing and urban renewal development in Whyalla commensurate with Renewal SA developments in metropolitan Adelaide.

> **Action #3**: Joint planning and co-ordination of Housing and Urban Development within Whyalla, including: -
> i. SA Water Infrastructure Augmentation
> ii. ORH sponsored housing development at Foreshore and Pony Club Sites
> iii. ORH sponsored development at Former Whyalla High School
> iv. DHUD/Renewal SA sponsored Masterplan for former Edward John Eyre High School site

Key Links:

- PLUS Regional Plan – Eyre Peninsula
- PLUS City of Whyalla Masterplan
- Housing roadmap | Department for Housing and Urban Development

3. Workforce Attraction and Development

Targeted investment to address regional workforce challenges – attracting, developing and retaining a skilled workforce, improving workforce participation of disengaged and disadvantaged people, and building a workforce to deliver on immediate priorities.

Action #4: Joint planning and co-ordination of Workforce Attraction and Development within Whyalla: -

i. Targeted migration strategy
ii. Work hardening, skills development, supported student pathways
iii. Support for UniHub Spencer Gulf Advocacy Priorities
iv. MOA with Adelaide Uni and Department of Health to designate Whyalla Hospital as a 'regional teaching hospital'
v. MOA with Adelaide Uni and Industry Partners to establish a Centre of Excellence in Green Metals and Renewable Energy

Key Link:

- Spencer Gulf Workforce Strategy
- Spencer Gulf Jobs and Skills Hub
- Green Iron and Steel Strategy
- State Prosperity Plan
- UniHub Spencer Gulf Advocacy Priorities

4. State Sponsored Green Steel and Iron, Hydrogen, Renewable Energy Investment

The recent $2.4 billion commitment from the Albanese and Malinauskas governments to secure the future of the Whyalla Steelworks is not just a lifeline, it's a launchpad. This investment not only stabilises operations but also positions Whyalla to become a national leader in green steel and green iron production. It affirms our strategic importance in the global transition to low-carbon manufacturing and the geopolitical race for critical minerals such as magnetite, graphite and rare earths – resources abundant in our region.

Action #5: Joint planning and co-ordination of State Sponsored Green Steel and Iron, Hydrogen, Renewable Energy Investment within Whyalla: -

i. Green Steel / Green Iron Developments
ii. Green Hydrogen Production
iii. Data Centres
iv. Foundational Infrastructure – Gas, Electricity, Hydrogen, Water, Port Bonython Jetty

Key Links:

- Green Iron and Steel Strategy
- State Prosperity Plan
- South-Australian-Government-Resilience-and-Adaptation-Actions.pdf
- Department for Environment and Water - Government action on climate…
- SA-Net-Zero-Strategy-WEB.pdf

5. Financial Sustainability Support

All efforts listed above should facilitate Council's shift to a financially sustainable future with improved (financial) self-reliance and improved capability/capacity that not only supports Whyalla but also the broader Eyre Peninsula and Spencer Gulf Regions.

Action #6: Joint planning and co-ordination of improved financial sustainability of Whyalla City Council and investment into regional SA capability/capacity : -

i. Subsidise Airport/Air Travel
ii. Payment in Lieu of Council Rates from Steelworks
iii. Financial support for Demolition/removal of old buildings

Key Messages

- Whyalla is South Australia's green industrial powerhouse – "backing Whyalla means backing the State's future prosperity."
- Investment in Whyalla will deliver jobs, exports, and renewable growth for generations.
- Whyalla is transforming from steel city to clean energy city – we need the State Government as a reliable open partner.

15.1 COUNCIL MEMBERS

15.1.1 Mayor Phill Stone – List of Engagements – For Noting

Council Meeting: 15 December 2025
Author's Title: Michelle Armstrong, Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor **File No.:** 0-97

Annexures:
A – LGA Conference Report

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest:
In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Status:
Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To provide a list of engagements attended by Mayor Phill Stone for the period 16 November – 14 December 2025, inclusive.

SUMMARY

A list of engagements attended by Mayor Phill Stone.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the Mayor Phill Stone – List of Engagements report.

DUE DATE

Mayor Phill Stone – List of Engagements – For Noting	15/12/2025

15.1.1 Mayor Phill Stone – List of Engagements – <u>For Noting</u>

<u>REPORT</u>

BACKGROUND

A summary of engagements attended by Mayor Phill Stone is provided on a monthly basis.

DISCUSSION

Monday 17 November 2025

- Weekly briefing with CEO and Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor
- Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 November 2025

- Eyre Peninsula Mayors informal on-line catch-up

  Topics discussed included airline issues, their reliability and continuing dissatisfaction of prices in excess of $600 for a one-way ticket between Adelaide and regional centres when consumers cannot avoid booking close to flight time; general issues of most towns struggling to attract volunteers to community organisations due to changing times and attitudes; concern over the lateness of a local government election review; general discussion re the upcoming SA LGA AGM; night wildlife (primarily kangaroos and emus) road hazards throughout many regional areas and closer to Adelaide significantly a larger issue now than 30 – 50 years ago.

- Wrote the monthly "From the Mayor's Desk" Whyalla News column

Wednesday 19 November 2025

- Monthly meeting with Media and Comms, discussing a range of potential social posting and media release matters
- Meeting with Mr Daniel Price; Regional Manager SA & NT – QANTAS, in the form of a Roundtable Conversation attended by Council Members who were available. The attendance of Mr Price was requested by the Mayor in view of community comments relating to airfare pricing structure. Mr Price took various questions on notice and we now await a response.
- Wrote script and filmed "From the Mayor's Desk" for Council's Facebook page
- Met with representatives of the Steel City Drag Club seeking advice on various matters *(also in attendance, Manager City Activation)*

Thursday 20 November 2025

- Informal lunch with Alligator Energy Board. Also in attendance were other Whyalla business and civic leaders, addressed by Alligator CEO Andrea Marsland-Smith, with the attendees able to meet the board members, discuss regional priorities, and share perspectives on Alligator's activities in the area. (Alligator has held several open community drop-in events to keep in touch with residents.)

Friday – 21 November 2025

- Local Government Association – Annual General Meeting and Conference – Adelaide (refer **Annexure "A"**)

Monday 24 November 2025

- Council Members Briefing Session

Tuesday 25 November 2025

- Council media: Photograph at Mitchell Quinn Playground (McGee Street) announcing a completely re-developed community facility
- 2025 Children's University Whyalla – Graduation Ceremony No. 1 – Guest speaker and co-presenter of certificates

Wednesday 26 November 2025

- 'Movember' participant morning tea fundraiser of Council office staff
- Operation Flinders Whyalla Youth Award Ceremony – attended on invitation to support both the participants and organisers, and gave a closing address
- 2025 Children's University Whyalla – Graduation Ceremony No. 2, due to the high number of participating students – guest speaker and co-presenter of certificates

Thursday 27 November 2025

- 41 ACU Whyalla End of Year Parade (Army Cadet Unit)
  Presented the Cadet of the Year trophy and took the salute at the official parade

Friday 28 November 2025

- Council media: ABC Adelaide Mornings with Rory McLaren, re introduction of the Dry Area
- Council media: 5AA Mornings with Graeme Goodings, re introduction of the Dry Area
- Annual Whyalla Asbestos Victims Memorial Service, Mount Laura Homestead
  Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the ceremony was held indoors but nevertheless was an emotional moment for those in attendance who have lost loved ones through asbestos-related health issues.

Saturday 29 November 2025

- Whyalla Christmas Pageant and Christmas Carols

Monday 1 December 2025

- Council media: ABC Drive, with Narelle Graham re introduction of Dry Area and the site announcement for the proposed desalination plant
- Whyalla Secondary College – Presentation Night

Tuesday 2 December 2025

- Spencer Gulf Cities – Board Meeting
- Talent Management Approach and Organisational Cultural Program with Council Members

Wednesday 3 December 2025

- 2026 EPLGA Conference Planning Meeting
- Visit to Yeltana; Helping Hand – met residents, answered many questions about Council and chatted about the potential way forward in 2026

Thursday 4 December 2025

- Regional Development Australia – Lunch with the EP Board which was meeting in Whyalla
- Whyalla Services Leadership Group Meeting
- Uni Hub – Local Government Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday 5 December 2025

- Council media: Interviews with Channel 9 and ABC TV re the fatal dog attack (Throughout the day, both the Communications Manager and I fielded several email and phone contacts from various media in relation to the incident, which we endeavoured to address with appropriate empathy.)

Monday 8 December 2025

- Weekly briefing with CEO and Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor
- Wrote the final "From the Mayor's Desk" Whyalla News column for 2025
- Attended the Samaritan College Prize Night and, with CEO Justin Commons, met the winner of the Council sponsored award

Tuesday 9 December 2025

- Australia Day Awards – Judging Panel Meeting
- Triple Y – Council Radio Show – the last for 2025 which was a wrap up of Council milestones in 2025, looking ahead to 2026, and highlighting some of the challenges facing Council
- Eyre Peninsula Mayors informal on-line catch-up

  Issues discussed included: New CEO about to be appointed in Ceduna; local government election reform about to be announced; Whyalla's Dry Area; resignation of Cowell mayor; Wallaroo to Lucky Bay (Cowell) ferry service closes until a replacement vessel is available; disappointment at some media "beat ups" and misleading headlines that can harm local communities.

Wednesday 10 December 2025

- Open community event: OneWhyalla Information Session hosted by Sebastian Hams, OneSteel Administrator, with latest update

Thursday 11 December 2025

- EPLGA Workshop as part of the quarterly EPLGA board meeting followed by a networking dinner.

Friday 12 December 2025

- EPLGA Board Meeting – Elliston

Financial Implications – Nil

Strategic Plan

Objective 1.1 – Unearth community pride within the city

Strategy 1.1.1 – Regularly inform the community of Council activities, decisions and actions by promoting positive stories and positive images

Legislation – Not applicable

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Not applicable

Risk Assessment – Not applicable

Social Considerations – Not applicable

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion – Not applicable

Annexure "A"

LGA SOUTH AUSTRALIA
2025 CONFERENCE AND AGM – DRIVING CHANGE, TOGETHER

The following is a range of points, worthy of highlighting as some good salient comments expressed by speakers – individuals and/or organisations.

Financial Sustainability Panel

Facilitator: Davin Lambert

Panel: George Kamencak (Executive Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, ESCOSA), Rob Donaldson (Chair, Local Government Grants Commission), Tim Pfeiffer (CEO, Berri Barmera Council)

- There is never enough grant funding.
- The Commonwealth needs to increase its share of the pie to Local Government.
- Councils need to make hard decisions, tighten capital and operational expenditure, and focus on asset renewal – not new capital expenditure.
- ESCOSA stated asset management is essential, communicate better with local communities and councils must stay on top of IT issues.
- Council Members need to fully understand the importance of regular asset management and budget accordingly.

Why it's not just about the three R's

Facilitator: Daniela Ritorto

Panel: Carol Mills (Director, Institute for Public Policy and Governance, Centre for Local Government), Acting Professor Selina Tually (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Impact), Acting Professor Mark Chou (Associate Professor of Public Policy, the Australian National University)

- State Government has cost-shifted to Local Government.
- Councils are having to deliver more, communities are expecting more, but from where does the additional funding come – ratepayers?
- Local Government is not being remunerated for taking on cost-shifted roles.
- Greater untied grants are needed, not tied grants.
- Councils require secure knowledge of long-term grants.
- Councils are not equipped to deliver all services expected by communities.
- Community wellbeing is placing pressure on growing demands.
- There is more that councils could do for their communities but lack funding.
- Research has revealed that 70% of respondents believed the "Three Rs" was the main role of councils, a higher percentage wants councils to do more at a social level. However, this is then contradicted to a degree when they want councils to do more, but don't want them to have more power to do them.
- Local Government is the most trusted of the three levels of government – but all are less trusted.

Minister Hon Nick Champion MP

Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning.

- Currently focussing on the Greater Adelaide Housing Plan – main location northern suburbs and Murray Bridge.
- Need close collaboration with local government, water and sewers essential for new housing, provision of infrastructure is critical, local government must be at the table with a shared endeavour, need State and Council leadership, it is always better to tackle issues front on, not being reactive.

  (REPORT WRITER'S NOTE: Whyalla Council has been well to the fore for some considerable time, highlighting these very aspects to Government.)

Shadow Minister Sam Telfer MP

Shadow Minister for Local Government.

- Local Government elections report still not finalised and has taken too long. Hoping for significant reform. LGA will need to continue to push for election reform.
- Depreciation is the enemy of Local Government.
- Need a cost-shifting review between State and Local Government

AGM Agenda Item 9.1

Recommendation report from the LGA Board of Directors:

Continued State Government advocacy to remove facilitation and collection of the State Government's Landscape Levy as a responsibility for Local Government Council in SA.

Kangaroo Island Council and The Rural City of Murray Bridge had proposed various items of business, which resulted in a recommendation proposed by LGA.

"That the AGM requests:

1. *LGA to engage with the State Government, renewing advocacy to oppose council collection of the landscape levy, seek a commitment to remove this responsibility from the remit of council and have this function transferred to RevenueSA or another appropriate state agency for collection; and*
2. *LGA to consider, as part of its annual review of the model rates notice, more clearly defining the separation of council rates charges from the state-imposed landscape levy."*

As Whyalla Council's voting delegate, I took the opportunity to second the recommendation, as one clear way of showing our Council's support for the proposal – in consideration of the many times that the matter has been discussed and opposed by Council Members.

Full background documentation can be seen at Attachment 1.

9.1 Continued State Government advocacy to remove facilitation and collection of the State Governments Landscape Levy as a responsibility for Local Government Council in South Australia (Kangaroo Island Council and The Rural City of Murray Bridge)

Recommendation Reports from the LGA Board of Directors

Submitted by:	Kangaroo Island Council and The Rural City of Murray Bridge	
Approved by:	LGA Board of Directors	
Meeting	Annual General Meeting	21 November 2025
ECM:	852877	
Attachment:	1. 848803 – Proposed Item of Business – Continued State Government advocacy to remove facilitation and collection of the State Governments Landscape Levy as a responsibility for Local Government Council in South Australia – Kangaroo Island Council 2. 849218 – Transfer of the Landscape Levy Collection Responsibility from the Local Government to State Government – The Rural City of Murray Bridge	

Recommendation proposed by LGA

That the Annual General Meeting requests:

1. ***LGA to engage with the State Government, renewing advocacy to oppose council collection of the landscape levy, seek a commitment to remove this responsibility from the remit of councils and have this function transferred to RevenueSA or another appropriate state agency for collection; and***
2. ***LGA to consider, as part of its annual review of the model rates notice, more clearly defining the separation of council rates charges from the state-imposed landscape levy.***

LGA Board of Directors' Comments

The Item of Business (IoB) submitted by the Kangaroo Island Council, on continued advocacy to remove councils from collection and remittance of the landscape levy, was tabled at the LGA Board of Directors meeting held on 2 October 2025. The LGA Board also considered the support of SAROC Committee in its deliberation of a significantly similar IoB proposed by The Rural City of Murray Bridge at its meeting on the same day.

Both SAROC Committee and the LGA Board were supportive of the suggestion by the LGA Secretariat to combine these two IoBs into one motion. The LGA Board and SAROC Committee were advised that the respective mayors of both councils who submitted the IoBs had been consulted in the preparation of the revised motion and were supportive of the revision.

LGA Guidelines

The Guidelines outline that all proposals will be assessed against the guiding principles in terms of their strategic importance to local government and the LGA, supporting evidence, alignment with LGA's policy and resourcing requirements.

