



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Whyalla City Council Council acknowledges the Barngarla people as the traditional custodians of Whyalla and the surrounding region. We respect the Barngarla people's spiritual relationship with their country, with land, sea and sky and acknowledge their Elders – past, present and future.



DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this Annual Report is accurate. No responsibility or liability can be accepted for any inaccuracies or omissions.

This document fulfils our obligations under the Local Government Act 1999 which stipulates that all councils must produce an Annual Report (relating to the immediately preceding financial year) to be prepared and adopted by Council on or before 30 November. Information within this report is as prescribed by the legislation and as per the Annual Report Guidelines provided by the Local Government Association of South Australia.

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Mayor + CEO's Message

Welcome to Whyalla City Council's Annual Report for 2024-2025 (FY25).

Despite being a period of uncertainty for our city, this past year saw us make significant progress on a number of Council projects, as well as securing major support for our city from both the Federal and State Governments.

Major government funding

In January, Whyalla received nearly \$40 million in government funding for major community projects and support initiatives. This included a State Government commitment of \$5 million for foreshore developments, \$3.1 million in Federal Government funding for the Foreshore Splash and Play Plaza, and a combined \$30 million from both governments to upgrade the airport runway to accommodate larger planes servicing the city. This funding was secured thanks to the outstanding work of Council staff, who demonstrated the importance of these projects to the community and the rest of the state.

Subsequently, a \$2.4 billion Whyalla Steelworks Support package was announced to upgrade the steelworks and attract new buyers, while also supporting local businesses affected by the economic downturn related to steelmaking. Although not directly linked to Council operations, this support is crucial for safeguarding the city's long-term future and transitioning Whyalla's major employer toward a sustainable, 'green' future.

Council's FY25 project highlights



AIRPORT RUNWAY UPGRADE (\$32M)

Commenced this critical infrastructure project, enabling Whyalla to receive larger aircraft and enhance commercial opportunities. Primarily funded by the State and Federal governments



FORESHORE SPLASH AND PLAY PLAZA (\$7M)

Released detailed concept designs for the Foreshore Splash and Play Plaza, aimed at revitalising the foreshore and creating a contemporary space to benefit locals and attract new residents. This project has secured \$3.1 million Federal Government funding



CHILDCARE CENTRE UPGRADE (\$1.4M)

Continued progress to expand the facility and cater for more families. Partially funded by the Federal Government



WHYALLA LIBRARY RENEWAL (0.43\$M)

Focused on mobile shelving and floor refurbishment, making the facility more multi-functional and capable of hosting additional events



FORESHORE TOILET RENEWAL (\$0.32M)

Installed a modern facility that improves safety, accessibility, and overall appearance of the area

Key projects for FY26



AIRPORT RUNWAY UPGRADE

Completing the \$32 million project



WHYALLA FORESHORE CENTRE BUILDING

Finalising designs for the new \$8 million facility, incorporating the Surf Life Saving Club, a café, kiosk, and possible other tenants



FORESHORE SPLASH AND PLAY PLAZA

Finalising design work, incorporating community feedback, and commencing construction



WHYALLA BOAT RAMP UPGRADE

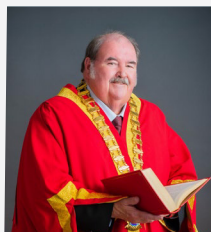
Undertaking a \$2.4 million renewal (80% grant-funded), as well as dredging the Whyalla and Point Lowly Marinas at a cost of \$950,000

This investment will be complemented by State Government funding for new recreation and sport facilities and the construction of a new Ambulance Station in Whyalla. Council will also continue to seek Australian Government support for the planning and design of Whyalla's Central Precinct.

Thank you once again to our Council Members, employees and volunteers for their tireless efforts in ensuring we offer a high standard of service to our rate payers and community. The year ahead will be historic for Whyalla, with a new steelworks owner expected to be announced; and Council delivering the long-awaited foreshore revitalisation.