The matter raised in this IoB has been assessed against these guiding principles which can be summarised in the following table:

LGA Guiding Principle	Comment
Strategic importance	1.1 We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence-based advocacy on issues that matter. 1.2 Governments rely on our proactive contribution to policy and legislation that impacts councils, leading to better outcomes for communities
Supporting evidence	This is an ongoing LGA advocacy priority and has been informed by previous successful AGM motions (most recently in October 2022[1]) that seek to remove councils from having to act as a collection agent for a state-imposed tax.
Alignment with LGA policy	1.2.6 Cost Shifting Cost shifting and unsustainable increases in levies and charges from state government puts significant pressure on council rates and creates fiscal impacts in councils. Local government will continue to rigorously object to cost shifting in any form, including mandatory revenue collection for federal or state government. 7.1.1 Local government recognises that a council's long term financial performance and position is sustainable where planned long-term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates and disruptive cuts to services. Councils shall continue to plan in the long-term to safeguard financial and service security.

[1] LGA AGM - Agenda 28 October 2022, item 7.1 – Landscapes Board Levy, page 237

Resourcing	This work is anticipated on LGA's work program. LGA may repurpose resources and reprioritise other projects, scaling up or down as needed, to accommodate this work. Timeframes for commencement will need to be determined having regard to existing workplans and priorities.

LGA Officer's Comments

(Officer: Sarah Wozniak, Senior Policy Advisor)

LGA is committed to advocating on the removal of the councils from the process of collecting and remitting the state-imposed landscape levy. The primary aim is to shift this responsibility from local governments to a state agency, such as Revenue SA.

To support this advocacy, LGA is exploring options to survey members on their experiences with the collection process. The survey will gather data on the financial and administrative costs to councils, including issues like unpaid or late levy payments and the resources required to manage ratepayer inquiries.

About the Landscape South Australia Act (LSA Act)

The LSA Act promotes sustainable and integrated management of the state's landscapes and to make provision for the protection of the state's natural resources.

The State Government and Department for Environment and Water (DEW), along with the eight regional landscape boards are responsible for management of the state's landscapes and natural resources under the framework provided by the LSA Act, funded by the landscape levy. This levy is currently collected by local councils and remitted to the state.

Operation of the LSA Act and landscape levy

Section 66 of the LSA Act imposes the responsibility directly onto councils *'...to make a contribution towards the costs of the [regional landscape] board performing its functions under this Act'*. In turn, section 69 of the LSA Act permits councils to 'reimburse themselves' for this contribution by imposing a levy on rateable land within the region. This means that the framework places the obligation of the financial contribution, and the burden of this, squarely onto councils themselves, not ratepayers; while in practice, this cost is passed on to ratepayers indirectly through the council rating process.

Ongoing advocacy

On behalf of members, LGA maintains a long-standing strong opposition to the approach taken under the LSA Act. This state-imposed tax would be more appropriately collected by a state entity such as Revenue SA, e.g. through inclusion on Department of Treasury and Finance notices for land tax or the emergency services levy.

When the LSA Act came into operation in late 2019, it replaced the former framework for management of natural resources under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. During

the debate on the relevant Bill[2], the State Government's representative rejected LGA's position that this tax would be more appropriately collected by Revenue SA saying that *'…previous reviews have concluded that local government provides the most cost-effective levy collection option…'* among other commentary regarding options for councils to recover associated set-up and ongoing costs of this task.

LGA strongly objects to this type of cost shifting mechanism being used by the state government, where local governments are footing the bill for the associated administrative and financial burden of a confusingly named levy from which they derive little direct benefit.

Through LGA's annual review of the model rates notice[3], wording about the landscape levy has been progressively strengthened to provide information to ratepayers about this state-imposed tax. This could be further reviewed and improved in future to more clearly define the separation in council rates charges from the state tax. The current model rates notice states:

> *State Government Landscape Levy*
>
> *The Regional Landscape Levy is a State Government property tax collected by councils under the Landscapes South Australia Act 2019. All funds are provided to your Regional Landscape Board. For more information, visit your local Landscape Board [insert relevant board name] at www.landscape.sa.gov.au or phone xxxx xxxx. Any concerns should be directed to your local State MP.*

Other items of business on the landscape levy

This matter was last brought to the full membership at the AGM on 28 October 2022[4] where the following motion was carried:

> *'That the Annual General Meeting requests the Local Government Association to request the State Government review the manner which they collect the Landscape levy from local communities. With the desired outcome being one in which Revenue SA collect the levy directly in alignment with the Emergency Services levy.'*

As noted in the above section of this report, in this cycle, two member councils submitted significantly similar IoBs for consideration by the wider membership at the AGM in November 2025, being to renew advocacy against local government having to collect and remit the landscape levy to the State Government. With support of both submitting member councils, the resulting revised motion is presented for consideration.

LGA notes that to remove councils from the process to collect and remit the landscape levy requires substantive changes to the LSA Act itself through the tabling of a Bill in the SA Parliament. Due to the timing of the forthcoming State Election due to be held in early 2026, even with the ongoing advocacy of LGA on this matter, it is unlikely that the Government will consider tabling of a suitable Bill to take effect before the State Election.

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[2] Landscape South Australia Bill – Second Reading, Legislative Council Hansard Tuesday 23 July 2019 (page 4143, Hon Michelle Lensink MLC), available at SA Parliament Hansard - Home

[3] Updated LGA Model Rates Notice for 2025-26 | LGA South Australia

[4] LGA AGM - Agenda 28 October 2022, item 7.1 – Landscapes Board Levy, page 237

However, LGA has included this matter in the proposed draft 2026 State Election Advocacy Platform.

Independent Review of the LSA Act

The LSA Act mandates an independent review after three years of operation. In July 2023, Hon John Hill was appointed to conduct this review. LGA actively participated in the process, providing written and verbal submissions and engaging with the advisory group.

The 2024 report handed down by the Hon John Hill[5] cited a lack of evidence that councils were financially and administratively burdened by their role in collecting and carrying debt from unpaid levies. The report went on to say:

> *'If evidence is provided in the future, this should be investigated further to confirm whether councils are able to recover the appropriate costs from landscape boards and are not being financially burdened.'*

The State Government is yet to formally respond to the review's findings, although in July 2025, the then Deputy Premier advised LGA that as an initial response, she had instructed DEW, jointly with the landscape boards, to undertake a review of the State Landscape Strategy.

Drought relief advocacy

LGA understands the impacts of drought on our members in regions in this year have been significant. We wrote to the Deputy Premier on 3 June 2025 requesting to align the landscape levy to receipt of funds during this drought period, including introducing extended payment periods under the LSA Act and its associated regulations to enable councils to remit the levy to the State Government based on actual receipt of funds, rather than a complete amount at scheduled intervals. This would allow councils to remit the levy as payments are received from ratepayers and would support more sustainable financial management.

The Deputy Premier responded that, as the payment scheme and interest provisions are outlined in the LSA Act itself, there is no current capacity to formally amend the scheme in the short-term. This is consistent with independent legal advice which LGA received in relation to this proposal.

However, the Deputy Premier advised LGA that she had also instructed DEW to work with the general managers of the regional landscape boards to investigate options to make administrative adjustments to the arrangements in response to our concerns raised on the payment of the landscape levies in drought affected areas.

This interim request measure was designed to give more immediate relief to councils in collecting and remitting the landscape levy where ratepayers in their regions have been suffering under significant drought pressures.

[5] Landscape SA Act - Review Report - 2024, page 30

This activity does not replace LGA's ongoing advocacy to seek removal of councils from entire process of collecting and remitting the landscape levy, which is the long-term aim.

Implications

Financial and resource

LGA may repurpose resources and reprioritise other projects, scaling up or down as needed, to accommodate this work. Timeframes for commencement will need to be determined having regard to existing workplans and priorities.

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LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the LGA Constitution. Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines.

Council name	Kangaroo Island Council
The body the item is being referred to *Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.*	LGA Board of Directors
Subject of the proposed item of business	Continued State Government advocacy to remove facilitation and collection of the State Governments Landscape Levy as a responsibility for Local Government Councils in South Australia.
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	That the Annual / Ordinary General Meeting requests the LGA to; That **LGA SA continues to advocate the South Australian State Government to have the Landscape Levy removed from Councils responsibility to collect and renews their advocacy efforts in relation to the local government sector opposition to collection of the levy.**
Supporting information *Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of*	The **Landscapes South Australia Act 2019** replaced the **Natural Resources Management Act 2004** and establishes a framework for managing the state's natural resources through **regional Landscape Boards**. The **Landscape Levy** is a statutory charge imposed on rateable land within each region to fund the operations of the Landscape Boards.

the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.	The **Levy is collected by Local Government Councils** on behalf of the State Government and then remitted to the relevant Landscape Board or the State Government. The amount payable is determined annually and is not retained by councils. **Key Issues for Local Government Councils** 1. **Administrative Burden** o Councils are required to calculate, collect, manage, and remit the levy without retaining any revenue. o This includes system changes, billing, handling of queries and disputes, and managing public inquiries — all of which require significant staff time and resources. 2. **Financial Impact** o Councils receive limited compensation for costs incurred in administering the levy. o Cost recovery is limited, creating a financial impost on local government budgets. o The obligation for Councils to remit the Landscape Levy quarterly in advance places financial pressure on Councils in instances where rate payers are under financial hardship. 3. **Ratepayer Confusion and Reputational Risk** o Ratepayers often do not distinguish between council rates and the levy, leading to confusion and dissatisfaction. o Councils may face reputational damage for a tax they neither control nor benefit from. o Councils have no input in relation to critical projects for Landscape Levy spend. 4. **Lack of Control or Influence** o Councils have no input into the amount or structure of the levy, yet are responsible for enforcing its collection. o Discrepancies between regional needs and levy allocations further frustrate councils and communities. 5. **Legal and Compliance Risks** o Councils must ensure full compliance with legislative requirements for collection and remittance, including timelines and auditing, exposing them to legal risk without corresponding authority. **Impact on South Australian Local Government Councils** • **Operational Strain**: Council staff and systems are diverted to manage a state-imposed function, affecting delivery of core local services. • **Budget Pressure**: Additional unfunded work constrains council resources, particularly in smaller or regional councils. • **Community Relations**: Negative perceptions arise when councils are seen as tax collectors for the state, weakening trust and accountability at the local level. Or as having a say in the rate and allocation of the Landscape Levy.

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	• **Advocacy for Reform**: The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA SA) and individual councils have advocated for a revised funding model that either: o Removes councils from the collection role; or o Provides full cost recovery for administrative functions. **In summary -** Collection of the State Government's Landscape Levy by Councils as determined by the Landscapes Act SA and the responsibilities of Councils under the Local Government Act 1999 is an administrative, financial and political burden on Council's and community rate payers. The State Government should be encouraged to facilitate the collection of the Landscape Levy via State Government Revenue SA mechanisms in the same manner as the Notice of Emergency Services Levy Assessment. Clarity of charges from Councils and responsibilities of Councils would be provided to community members through the direct facilitation of the Landscape Levy by State Government. The current arrangement under the **Landscapes SA Act** places an administrative and financial burden on local councils for a function that primarily serves state and regional objectives. Kangaroo Island Council calls for a more equitable model that recognises the role and resource constraints of local government in South Australia.
Regional LGA *(Information requested from councils in SAROC only)* *Advise if this item has been considered by your RLGA and outcome of discussion*	Kangaroo Island Council's review of published SHLGA documents and minutes did not find a specific review or investigation into the facilitation of the Landscape Levy by State Government through Local Councils. Southern & Hills LGA engaged in relation to NRM / Landscape Levy reviews in **2018** and changes (as noted in their Key Outcomes Document dated **7 February 2020**) • Landscape Bill o Collection of NRM levy is still in the legislation. This despite the State now having a mechanism through the ESL to collect its own taxes. Opposition Labor opposed the NRM levy being collected via LG rates but could not obtain the Greens vote to eliminate this aspect o However it was noted the LG sector had previously embraced the idea of the levy collection SHLGA may be able to provide more recent information.
LGA Policy Manual *Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or*	(View LGA's Policy Manual) 7.1.1 Local government recognises that a council's long term financial performance and position is sustainable where planned long term service and infrastructure levels and standards are met without unplanned increases in rates and disruptive cuts to services. Councils shall continue to plan in the long-term to safeguard financial and service security.

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amendment to existing policy)?	
LGA Strategic Plan reference	(View the plan and identify the Key Initiative and Strategy reference) *(choose only one Key Initiative and one Strategy)* 1. Advocate – Achieve greater influence for local government. 1.1 We are close to our members, seek their feedback and represent them with evidence based advocacy on issues that matter.
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Clare Jones pa@kicouncil.sa.gov.au 08 8553 4506
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	12 August 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting Minute: OM289:2025 Moved: Cr B Teasdale, Seconded: Cr S Pledge That Council resolves: 1. That Mayor Pengilly proposes an item of business to the Local Government Association South Australia, Ordinary General Meeting on 21 November 2025; being that the, LGA SA continues to advocate the South Australian State Government to have the Landscape Levy removed from Councils responsibility to collect and renews their advocacy efforts in relation to the local government sector opposition to collection of the levy. CARRIED | Minute: OM289:2025
Date submitted to LGA	12 August 2025

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.
Refer to LGA OGM/AGM Webpage in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

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LGA General Meeting – Proposed Item of Business

The purpose of this form is to request consideration by SAROC, GAROC or the Board of Directors of an item of business to be included on the agenda of an LGA General Meeting - refer Clause 16.3.1 of the LGA Constitution. Prior to submitting a proposed Item of Business, please refer to the Considering Proposed Items of Business for LGA General Meetings Guidelines.

Council name	The Rural City of Murray Bridge
The body the item is being referred to *Proposals may only be submitted to the ROC of which council is a member, or to the LGA Board of Directors.*	Board of Directors OR SAROC OR GAROC *(choose only one)* SAROC
Subject of the proposed item of business	Transfer of Landscape Levy Collection Responsibility from Local Government to State Government.
Proposed motion for the General Meeting	Request for the LGA to urgently engage with the State Government to: 1. Advocate for the transfer of the State Government Landscape Levy collection responsibility from Local Government to RevenueSA or another appropriate State agency, to take effect prior to 1 July 2026; 2. Secure a firm commitment from the State Government to remove the State Government Landscape Levy collection responsibility from Local Government in advance of the upcoming State election; and 3. Formally notify the State Government that Member Councils of the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association are actively considering the option of issuing modified rates notices to clearly distinguish the State Government Landscape Levy from council-imposed rates and charges, in the interests of transparency and accountability.
Supporting information *Provide a summary of the issue(s), relevant background information, description of the impact on the sector and evidence that this is an item of strategic importance to local government.*	The collection of the State Government's Landscape Levy by local councils places an administrative and reputational burden on local government, as it creates confusion among ratepayers regarding the origin and purpose of the charge. This motion seeks to shift the collection responsibility to a State agency (e.g. RevenueSA), improving transparency and ensuring

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	ratepayers clearly understand that the levy is imposed by the State Government, not councils. It also responds to ongoing concerns raised by multiple councils in the Murraylands and Riverland region about the negative impact this practice has on community trust, council resources, and local government accountability. This matter is of strategic importance to all councils subject to the Landscape Levy, particularly regional councils, and aligns with the broader sector goal of clarifying local vs state revenue responsibilities.
Regional LGA *(Information requested from councils in SAROC only)* *Advise if this item has been considered by your RLGA and outcome of discussion*	This item was discussed at the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association meeting on 31 July 2025, where member councils expressed strong support for the motion and agreed that coordinated advocacy was needed.
LGA Policy Manual *Does this item require a change to the LGA Policy Manual (new policy or amendment to existing policy)?*	(View LGA's Policy Manual) Yes
LGA Strategic Plan reference	(View the plan and identify the Key Initiative and Strategy reference) **Key Initiative:** Effective Advocacy **Strategy:** Proactively represent and advocate for local government priorities to State and Federal Governments
Council Contact Officer submitting form	Samara McKenzie s.mckenzie@murraybridge.sa.gov.au (insert telephone number)
Council Meeting minute reference and date of meeting	Minute Ref: Item 702 – The Rural City of Murray Bridge Council Meeting held on 11 August 2025
Date submitted to LGA	14/08/2025

Please return Word version of completed form to lgasa@lga.sa.gov.au.
Refer to LGA OGM/AGM Webpage in respect to deadlines for upcoming General Meetings.

15.2 CORPORATE SERVICES/CITY GROWTH

15.2.1 Monthly Information Report – December 2025

Council Meeting:	15 December 2025		
Author's Title:	Yusuf Khan – Manager Assets and Planning, Tanvir Sadeque – Airport Operations Lead, Christine Gourlay – Whyalla Early Learning Centre Coordinator, Lucas Trevisan – Acting Manager City Development, Natalie Williams – Library Coordinator, Lauren Green – People and Culture Business Partner	**File No.:**	0-1
Directorate:	Corporate, City Growth		

Annexures:

A – Information Reporting Calendar
B – Indicative Schedule of Upcoming Items
C – Staffing Update
D – Asset Management (Recreation Centre Update deferred to April)
E – Airport Operations
F – Whyalla Early Learning Centre
G – Building and Planning
H – Library Services (carried over from October)

Officer Direct or Indirect Conflict of Interest: *In accordance with Local Government Act 1999, Section 120*		**Status:** *Information classified confidential under Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act*	
☐ **Yes**	☑ **No**	☐ **Yes**	☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

The purpose of this monthly report is to provide a summary of key activities over a twelve-month period highlighting how the ongoing activities of Council are contributing to Whyalla's wellbeing, economy, environment and leadership.

DISCUSSION

Council Administration have developed a calendar of reporting that provides information about key activities across Council services to:

- Inform the community and Council members of key activities and achievements in the reported period and service area.
- Celebrate milestones and report on operational activities for the past quarter as well as expected focus areas for the next quarter.
- Provide opportunity for Council to monitor performance and ensure the work of Council is continuously aligned with community expectations.

The calendar of reporting is provided at **Annexure "A"**. Note that other activity reports are provided separately as identified.

In addition to the calendar of reporting, Administration also maintains an Indicative Schedule of Upcoming Items outlining possible reports that will be listed for consideration at future Council, Audit and Risk Committee and Chief Executive Review Panel meetings over a rolling four-month period.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the:

1. **calendar of information reporting over the course of 12 months;**
2. **indicative Schedule of Upcoming Items to be considered at future Council meetings;**
3. **Staffing Update and;**
4. **November 2025 activity reports for the following services:**

    - **Asset Management (Recreation Centre Update deferred to April)**
    - **Airport Operations**
    - **Whyalla Early Learning Centre**
    - **Building and Planning**
    - **Library Services (carried over from October)**

ANNEXURE "A"

INFORMATION REPORTING CALENDAR

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Open Space	Customer Experience	Corporate Services	Asset Mgmt (inc Rec Cnt)	Open Space	Customer Experience	Corporate Services	Asset Mgmt	Open Space	Customer Experience	Corporate Services	Asset Mgmt (inc Rec Cnt)
Civil Works	Community & Library Services	Regulatory Services	Airport Operations	Civil Works	Community & Library Services	Regulatory Services	Airport Operations	Civil Works	Community & Library Services	Regulatory Services	Airport Operations
Waste	RAP	Economic Dev	Whyalla Early Learning Centre	Waste	RAP	Economic Dev	Whyalla Early Learning Centre	Waste	RAP	Economic Dev	Whyalla Early Learning Centre
Env / Climate	Community Engage / Media & Comms	Tourism & Events	Building & Planning	Env / Climate	Community Engage / Media & Comms	Tourism & Events	Building & Planning	Env / Climate	Community Engage / Media & Comms	Tourism & Events	Building & Planning

Other regular reports include:

- Monthly CEO action report, providing an update on the progress of Council resolutions
- Monthly finance report, providing a regular update on Council's financial position, identified budget issues and progress on Council's major capital and operational projects
- Quarterly budget review, updating projections of Councils' operating and capital budgets for the relevant financial year, identifying any variations sought to Councils' original budget and the resulting cumulative financial implications
- Quarterly procurement update, outlining procurement activities for the quarter including policy exemptions and local spend
- Half yearly performance report, outlining performance against Council's adopted key performance indicators
- Annual report, providing a compilation of key achievements during the year, performance against Council's adopted key performance indicators and end of year financial statements.
- Community grants

ANNEXURE "B"

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION
for the period December 2025 – March 2026

Monday **15 December 2025**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report • Whyalla Early Learning Centre • Construction of New Steelworks – Opportunities • Council Member Access to Information Policy • Safe Environment Policy • Re-establishment of Council's Economic Development Working Party • Roads and Public Place Naming Policy • Request for Services Policy and Procedure
Monday **19 January 2026**	**COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION** •
Tuesday **27 January 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Representation Review • **Safe Environment Policy**
Monday **2 February 2026**	**COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION** •
Monday **16 February 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report
Friday **20 February 2026**	**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING** • Financial Hardship Policy – Retail Water Customers • Procurement & Contractor Management • Retail Water – Pricing • Water Connection and Billing
Monday **2 March 2026**	**COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEFING** •
Monday **16 March 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** •

Annexure “C”

Staffing Update December 2025

	Employee Name	Position Title	Start Date	End Date	Length of service	Comments
Staff Leaving	Nathan Gale	Environmental Health Officer	17/12/2018	30/11/2025	6 years, 11 months, 29 days	Resignation
Staff Leaving	Mark Adams	Airport Operations Officer	01/02/2024	14/11/2025	1 year, 9 months, 13 days	Resignation

Asset Management

This Asset Management report provides details on matters relevant to the Infrastructure Asset Management Team (if not separately reported) covering all asset classes being Transport, Stormwater, Buildings and Structures, Plant and Equipment, Recreation and Open Space and Irrigation. The Asset Management team is also responsible for all aspects of property management including building maintenance and lease/license administrative management.

Building Maintenance

In the months of January to August 2025 the Building Maintenance team responded to 467 requests for maintenance of public buildings, compared to 315 requests in the same period for 2024, these actions included request for electrical, plumbing and carpenter repairs.

Of note major maintenance activities included:

- Library Doors – Upgrading emergency exit doors with signage and change of handle/door alarm and outside paver access cleared
- Tanderra Craft Village – Block H pressure cleaned concrete verandah and resealed with paint to prevent tripping hazards
- Whyalla Recreation Centre – Repainted 3 pool columns while the pool was emptied for repairs
- Cuttlefish Dive Site – Sand/oil bench tops and sand/paint of Wi-Fi node bench seat
- Whyalla Early Learning Centre – Installed new Daikin air conditioning unit in the existing section
- Library – Installed 6 new compressors for air conditioning
- Field Street Hall - Upgrade/replacement of electrical switchboard
- Civic Park Public Toilets – Refurbishment
- Vandalism to various buildings; Memorial Oval, Bennett Oval, Civic Building Grundel Street, Whyalla Early Learning Centre, Norton Park Public Toilets, Mount Laura Homestead, Civic Park Depot

In addition to the above, management of Council's longer-term contracts for pest control, septic desludging, building fire safety and air conditioning servicing and cleaning, solar panel servicing and cleaning has been ongoing.

Evacuation Plans are currently under review across all sites with Adelaide Fire Solutions and Eyre Peninsula Fire & Safety working on plans for the Whyalla Early Learning Centre with EP Fire and Safety.

Inspections of Council buildings are ongoing across council sites.

Start-up meetings have been held, and the contractors have commenced work under the 3-year contracts for Testing and Tagging and Fire Safety, these contracts were let in late October.

Inspections of Council Buildings are ongoing across Council sites.

Property Leasing and Licencing

Council administration has conducted an extensive review of all leases and licences over recent times, which revealed significant inconsistencies in relation to how we charge our lessees. Many leases and licence do not appropriately reflect the value of the land and buildings and hence a clear framework has now been adopted based on categorising lease holders into user groups. Letters to all affected lessees have now been sent and following this, all leases currently in holding over will transition onto new lease agreements.

Current statistics:

26 agreements completed in since July 2025 – 24 existing and 2 new

Expired Leases:

34 Expired Leases
- 26 ground leases
  - 10 final agreements ready to be signed – pending the completion of the fees and charges review. Final agreements will be forwarded for execution prior to the end of this calendar year.
  - 16 draft agreements currently under negotiations
- 8 building leases
  - 2 final agreements ready to be signed – pending the completion of the fees and charges review. Final agreements will be forwarded for execution prior to the end of this calendar year.
  - 3 draft agreements out for negotiation
  - 3 on hold – strategic review/ building rationalisation

2 Expired Licences: Oval Facilities
- 2 draft licences currently under negotiation. Final agreements will be forwarded for execution prior to the end of this calendar year.

It is anticipated that all expired leases currently in the negotiation phase will be renewed in the first quarter of 2026.

Lease Expiries Due:

14 current agreements are due to expire within the next 6 months:
- 1 ground lease
- 1 hall licence
- 2 marina berth licences
- 7 oval licences
- 3 cuttlefish dive site licences

City Works Permits (Local Government Act 1999, Section 221)

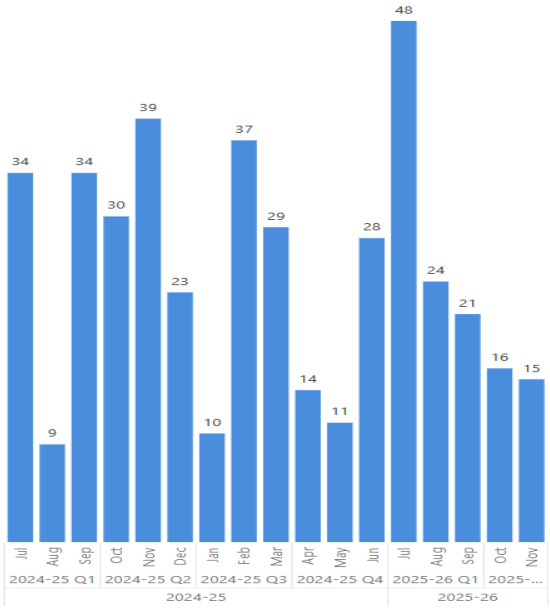
Driveway installations: 7
Landscaping: 4
Misc (soil samples, temporary occupation of Council land): 7

A total of 9 driveway permits, 4 landscaping and 1 miscellaneous permits were issued for the same period last year.

Council has commenced using the digital platform for creating and recording the incoming City Works Permits in the ESRI Arc GIS mapping system.

National Heavy Vehicle Permit (NHVR)

The number of National Heavy Vehicle Permit (NHVR) consents shows clearly changes across the recent reporting periods. In **Quarter 4 of 2024/25**, a total of **53 consents** were issued. This quarter included a steady rise in applications across April, May and June, finishing with June being the busiest month in that period.
Moving into the new financial year, activity remained strong. In **Quarter 1 of 2025/26**, there were **93 consents**, which is the highest quarterly total in the dataset. This indicates continued strong demand from transport operators using Whyalla's road network, particularly for higher mass limit and multiple-trailer vehicle combinations.
For **Quarter 2 of 2025/26**, the number of consents currently sits at **31**, but this is only a **partial result**, and we expect this figure to increase as more applications are processed over the coming weeks.
Overall, the data shows that permit activity peaks toward the end of each financial year and remains strong at the start of the next year, before slowing as the reporting period progresses. These trends help Council plan resources and ensure efficient processing of heavy vehicle movements across Whyalla roads.



2025 Buildings, Structures and Open Space Assets Condition Rating and Revaluation

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1999 for Council to undertake revaluations on all asset classes. Council's schedule for undertaking these revaluations is depicted below.

Asset Category	Revaluation Year
Buildings, Structures and Open Space	2025 – completed handed over to finance
Irrigation	2026 – Preparing RFQ for New Year
Transport	2027
Stormwater	2028

This review will also include making required updates to our GIS System, migrating relevant assets from other asset classes and undertaking general improvements where possible.

Asset Management Planning

A draft 'Asset Management System Roadmap' based on ISO55000/1, International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) and Green Infrastructure Management Manual (GIMM) has been developed. A Draft Asset Management Policy and draft operating model have been submitted to the ELT for review. Once endorsed by Executive Leadership Team (ELT) these documents will be presented to Council.

Three in-house workshops on the Asset Management system development and implementation of the roadmap have been conducted and more are planned for this year and next year to develop the team's capability. The workshop included Asset, Operations and Project delivery teams, Finance and IT representatives.

Annual Renewal Programs

Council schedule renewal programs to assist spreading renewal expense over time thereby mitigating the risk of large renewal programs being due in the same annual business plan.

The Financial Plan has been completed; however, Council's Asset Management Team are working on developing an Asset Management Plan (AMP).

Draft Project Briefs for the 2026-27 financial year renewal projects are being prepared to enable smooth transition for the upcoming annual business plan.

Point Lowly Dock Removal

The removal of the Point Lowly dock is planned with demolition scheduled for January 2026 (weather permitting).

Whyalla and Point Lowly Marina Dredging

Site preparation has been completed, the dredging of the Whyalla Marina will commence in the second week of December 2025, depending upon the weather. The Point Lowly dredging will commence mid-January 2026 next year depending on weather conditions.

Whyalla Boat Ramp Upgrade

The initial set up has been started and onsite precast slab works will commence from first week of December 2025.

Grant Funding

The team have also continued to manage the Roads to Recovery funding program along with the Local Government Community Infrastructure Funding. Both of these funding programs require quarterly reporting to external agencies.

GIS & ESRI

Automation of Council building inspections is currently being worked through and remains ongoing

Field maps have been tested and successful for field worker usage.

Annexure “E”

Airport Report (July – October 2025)

Overview

In July and August 2025, the Operations Team remained fully engaged in the final phase of the runway upgrade project, successfully completing the grooving works. Team members also undertook specialist training delivered by Fulton Hogan, covering Aerodrome Ground Lighting systems and maintenance of navigational equipment.

In addition, the team coordinated closely with contractors to complete several post-project emergency works, including the decommissioning of the old generator, ensuring continuity of safe and compliant airport operations.

Compliance

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) conducted a further audit assessing current airport security measures. The team successfully provided all required evidence to demonstrate compliance with regulatory obligations applicable to Whyalla Airport as the Aerodrome Operator.

Internal security controls also continued as scheduled, including regular security inspections and Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) verification of aerodrome users.

Current Projects

- **Tiedown points for GA operators:** Tiedown points installation has been completed and are now in service. This initiative follows recommendations from the LGRS consultant to enhance aircraft security and reduce operational risk.
- **Terminal Window Tinting:** All windows’ facing airside has been tinted as per customer and QantasLink request to ensure passenger comfort especially during summertime.
- **Preparation for Infrastructure Upgrade:** Early works for airside fenceline realignment, upgrading of the main switch board and airport main water line replacement have commenced.