Kind regards,

Mayor
Phill
Stone



CEO
Justin
Commons



Our City

WHYALLA IS MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO VISIT – IT'S A CITY OF OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH AND NEVER WANT TO LEAVE.

Whyalla helped build Australia through migration, mining, engineering and steelmaking; and is now poised to lead the nation's green industry revolution and climate change adaptation, spear-headed by major South Australian and Federal Government projects and funding. These include the nearly \$2b Sovereign Steel Package, helping upgrade the steelworks for a long-term green steel and iron future; a \$1b Northern Water Supply project; and expected benefits from the \$2b Hydrogen Headstart Program.

To help attract and cater for the increased workforce required for these projects, we have already implemented a number of improvements, including a nearly \$45m airport facility and runway upgrade; construction of a brand-new, state-of-the-art \$100m Whyalla Secondary College; and improved our lifestyle attraction with a \$9m circular jetty – the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere. There is still more to come, including a staged \$15m family-friendly foreshore redevelopment - incorporating Federal and State Government funding contributing to a new Whyalla Foreshore Centre building and splash-and-play plaza facility.

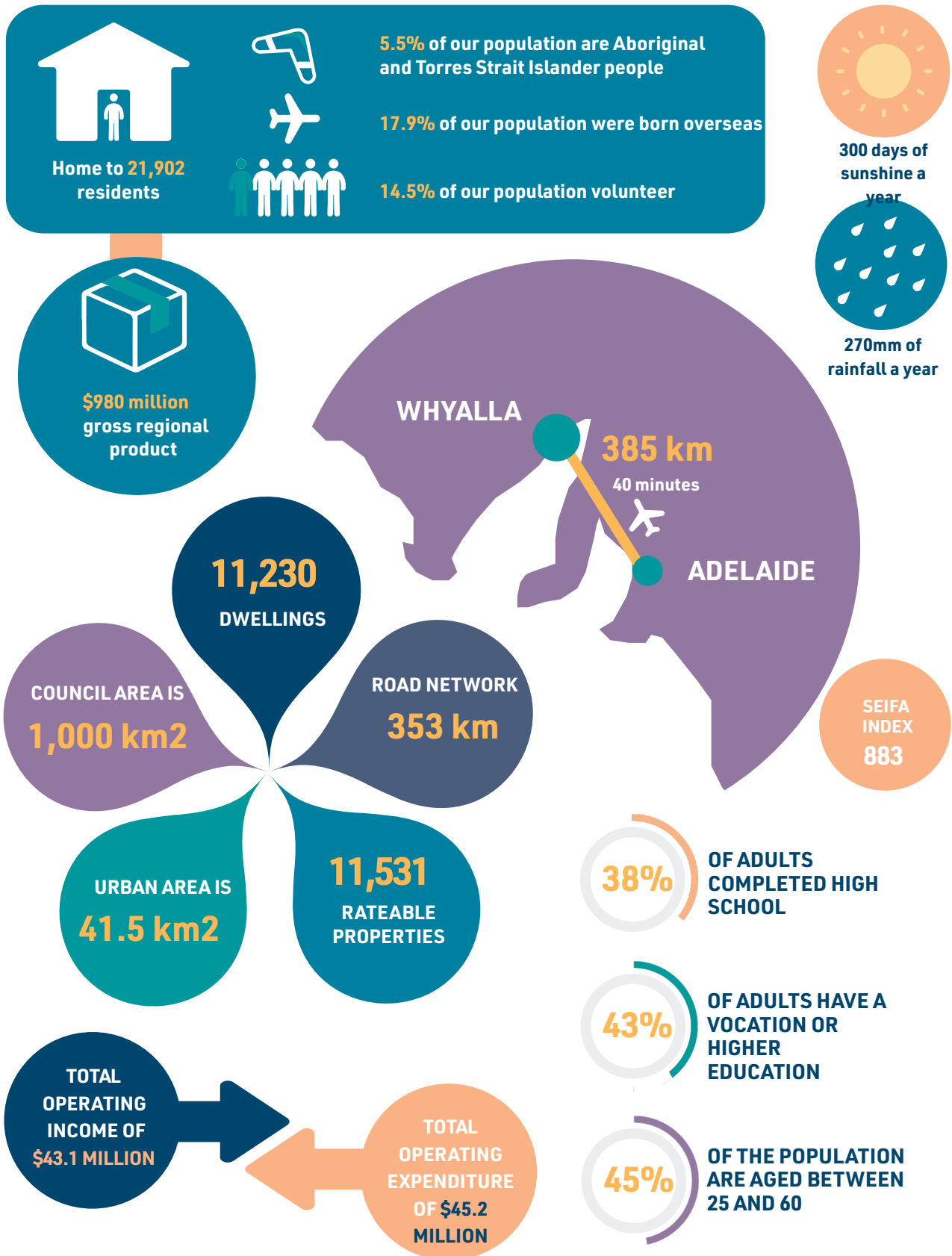
Our industry is underpinned by numerous education pathways across the city, starting with traineeships, apprenticeships and cadetships; and moving on to tertiary education, with our University of South Australia campus offering local students pathways to engineering, health and green industry careers.