Leases/Licenses

- Leasing processes for the Hangar has been completed.
- Leasing of Aviation Fuel Facility has been finalised to improve service delivery while reducing operational costs. Aviation fuel stock kept in July 2025 has been sold to the

lessee as per Whyalla City Councils guideline and therefore no aviation fuel sales information is available in this report.

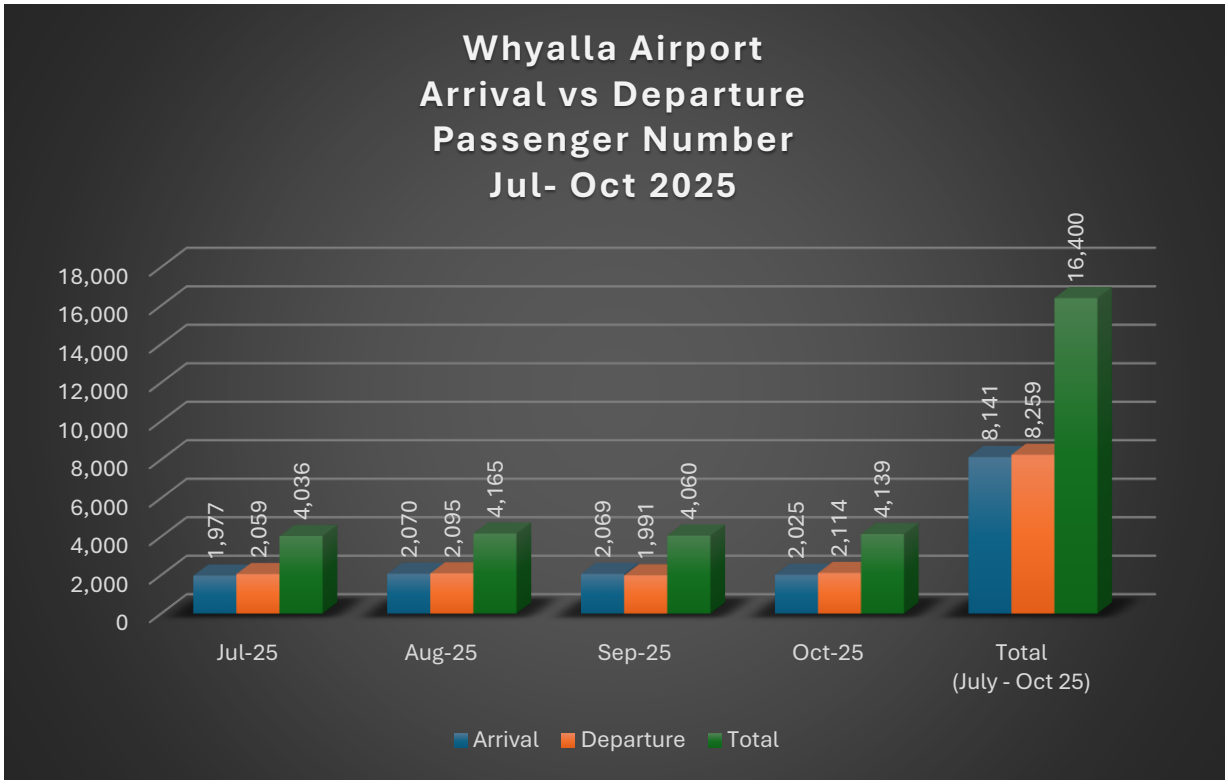
Maintenance

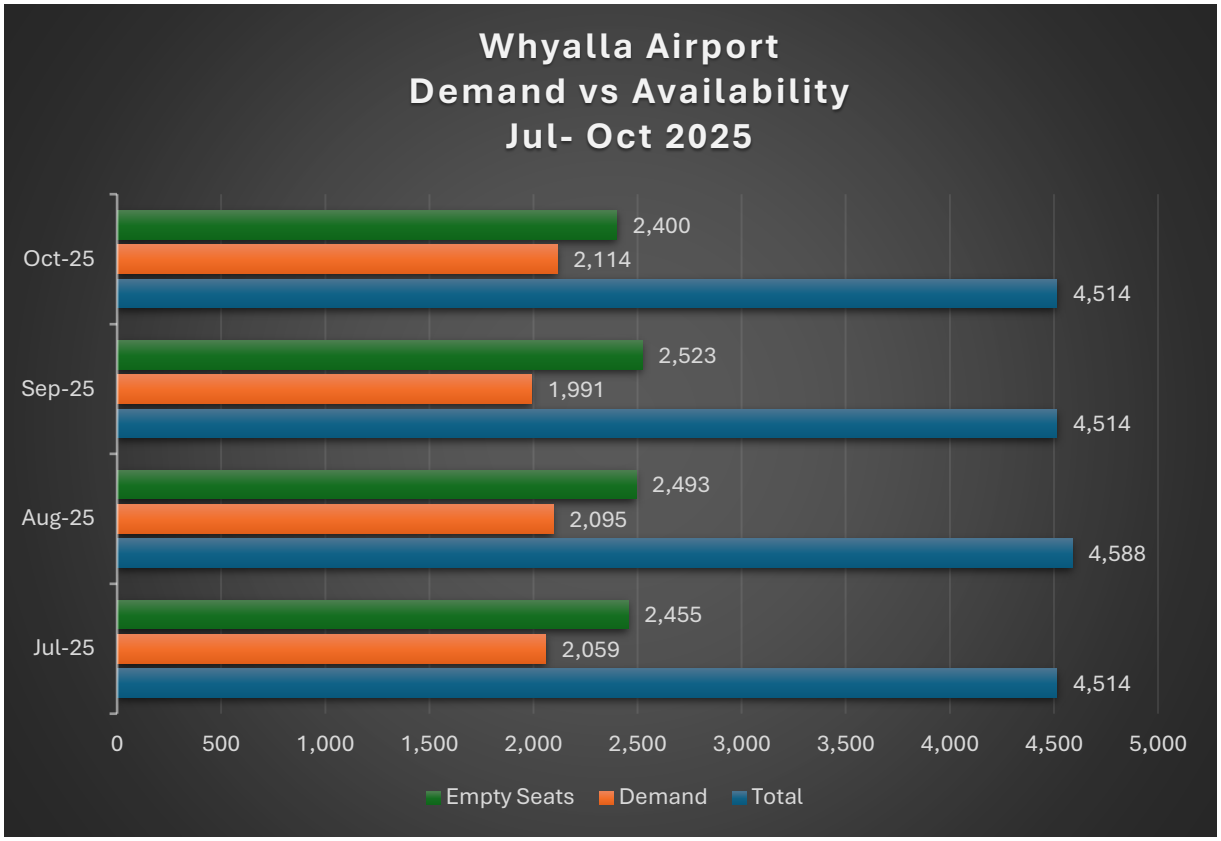
Routine and project-based maintenance activities undertaken during the reporting period include:

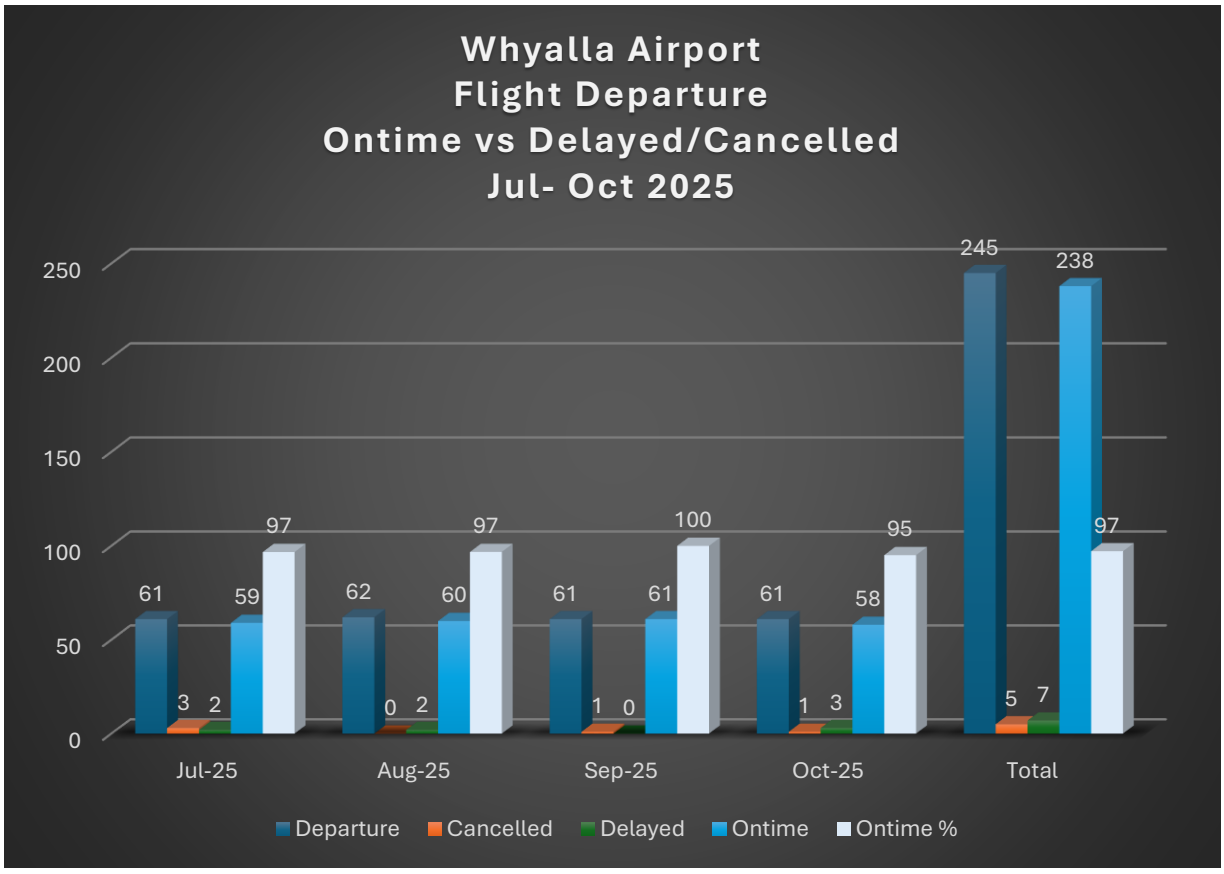
- Scheduled servicing of the terminal building's central air-conditioning system.
- Relocation of the airside gate located on the Lincoln Highway in accordance with Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's requirements.
- Investigation and rectification of the power supply issue affecting RPT Bay 2.

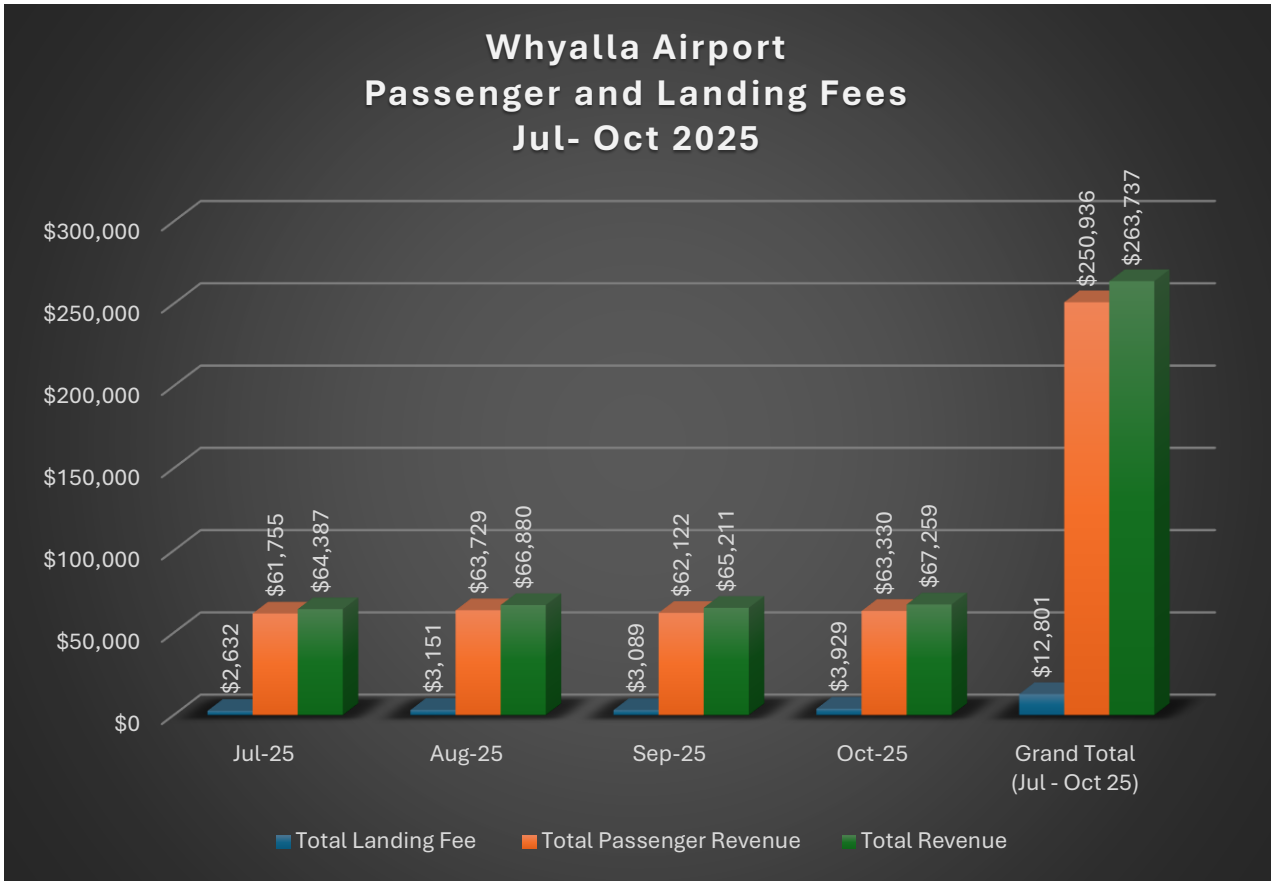
Passenger Numbers

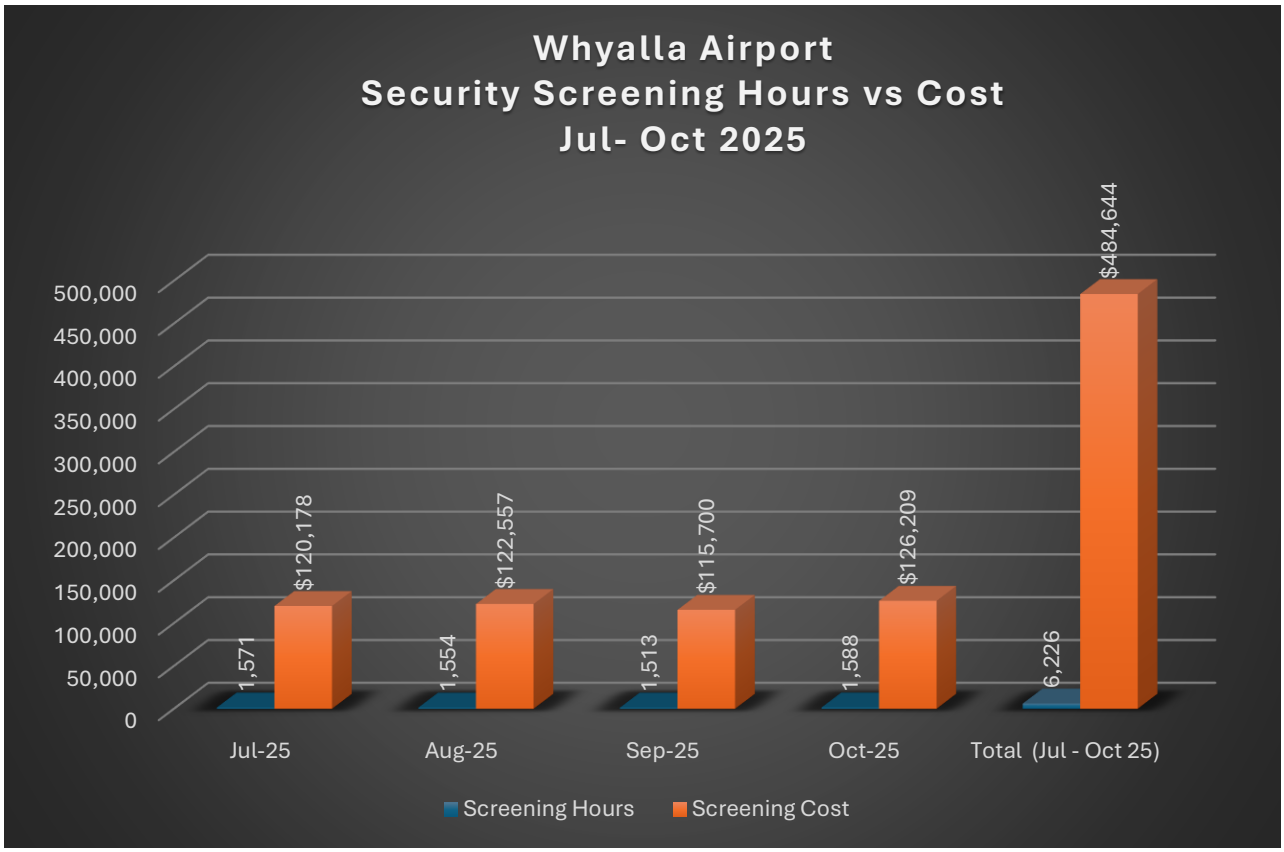
Passenger traffic between July to October 2025 was higher compared to April to June 2025 with an average monthly growth rate of 8.5%. Increased capacity of QantasLink Q400 has played a significant role in this growth.

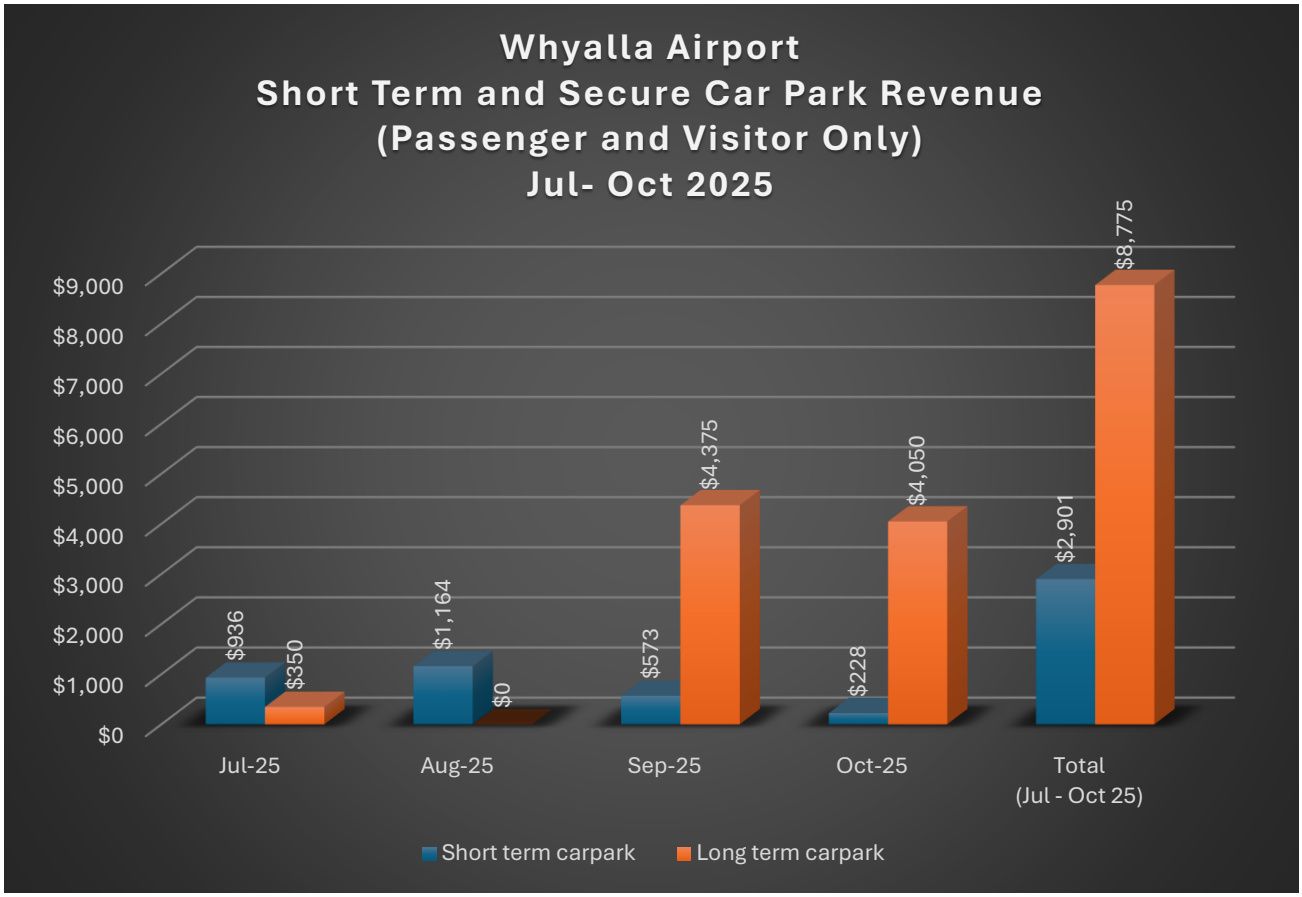


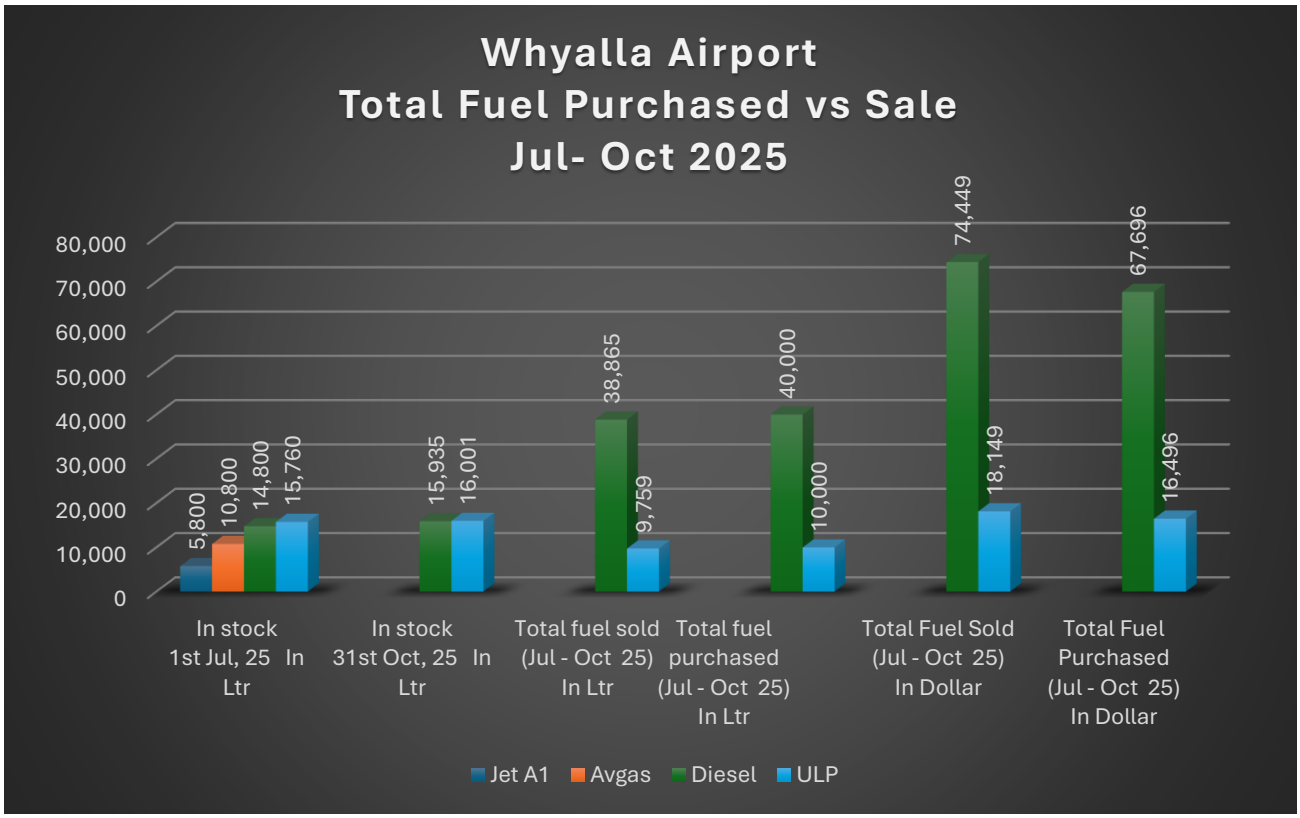

Whyalla Airport
Demand vs Availability
Jul- Oct 2025
Oct-25
Sep-25
Aug-25
Jul-25
2,400
2,114
4,514
2,523
1,991
4,514
2,493
2,095
4,588
2,455
2,059
4,514
0
500
1,000
1,500
2,000
2,500
3,000
3,500
4,000
4,500
5,000
Empty Seats
Demand
Total


Whyalla Airport
Flight Departure
Ontime vs Delayed/Cancelled
Jul- Oct 2025
250
200
150
100
50
0
61
3
2
59
97
62
0
2
60
97
61
1
0
61
100
61
1
3
58
95
245
5
7
238
97
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Total
Departure
Cancelled
Delayed
Ontime
Ontime %


Whyalla Airport
Passenger and Landing Fees
Jul- Oct 2025
$300,000
$250,000
$200,000
$150,000
$100,000
$50,000
$0
$2,632
$61,755
$64,387
$3,151
$63,729
$66,880
$3,089
$62,122
$65,211
$3,929
$63,330
$67,259
$12,801
$250,936
$263,737
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Grand Total (Jul - Oct 25)
Total Landing Fee
Total Passenger Revenue
Total Revenue


Whyalla Airport
Security Screening Hours vs Cost
Jul- Oct 2025
500,000
450,000
400,000
350,000
300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
1,571
$120,178
1,554
$122,557
1,513
$115,700
1,588
$126,209
6,226
$484,644
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Total (Jul - Oct 25)
Screening Hours
Screening Cost


Whyalla Airport
Short Term and Secure Car Park Revenue
(Passenger and Visitor Only)
Jul- Oct 2025
$9,000
$8,000
$7,000
$6,000
$5,000
$4,000
$3,000
$2,000
$1,000
$0
$936
$350
$1,164
$0
$573
$4,375
$228
$4,050
$2,901
$8,775
Jul-25
Aug-25
Sep-25
Oct-25
Total
(Jul - Oct 25)
Short term carpark
Long term carpark


Whyalla Airport
Total Fuel Purchased vs Sale
Jul- Oct 2025
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
5,800
10,800
14,800
15,760
15,935
16,001
38,865
9,759
40,000
10,000
74,449
18,149
67,696
16,496
In stock
1st Jul, 25 In
Ltr
In stock
31st Oct, 25 In
Ltr
Total fuel sold
(Jul - Oct 25)
In Ltr
Total fuel
purchased
(Jul - Oct 25)
In Ltr
Total Fuel Sold
(Jul - Oct 25)
In Dollar
Total Fuel
Purchased
(Jul - Oct 25)
In Dollar
Jet A1
Avgas
Diesel
ULP

Whyalla Early Learning Centre Report

November 2025

Background

The Whyalla Early Learning Centre opened in 1977 and is licenced to care for up to 85 children per day. The centre is open from 7.45am to 5.45pm Monday to Friday, 50 weeks of the year. There are currently 23 people employed at the Child Care Centre and care is provided to 110 children across the week. We are currently recruiting for 2 casual educator positions. The current waitlist consists of 60 children. The Whyalla Early Learning Centre provides early childhood education and care services to children from 6 weeks to 5 years old.

The centre follows the National Quality Standard (NQS) and the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). Both documents guide our educational programs, practices and learning environments. The centre philosophy is inclusive to all children, their families and the community. The centre works collaboratively with allied health services to support children with additional needs. We are currently rated as "Meeting" across all 7 Quality Areas.

We are licensed to provide services to up to 85 children per day and we are currently offering 68 places per day. This is due to delays in the renovation project at the child care centre. While stages 2 and 3 of the renovation are still in planning, we are unable to increase our capacity as we need to move children throughout the centre while works are happening. However, we will be able to offer these places to the community as soon as the works are completed.

Staff News

Over the last three months we have said goodbye to 2 of our casual educators and we have welcomed Sharon Talent as our new cook. Sharon is a qualified butcher and has experience in catering for children's birthday parties. She is passionate about cooking and states that she is having a great time planning and preparing healthy balanced foods for the children at the centre.