And when all you want to do is play, the options are endless! People are flocking to Whyalla to see our Giant Australian Cuttlefish aggregation; ride our mountains; partake in endless water activities; soak up the peace and serenity of the nearby outback and northern coastline; and discover the largest illuminated circular jetty in the southern hemisphere.

Whyalla is a special location, where opportunity and resources meet in abundance alongside a city gifted with resilience, ingenuity and skill, poised to once again show the world what it's made of.

Head to whyalla.com/livinginwhyalla to discover more reasons to Unearth Your Next Step in whyalla.

Liveability Snapshot



Our Leadership

Leadership of our City comes from both the Council Members and the Council's Executive Management Team. Working together, they make and implement decisions that impact our future plans for Whyalla and the lives and livelihoods of individuals, families, businesses and visitors to our City.

In 2024-25, Whyalla Council's leadership was comprised of:



Mayor
Phill Stone



Councillor
Bill
Simpson



Councillor
David
Knox



Councillor
Kathryn
Campbell



Councillor
Mark
Inglis



Councillor
Peter
Borda



Councillor
Peter
Klobucar



Councillor
Sharon
Todd



Councillor
Tamy Pond



Councillor
Zia
Westerman

Executive team below, from left to right -
Jade Ballantine (Director City Growth), Kathy
Jarrett (Director Corporate), Justin
Commons (Chief Executive Officer)

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM



Our Planning Framework

The diagram below demonstrates how our plans connect to deliver on our Vision. Consistent with our commitment on delivering our plans, we consciously keep track of our progress and report back to our community through the plans and reports outlined below.



Summary of Strategic Plan

WHYALLA 2030 and beyond!

In our amazing transformation, Whyalla has emerged as a thriving, clean city where every resident experiences a profound sense of belonging, showcasing a remarkable resilience, innovative spirit, and a strong community bond that has fuelled our journey towards prosperity. Whyalla is a city where progress is measured not only by economic indicators but by the sense of pride and opportunity that every resident enjoys in this thriving, progressive community.

**We Embrace
Opportunity, We
Thrive Together, We
Lead the Way.**

Based on the feedback provided by the Audit and Risk Committee, an initial 2-speed focus has been added into the Strategic Plan, with a focus on financial sustainability and delivering on core services in the first 1 to 2 years, and then the ability to focus on larger liveability projects and increased amenity from year 2 onwards, as new revenue streams come online.

VALUES

We care

We Work Together

We're Committed

We Own It



OUR PEOPLE

Empowered people embrace their community to achieve a sense of belonging.



OUR PLACES

A quality life in a safe and connected community.