In 2026, we will see a little movement of staff across the centre working with different age children. Our plan is:

Joeys room (6 weeks to 15 months old)



Melissa Zubrinich



Tonielle McEwan



Rowena Barber

Emu Room (15 months to 2 years old)


Fiona Peacock


Pauline McHendrie


Hayley Gooding


Jorjia Formby

Cuttlefish Room (2 years to 3 years old)


Linda Burazer


Munira Ervine


Michelle Johnstone


Sylvia Dennis

Squid Room (3 years to 4 years old) – 3-year-old Preschool


Joanne Marsland


Naomi Tarr


Chakshu Vij

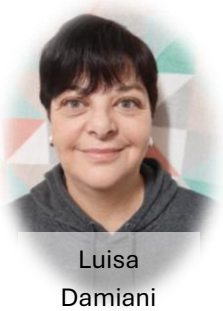
Dolphins Room (Year before school) – 4-year-old Preschool


Lacey Groenveld


Michaela Michie


Chakshu Vij

Permanent Floats and Casual Educators



Luisa Damiani



Lesley Williams



Emily Schubert



Jessica Stewart



Jeffrey Aquino

Centre Coordinator

Centre Administration

Centre Cook



Christine Gourlay



Melissa Butt



Naomi Tarr

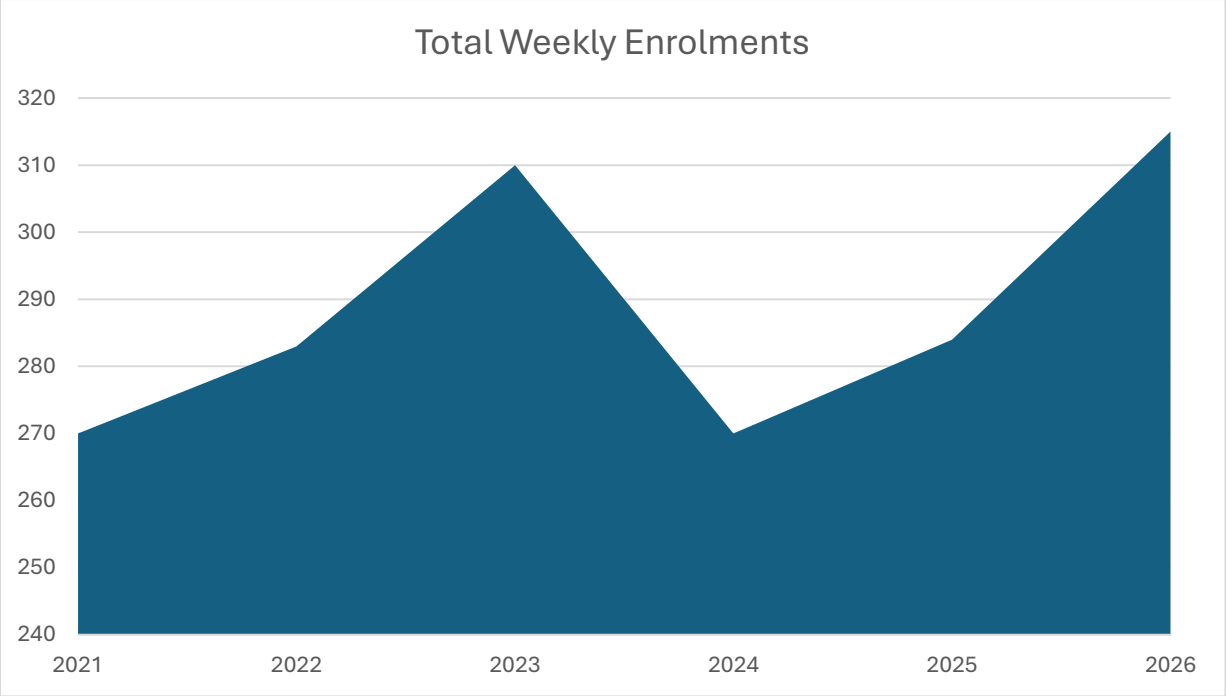


Sharon Talent

Comparative Data

Child enrolments

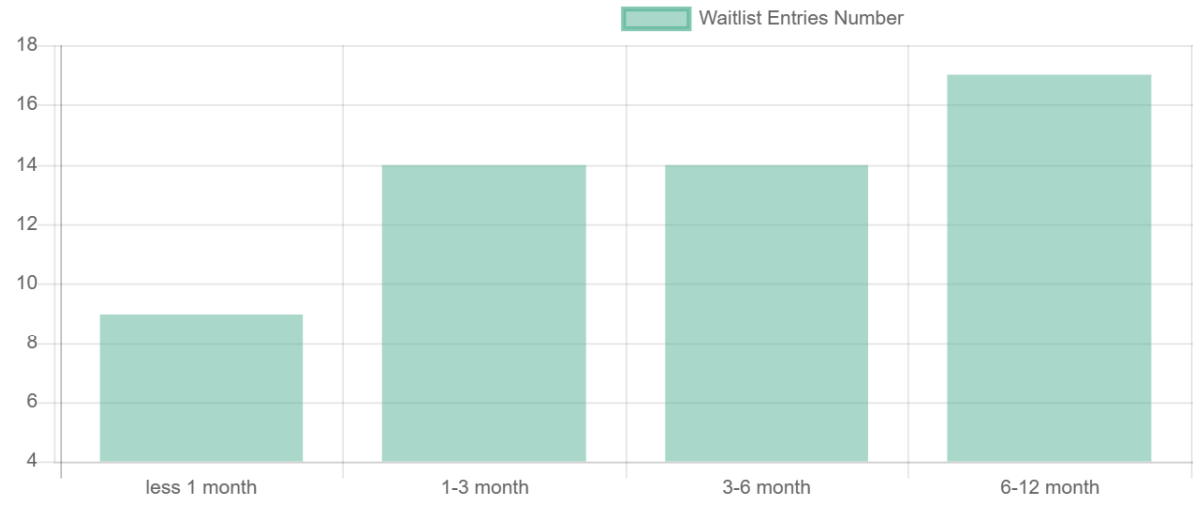
The table below shows the comparison of child enrolment numbers in Feb 2021 to Feb 2025 to the projected child enrolment numbers for Feb 2026. This information is based on future enrolments for 2026 and historical data from 2021-2025. This chart shows continued growth in our utilisation. Noting that throughout this whole period our approved places have stayed at 68 places per day. We look forward to increasing our enrolments to 85 place per day when the renovation projects are completed.



Child Care Access Needs

The Whyalla community continues to be within the "childcare desert". Centres across the Federal Grey Electorate continue to report long waitlists of families who are looking to access childcare are not able to. We are aware that being in a childcare desert has flow-on effects for early childhood development, workforce attraction and retention, and economic development opportunities

Our centre currently has a waitlist of 60 families with 2024 seeing a wait list of 51 families. The chart below demonstrates that families are likely to wait at least 6 to 12 months to gain access to childcare in our area, and then many families are still unable to access additional days and full-time enrolments. This chart shows the number of waitlist applications received and how long they have been waiting to access care. Noting we only began tracking these in the last 12 months. Some families have been waiting longer to access care.



Financials and funding

The Centre is supported by two key funding streams that help reduce costs for families and enhance service delivery. The primary source is the Australian Government's Child Care Subsidy (CCS), which is paid directly to the Centre and passed on to families as a fee reduction. This includes higher CCS rates for families with multiple young children, as well as the Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS), which supports six at-risk children currently in the Centre's care. In analysing our data since the changeover to the 2025-2026 tax period, the average income received from fees per week is approximately $43,033.18 with CCS and ACCS covering 71.83% of this. The remaining 28.17% is received directly from families.

Further funding will become available from 2026 through the Centre's newly approved partnership with the Office of Early Childhood Development to deliver both 3-year-old and 4-year-old preschool programs. As part of the OECD 3-year-old preschool initiative, the Centre will receive government funding dedicated to increased planning time, professional learning, and additional support for educators, strengthening the quality of programs offered to children and families.



Changes in the Early Learning Sector

Coloured sand recall

As many of you may have seen in recent media reports, coloured sand sold by several distributors has been found to contain asbestos, leading to a widespread product recall. At our centre, we have identified that this sand was used in the Dolphins Room (3-5yo children), most recently on 5 November 2025. In response, we have taken the following actions:

1. We have confirmed with all educators that the only room in the service that has been exposed to the coloured sand is the Dolphins room.
2. The sand has been removed and disposed of in line with official instructions.
3. Use of the Dolphins Room has been suspended while we seek further guidance from SafeWork SA and the Education Standards Board.
4. On 20/11/2025, a Licensed Asbestos Assessor assessed the Dolphins Room and made recommendations for asbestos trained technicians to decontaminate all benches, tables, ledges, seating, carpets and floors and air quality testing.

The recommended works are scheduled on the 1/12/2025 and we should have full use of the Dolphins room back by the 3/12/2025. The contractor will be able to provide a certificate of clearance once the works are complete.

It is important to note no respirable asbestos has been detected in any tested samples. The release of respirable asbestos fibres is considered unlikely in the product's current state unless the sand is mechanically processed (e.g., crushed or pulverised). The risk of any asbestos becoming airborne or fine enough to be inhaled is considered low.

Building project

Outdoor play spaces renovation plan

We have been working hard with our project management team to finalise planning for the renovation of the outdoor spaces. A timeline for the project has been locked in from the 12 January 2026 to 30 April 2026.

We are excited for the following features that are included in the plans:

- new sandpits
- new swings in the senior yard including a nest swing
- bamboo cubbies in both yards
- a stage in the senior area
- new shade structures in both yards
- our sensory garden will be revamped to a bush tucker garden
- new gardens in both yards
- and lots more.






We have notified our families and the Education Standards Board of the upcoming works, and everyone is very excited.

What has been happening at the Centre

Nursing home excursions

We have partnered with Helping Hand Whyalla to form the "Golden Ages and Busy Bees Playgroup". On the 18 November 2025, we accessed the Visitor Centre bus to take us on an excursion to Helping Hands, Yeltana. The children had great fun on the bus and then socialising with the residents of Yeltana. Together we read books and made Christmas drawings. The children loved making new friends and all the residents were happy to have some new drawings they could decorate their rooms with.

Our next excursion is to Helping Hand Copperhouse Court, and this is scheduled for the 2nd of December. We hope next year that our 2026, 4-year-old preschool program can include fortnightly excursions to the Golden Ages and Busy Bees Playgroup.





Yoga Incursions

We have started a regular incursion for the children with a Yoga trained specialist, "Tara" from Sims Movement, who visits the centre fortnightly. Tara completed 3x 20-minute sessions with our 2-5yo children. Yoga has proven benefits in Early Childhood Settings by promoting physical strength, balance, and coordination while also helping them develop important social and emotional skills. Through mindful movement and breathing, yoga encourages calmness, focus, and emotional regulation, making it easier for children to manage big feelings and transitions. It also nurtures positive self-esteem, body awareness, and cooperative play, contributing to a more settled, confident, and engaged learning environment.





Diwali

On the 20th of October, we celebrated the culture of one of our Educators and some of our children by celebrating 'Diwali Day' which is the Hindu 'Festival of Lights'. Each room completed activities and had discussions about what is Diwali and why is it meaningful. Our whole centre celebrated by colouring in Rangoli patterns on our cement in front of the building with chalk. They also repurposed paper towel rolls to use as stampers and make fireworks and fine brush painting onto paper plate 'Oil Lamps'. We coloured in and painted lanterns and drew with felt pens on cut out hands mimicking henna. Lastly, the children listened to some relaxing Indian flute meditation music during our relaxation time.





Christmas party

We look forward to ending our year with a Christmas Celebration. We have invited all the parents and children at the centre to come together for an afternoon of Christmas activities, Christmas music, Christmas food and Christmas fun on the 2nd of December 2025.

ANNEXURE "G"

Planning & Building

Planning

Following the updates provided in February, June, and August, this End-of-Year report consolidates development activity for the 2025 calendar year. The data demonstrates a year of significant infrastructure investment and robust residential growth, culminating in a total approved development value of over $56.4 million.

While the 2024 reporting period was defined by massive state-significant industrial approvals (such as the Hydrogen Jobs Plan), 2025 has been a year of delivery, seeing the approval of critical community and commercial infrastructure that is now moving to construction.

Development Statistics (Comparison 2024 – Dec 2025)

The table below outlines the development approvals granted over the last 12 months compared to the previous calendar year.

While the total value has normalised following the exceptional industrial approvals of 2024, the Community/Public sector has seen a tenfold increase in investment this year. Additionally, the Residential sector has maintained high value despite lower volumes, indicating a shift toward higher-quality builds.

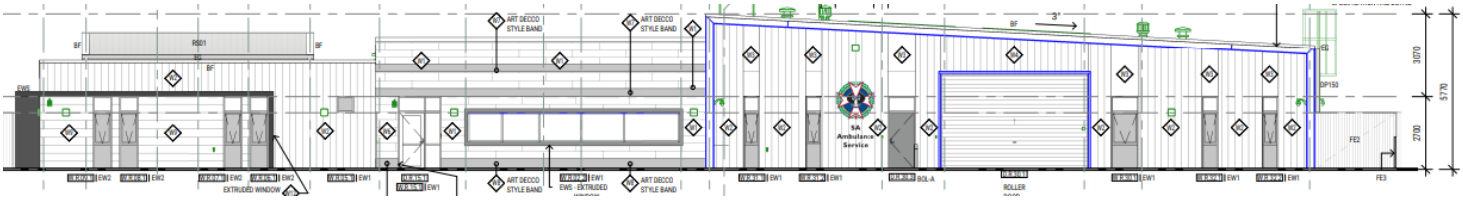
Category	2024 Applications	2024 Value ($)	2025 Applications	2025 Value ($)
Industrial / Commercial	25	$609,409,790	16	$22,498,636
Community / Public	5	$1,384,814	3	$14,819,840
New Dwellings	37	$17,362,746	17	$13,977,160
Dwelling Extensions	18	$2,083,300	28	$2,483,341

Category	2024 Applications	2024 Value ($)	2025 Applications	2025 Value ($)
Residential Other	**117**	**$1,743,187**	**113**	**$2,663,560**
TOTAL	**202**	**$631,983,837**	**177**	**$56,442,537**

Commercial & Community Highlights

The standout story for late 2025 is the delivery of high-value Commercial and Community projects. The data reflects a surge in realized investment, with key approvals including:

- Airport Upgrade: A major $17.7 million (quoted development cost on application) investment for upgrades to the runway, taxiway, and apron, securing vital transport infrastructure for the region.
- Emergency Services: Approval of a new Ambulance Station valued at over $9 million.



- Education: Expansion of existing educational facilities, including new modular classrooms and performing arts spaces.
- Recreation: Two level precast sports complex building that includes four changerooms, toilets, function area, bar, kitchen and grandstand.



Residential Activity

Residential development has finished the year strongly. The value of new dwellings ($13.9M) is particularly notable, indicating a shift toward higher-quality, higher-value housing stock rather than just volume.

- Approvals this year have included multi-dwelling developments and premium single-storey detached dwellings.
- Homeowners continue to invest in their existing properties, with over 140 applications combined for extensions and other improvements (sheds, carports, etc.), signalling ongoing confidence in the local market.

Building

Workload & Resourcing

The Building team continues to manage a high workload, driven by the number of required inspections for the large volume of new developments. The approval of major infrastructure like the Airport upgrade and Ambulance station introduces a rigorous inspection regime.

To manage this demand and ensure technical compliance, Council has adjusted its resourcing strategy:

- TECON Engagement: We are currently utilising TECON for the building assessments of building classes we are not staffed to undertake.
- Engineering Certification: Additionally, Council has recently begun using TECON for independent engineering certifications. This transition follows the retirement of our previous independent engineer, Peter Harmer.

- Shared Services: We also continue to utilise the shared services agreement with Port Augusta Council to assist with endorsement of applications completed by our Building Officer where appropriate.

Enforcement

Compliance Focus Enforcement remains a time-consuming but necessary function of the department. Officers frequently encounter compliance matters regarding unapproved structures or land uses.

- The team maintains a "benefit of the doubt" approach, encouraging retrospective applications where development has merit.
- However, breaches of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act* that impact neighbour amenity or safety continue to be escalated when voluntary rectification fails.



WHYALLA LIBRARY INFORMATION REPORT

December 2025

Report Author: Natalie Williams

Whyalla Public Library Information Report November 2025

Membership Summary

As of October 2025, the Whyalla Public Library recorded a steady overall increase in membership.

Adult memberships rose from 3,577 in January to 3,655 in October, reflecting ongoing community engagement. Children's memberships also showed a small but consistent increase, while outreach memberships remained relatively stable. In contrast, teen memberships, including those with internet access, saw a slight decline over the same period.

(data set below is new data collection methodology, going forward there will be comparative data)

Whyalla Active Users by User Profile Type	January 2025	May 2025	October 2025
Adult	3577	3606	3655
Child	230	235	242
Child with Internet access	175	180	178
Teen	33	30	26
Teen with Internet access	75	71	61
Outreach	55	56	51

DVD Borrowing Trends

The Whyalla Public Library continues to provide valuable access to its extensive DVD collection for both local and statewide users through the OneCard Network. This system allows customers from 98 libraries across South Australia to borrow DVDs from Whyalla's collection, increasing access and variety for all. Free statewide delivery is supported through a partnership between the Public Library Service and Australia Post, ensuring efficient and cost-free transport of materials for library customers everywhere.

Category	Number of DVDs for the period Jan- May 2025	Number of DVDs borrowed Jun- Oct 2025
Whyalla-owned DVDs borrowed by Whyalla customer	3,143	4,838
DVDs owned by other SA libraries borrowed by Whyalla customers	457	439
Whyalla DVDs loaned out to other library customers	140	682

Borrowing data for 2025 shows strong local engagement with the Whyalla Public Library's DVD collection. Between January and May, 3,143 Whyalla-owned DVDs were borrowed by local customers, increasing to 4,838 between June and October—demonstrating sustained demand even following the library's temporary closure for refurbishment in March.

Borrowing from other South Australian libraries remained relatively low (457 to 439), indicating that Whyalla customers primarily rely on their local collection. Meanwhile, loans of Whyalla-owned DVDs to other libraries rose significantly from 140 to 682, showing growing statewide interest in the collection. Overall, these figures highlight the library's continued importance as a source of physical media and entertainment, with demand remaining strong despite the increasing shift toward digital streaming services.

Library Visitor Summary

Visitor numbers remained strong throughout 2025, showing a steady recovery and continued community engagement following the March refurbishment closure.

From April to September 2025, monthly visitation ranged between **2,122 and 3,047**, with the highest foot traffic recorded in **July (2,971 visitors)**. Compared to the same period in 2024, visitation was generally consistent, with several months showing notable increases—particularly in **July**, where visitor numbers rose sharply from **1,184 in 2024** to **2,971 in 2025**.

While overall annual visitation (54,445) was slightly lower than in 2024 (55,231), the data reflects strong recovery and growth in key months following refurbishment, demonstrating the library's ongoing importance as a community hub (data below is showing entries to the library).

Location	Position	Year	Month	Total		Year	Month	Total
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	September	2,127		2024	September	2,161
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	September	2,842		2024	September	3,066
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	August	2,335		2024	August	1,966
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	August	3,047		2024	August	2,859
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	July	2,503		2024	July	752
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	July	2,971		2024	July	1,184
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	June	2,122		2024	June	1,796
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	June	2,569		2024	June	2,676
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	May	2,022		2024	May	2,058
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	May	2,935		2024	May	3,163
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	April	2,378		2024	April	1,923
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	April	2,542		2024	April	2,994
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	March	1,178		2024	March	1,965
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	March	108		2024	March	2,720
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	February	2,146		2024	February	1,896
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	February	1,609		2024	February	2,802
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2025	January	2,058		2024	January	1,670
Library	Westland Entrance	2025	January	2,315		2024	January	3,091
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2024	December	1,556		2023	December	1,324
Library	Westland Entrance	2024	December	2,247		2023	December	2,567
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2024	November	1,880		2023	November	2,121
Library	Westland Entrance	2024	November	2,809		2023	November	3,158
Library	Ekblom Entrance	2024	October	3,108		2023	October	2,385
Library	Westland Entrance	2024	October	3,038		2023	October	2,934
				54,445				**55,231**

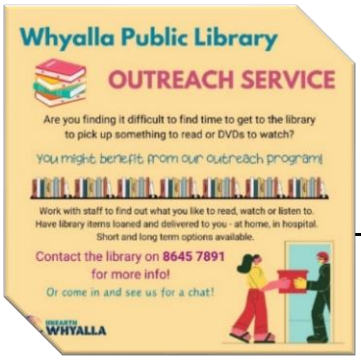
Services provided by the library

Community Outreach

The Whyalla Public Library's Community Outreach Service continues to play a vital role in providing equitable access to library resources for some of our community's most vulnerable members. This service supports individuals living in aged care facilities, as well as those who are temporarily or permanently unable to visit the library in person.

Each month, dedicated library staff carefully select between **270 and 300 items** — including books, magazines, audiobooks, music CDs, and DVDs — tailored to each customer's personal preferences and interests. The service currently supports **41 customers**, providing both short-term assistance (such as during recovery from surgery) and ongoing engagement for those who choose to remain on the service long-term.

Deliveries are made with the invaluable assistance of volunteers, who facilitate item exchanges on the **last Tuesday and first Tuesday of each month**, allowing staff to process returns efficiently. Over the past three months, the Outreach Service has delivered a total of **703 items** to customers unable to visit the library in person. Our dedicated volunteer, **Lynette**, continues to make deliveries twice a month and has developed meaningful connections with the people she visits. What began as a single coffee stop has now grown into four regular visits, with one customer sharing that Lynette is the only person who visits her — **a testament to the social impact and community value of this program.**







Volunteer Justices of the Peace (JP's)

The Whyalla Public Library is supported by a small but dedicated group of community volunteers, including local Justices of the Peace (JPs), who provide essential services that would otherwise be unavailable. Every Thursday evening, a volunteer JP attends the library for a two-hour session, assisting community members by acting as an independent and objective witness for official or legal documents. These sessions are consistently well attended.

A **Justice of the Peace (JP)** is authorised to:

- Certify a true copy of an original document
- Certify a person's identity
- Witness affidavits for use in court
- Witness statutory declarations
- Witness the signing of documents

This service highlights the library's role as a trusted community hub, providing access to important legal and civic support.

Client visits to the library show some variation across the first nine months of 2025. Total monthly visits ranged from a low of 12 in July to a high of 43 in January. Early in the year, January and February had strong engagement, while March saw a notable drop, due to library closure. Visits gradually increased again in May, August, and September, reflecting a rebound in community engagement. Weekly distribution indicates that Week 1 and Week 4 often saw the highest client numbers, while Week 2 and Week 3 were generally quieter.

Digital Programs and Support

The Whyalla Public Library continues to lead the way in digital inclusion across the region, delivering a diverse range of programs that empower community members to develop vital technology skills. Initiatives such as Being Digital, Digital Drop-In, TechKnow, and the Digital Being Connected Program, the library has supported residents of all ages to confidently navigate the digital world.
Over the past year, more than 360 individuals have benefited directly from these programs, with additional engagement through our STEM Club, which attracted 190 young participants. By providing accessible, hands-on support and outreach across Whyalla, Cowell, Cleve, and Kimba, the library continues to strengthen digital capability, social connection, and lifelong learning within our community.

These digital initiatives form a key part of the library's broader mission to deliver inclusive, innovative, and educational services, complementing our wider programs that foster literacy, creativity, and community engagement.

Being Digital, Digital Drop-In, and Public Computer Assistance

Being Digital is a free program offered by South Australian public libraries to support adults in building their digital skills.

At the Whyalla Public Library, we also host a **weekly Digital Drop-In session**, where customers can bring their own devices—such as phones, iPads, or laptops—and receive one-on-one assistance from our Digital Officer. These sessions cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Downloading and managing apps
- Setting up and using email accounts
- Sending photos or printing documents from mobile devices

This year, our Digital Drop-In service assisted 128 community members, helping them feel more confident and independent in their digital lives.

TechKnow – Digital Outreach with Cowell and Cleve School Community Libraries

We were again successful in securing a **Digital Literacy Capacity Builder Grant** from **Public Library Services – Libraries Board SA** for the 2024–2025 period. The $3,000 grant enables us to continue supporting the **Cowell and Cleve School Community Libraries** through our **Digital Outreach Program** until the end of June 2025.

Since its commencement, 92 participants have taken part in the TechKnow program – 56 in 2024 and a further 36 by the conclusion of the 2025 grant period.





Telstra and PLS Digital Being Connected Program

In addition, we were successful in receiving a **Telstra and Public Libraries Grant** to deliver the **Digital Being Connected Program**, which runs through to **June 2026**.

This 12-month initiative includes monthly visits to **Cowell, Cleve, and Kimba School Community Libraries**, providing practical digital support to help bridge the digital divide. The program focuses on assisting community members with:

- Shopping safely online
- Setting up and managing government accounts (e.g., MyGov)
- Creating email addresses and downloading useful apps

After just five sessions, the program has already supported 20 participants in its first month, demonstrating strong early engagement from the community. Through these initiatives, we continue to strengthen digital inclusion and ensure all members of our community have access to the skills and confidence they need in today's digital world.

beingdigital
Delivered in partnership with Telstra and LibrariesSA
Libraries SA

After School Programs:

- Learning Club (Wednesdays) – Delivered with The Smith Family, covering STEM, art, wellbeing, and featuring special guests. Highlights include:
    - Term 3 visit from Children's University for hands-on exploration of fossils and Apollo 11 items.
    - Week 10 interactive choir session from Geelong.
- LEGO Club (Thursdays) – Weekly building challenges fostering creativity and problem-solving.
- STEM Club (Thursdays, ages 10+) – Focused on science, technology, engineering, and maths activities for older children.

STEM Club

The library's STEM Club continues to engage young people in hands-on learning, creativity, and problem-solving through science, technology, engineering, and mathematics activities.

Over the course of the year, 190 children participated in STEM Club sessions, compared to 2024 where 80 children participated, highlighting the ongoing popularity and educational value of this program.

Through these combined initiatives, the Whyalla Public Library continues to promote digital inclusion and lifelong learning, ensuring all community members—regardless of age or experience—have access to the skills, confidence, and support they need to thrive in today's digital world.





School Holiday Programs

- Library-run sessions, sessions run by Children's University, and a Spring Seek and Find challenge around the library.
- Attendance:
    - 121 children attended the 7 library and Children's University sessions, 2024 160 children attended 9 sessions.
    - 209 children participated in the Spring Seek and Find, with 206 children participating in Go Scavenger Hunters in 2024.
- All sessions were very popular, with waitlists. Glow in the dark slime making and Teddy Bears Picnic were a hit.










Kindy and School visits

Kindergartens and Early Learning Centres regularly visit the library for story, song, and activity sessions, often linked to EYLF guidelines. Schools across all grades also participate in library visits, including tours and research skill development. One of the visits the subject was “Living and non-living things” Sunrise Christian School.





Early Childhood Programs

All early childhood programs incorporate the **Words Grow Minds** initiative — **Read, Sing, Talk, and Play**. Weekly programs include:

- **Gigglepots** – Baby bounce and rhyme for children under 2. Fully booked weekly sessions, with families encouraged to engage in early literacy and play.

- **Story Time** – For children aged 2–5, combining singing, movement, and storytelling. Observed improvements in listening skills and engagement over the year.
- **Little Learners** – Includes **Maths Fun for Under 5s**, focusing on hands-on activities like measurement, rhythm, patterns, and displacement. Supports both children's and parents' confidence in early numeracy.









Words Grow Minds Kits & Outreach

In 2024, the Whyalla Public Library was successful in securing a $10,000 Words Grow Minds grant through Raising Literacy Australia (RLA). This funding was awarded in recognition of the library's strong commitment to supporting early childhood development and literacy through community-based outreach and engagement.

The grant supported the library's delivery of the Words Grow Minds Outreach Program, aimed at families with children aged 0–3 years. The program promotes the importance of early communication, reading, and play in the first 1,000 days of life — a critical period for brain development.

Through this initiative, the library expanded its outreach visits to community spaces, childcare centres, and playgroups, providing interactive story sessions, parent engagement activities, and distributing "Words Grow Minds" resource packs to help families build early literacy habits at home. A portion of the grant funding was also used to purchase high-quality educational toys, sensory play items, and interactive kits specifically designed for 0–3-year-olds. These new resources have greatly

enhanced both in-library sessions and outreach programs, offering families meaningful, hands-on opportunities to learn through play.

Feedback from families and partner organisations has been overwhelmingly positive, with many noting increased engagement, stronger parent–child interaction, and greater awareness of the importance of talking, reading, and playing from birth.
The success of the Whyalla Public Library's Words Grow Minds project highlights the value of collaborative, community-based early literacy initiatives and demonstrates how targeted funding can create lasting benefits for local families.

- Kits contain books, songs, and activities to promote **Read, Sing, Talk, Play**, targeting different under-5 age groups and supporting brain development.
- Chris and Ali have visited kindergartens and junior primary classes to promote early literacy and library engagement, particularly at centres with limited access.







Community Engagement, Programs and Events

Children's Week

Instead of our usual Storytime session on Thurs 23rd Oct, Chris and Ali celebrated Children's Week by attending the Children's Week Festival, held at the Whyalla YMCA.

This was organised by the Whyalla Early Childhood Services Network, of which the library is a member. From 10am -1pm, we interacted with children and families, educating them about the free services that the library provides, including Children sessions, Words Grow Minds boxes and the Libraries SA app.

Children were extremely involved with the dinosaurs and trucks we had provided in the sand trays. Children also enjoyed stories that were read to them. Several parents commented that their children made a bee line for our stall when they arrived in the gym. Some families revisited our stall so their children could play with our activity again. Some children stayed for up to 20 mins, enjoyed the sand trays.

This was also a great opportunity for networking with other services for families and children.











Geelong – Ensemble North Choristers



At Smith Family Learning Club on Wed 24th Sept, a group of 11 choristers aged approx. 10 to 14 yrs performed in front of our Learning Club participants, their families and a few of our library customers. They were accompanied by 3 adults. The choir named "Ensemble North" are based in Geelong, Victoria and toured SA performing at schools and libraries. The 9 Learning Club attendees really enjoyed the 30-minute performance and some were asked to participate.

Many of their songs were sung a cappella and some with a guitar.

Share the Dignity

Share the Dignity is a women's charity in Australia, that works to make a real difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, or doing it tough. Share the Dignity distributes period products to women, girls, and anyone who menstruates who needs support. When someone is doing it tough, the last thing on their mind should be dealing with their period. The library staff supports this charity by providing a drop off box, and by promoting the cause!

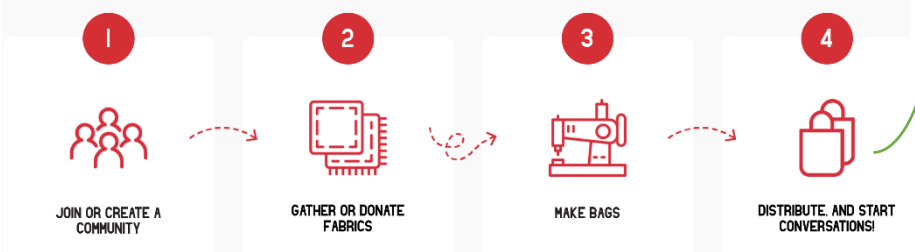


SHARE THE Dignity

Boomerang Bags & Rotary

Boomerang Bags is about connecting communities, making bags, diverting waste, starting conversations, fostering sustainable behaviour, and having a bit of fun!





BOOMERANG BAGS

Aboriginal Drugs and Alcohol Committee

The ADAC donated books to the library to give away to the community in support of mental health and wellbeing during NAIDOC Week, we thank them for their very generous support.





Children's University Collaborations

Fabulous Flight







Cardboard Chaos









Playful Colouring





Whyalla Art Group

The library and the Whyalla Art Group have entered an agreement to showcase local artist in our Community Display are for a period of 12 months, this is a wonderful way to put the talents of our local artists on exhibition!











New Programs to the library

Crochet Social Club

In August we began a Crochet social group where people can come to learn, create and share their crochet projects. The class is all self-sufficient with participants bringing along their own projects and materials. There have been 4 sessions so far, with 2 participants across the 4 sessions, however we are anticipating an uptick in participation in the coming weeks.







Chatty Table

In **August**, we introduced a **Chatty Table**, aimed at reducing social isolation by offering a space for anyone to drop in for a friendly conversation. This initiative runs **fortnightly on Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM** and has already seen **10 people** come in to have a chat and connect with others in the community.





FIRSTIVIAL 2025

Firstival is a proud annual initiative of LibrariesSA, the collaborative, state-wide network for South Australia's public libraries. Hosted throughout July across the state's 130+ library venues, this 'festival of firsts' features hundreds of free or low-cost events, classes, and workshops just for beginners, inviting people of all ages and life stages to try something new.

Launched in 2023, the inaugural Firstival featured approximately 350 events across 45 libraries (95% of which were free), attracting 41,276 attendees with an increase in monthly membership of 23% (July 2023 compared to July 2022). The aim of Firstival remains to drive public library rediscovery, visitation, engagement and membership, affirming through in-person experience that today's libraries are thriving, open-access community classrooms where everyone is welcome to come and connect, and encouraged to learn and share skills.

Whyalla Firstival 2025

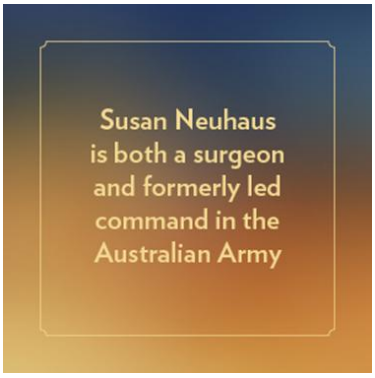
Author Visit

Susan Neuhaus – Sunday 13 July 2025

Susan Neuhaus is an Adelaide surgeon and ex-army officer who has operated in war zones, helped sex workers in Cambodia and been awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross. Here she talks about her life – from childhood in Mt Gambier, to the fortuitous way she found herself in medical school, to her challenges in the military and as a cancer surgeon.

My longest day: I don't really remember it beginning and ending - SALIFE | InDaily, Inside South Australia











Digital & Cyber Security Session Delivered - Zoran











Macrame'

We have welcomed a new Volunteer to the library Jo, who is now running our fortnightly social macrame class. These sessions focus on learning new skills, having fun and connecting with others in a relaxed and friendly environment. Starting with the basic knots to make a keyring, participants have progressed to creating beautiful and practical pieces like a hanging shelf, small wall hanging and coasters. The classes are consistently booked out with participants providing positive feedback and expressing enthusiasm to return and further develop their skills.







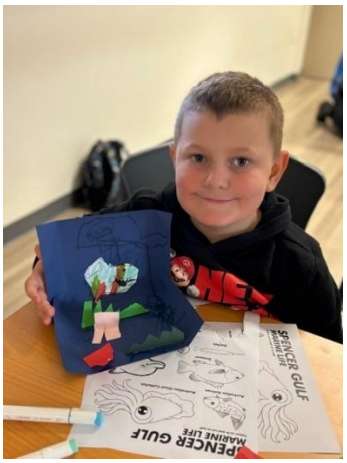
Children's Program Firstival – Making Nautical Nibbles and Cuttle-Ramas!

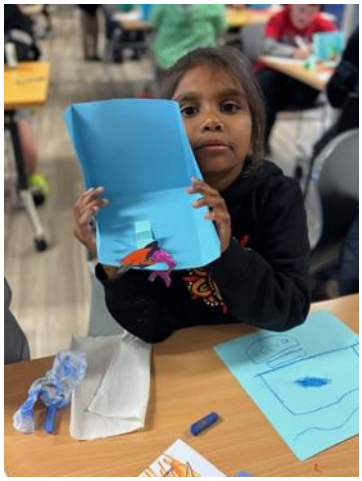






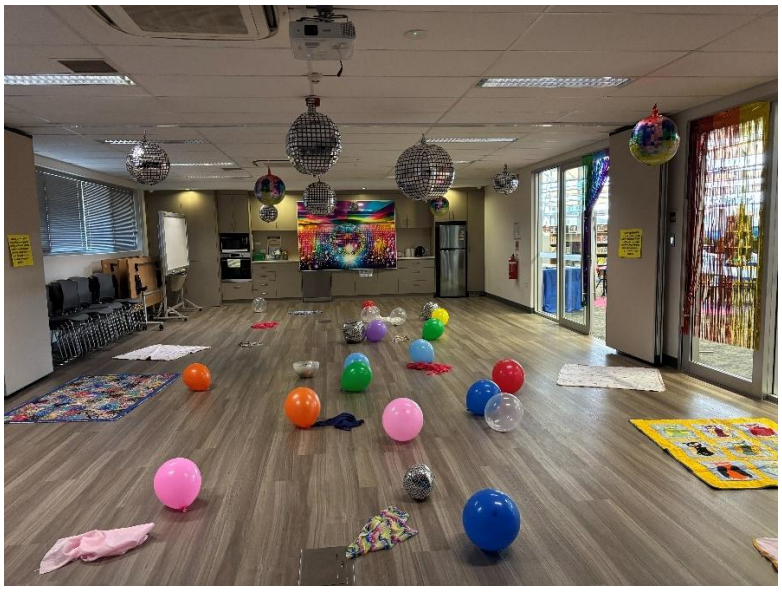






Baby Disco







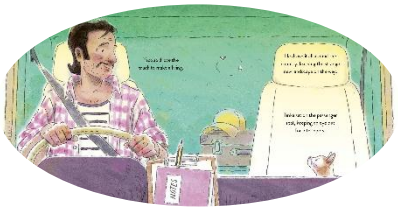
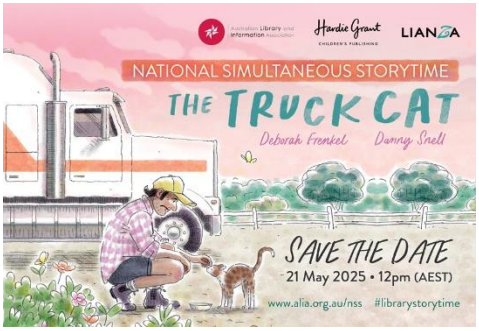
Children's Author visit – WGM – Katrina Germein






National Simultaneous Story Time (NSSS)



Feedback received

SpacetoCo

Space	Reviewer	Rating	Date posted	Host response
Vicki Ledo Room - Whole Room - Afternoon Booking (VL Whole Room Afternoon) Whyalla Public Library, 19 Ekblom Street, Whyalla Norrie SA 5608, Australia	AI Auctus Training Institute	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Fantastic space facilities! we will definitely be using this room again. Thankyou to the staff who looked after us so w...	16/10/2025	Reply to customer
Vicki Ledo Room - Whole Room - Morning Booking (VL Whole Room Morning) Whyalla Public Library, 19 Ekblom Street, Whyalla Norrie SA 5608, Australia	AI Auctus Training Institute	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Fantastic space facilities! we will definitely be using this room again. Thankyou to the staff who looked after us so w...	16/10/2025	Reply to customer

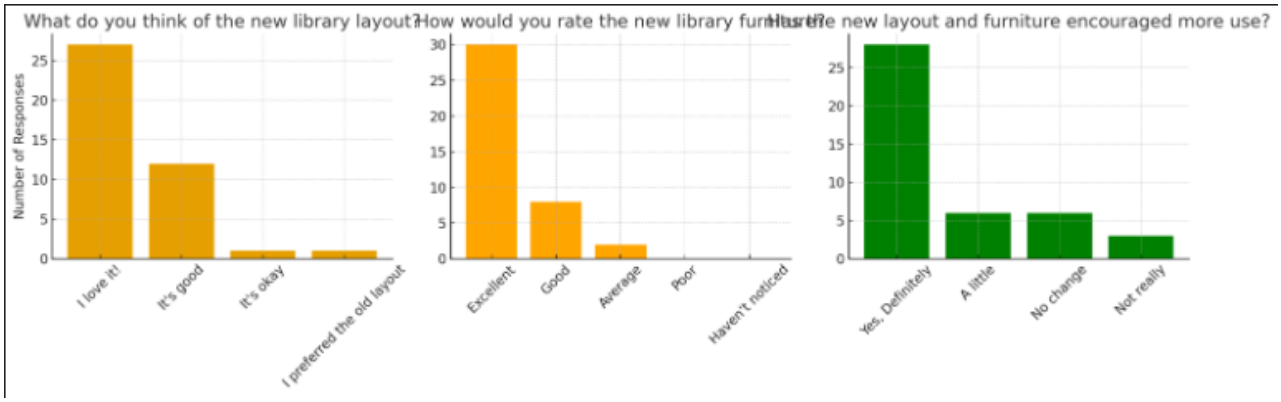
SpacetoCo™

Library Refurbishment

As part of the community feedback process, 42 responses were received regarding the recent library layout and furniture upgrades. The overall feedback was highly positive, indicating strong community satisfaction and engagement with the new space.

Many respondents described the new layout as *bright, colourful, more spacious,* and *easier to navigate*. Comments highlighted improved visibility of different areas and a generally more inviting atmosphere.

"It's bright, colourful, more spacious, easier to see and navigate areas."
"Love the new layout, colours, furnishings – but most of all I enjoy the friendly, helpful staff."
"It's easier to use and feels more spacious."
"Would love to try an activity here one day."
"Have recommended to others to come enjoy the new facilities."
"Best library in the universe – staff all deserve the Order of Australia!"
"Staff are always helpful and friendly, especially Lisa."
"Excellent service – thank you to Amrit, very helpful."

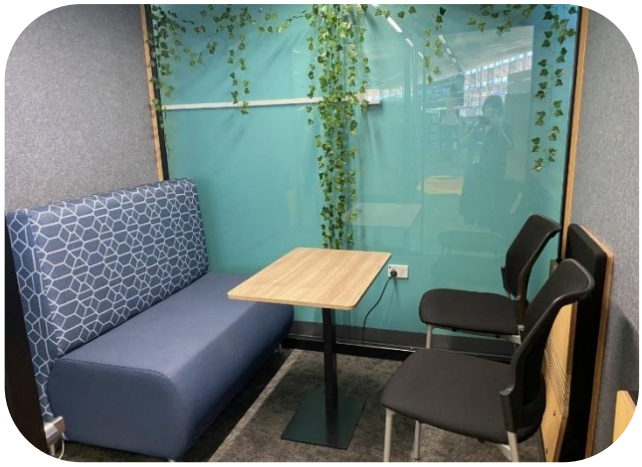


Summary of Findings

The new library layout and furniture have been received with very high satisfaction levels. Patrons find the space more inviting, modern, and functional. The majority report increased usage of the library as a direct result of the upgrades.

Staff service continues to be a standout strength, enhancing the overall customer experience

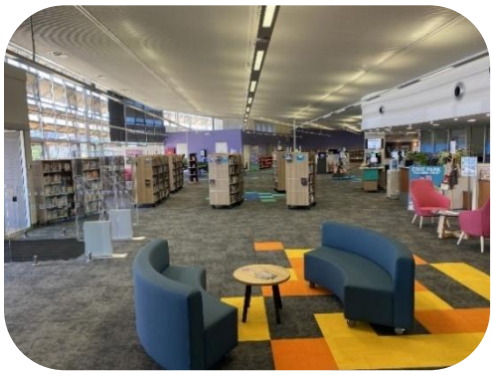
Quiet Office POD and Study Nooks





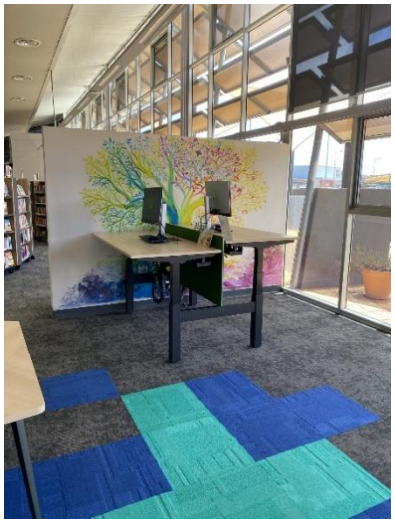
A brief glimpse of a couple of the old views on the left with new views on the right.

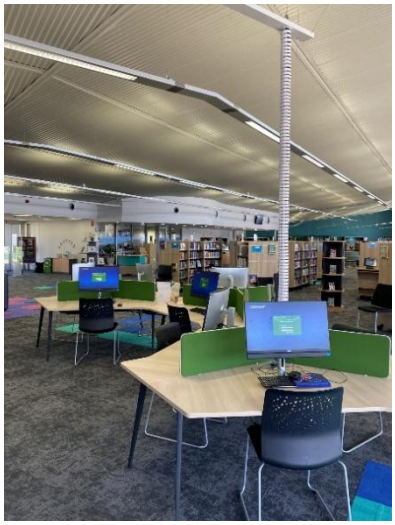






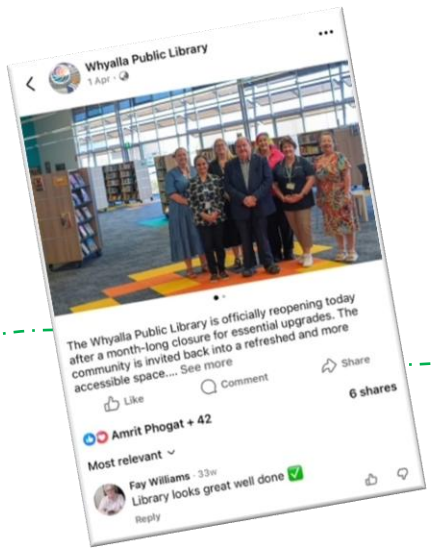


















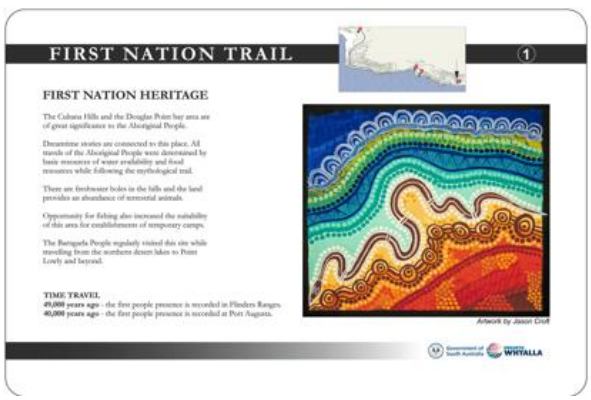




New Drinking Water Fountain

As part of our ongoing asset renewal and upgrade program, the library has upgraded and relocated its public drinking water fountain. The old fountain has been removed from the Westland Shopping Centre side and relocated to the Wetlands under our reuse/recycle plans, our new drinking fountain is being installed adjacent to the Ekblom Street entrance, providing improved accessibility and protection from direct sunlight. The new location under the veranda ensures the fountain remains cooler during the summer months, offering a more comfortable experience for community members seeking access to fresh, clean water.

The new fountain has been designed in line with the library and Council Disability Inclusion Plan delivering on accessibility for all community members. Featuring dual heights for both standing users and wheelchair accessibility, bottle-filling stations at each height, and a dog bowl for visiting pets. Local Barngarla artist Jason Croft's artwork is displayed on both sides of the fountain—the same design showcased in the First Nations Walk at Fitzgerald Bay. This artwork was chosen for its story and symbolism, aligning with the library's commitment to inclusivity and its role as a welcoming hub for the entire community.







16. NOTICES OF MOTION – Nil

17. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – Nil

18. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

19. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

20. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – Nil

21. CLOSE

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 19 January 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 27 January 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 2 February 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 16 February 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 20 February 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 2 March 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 16 March 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting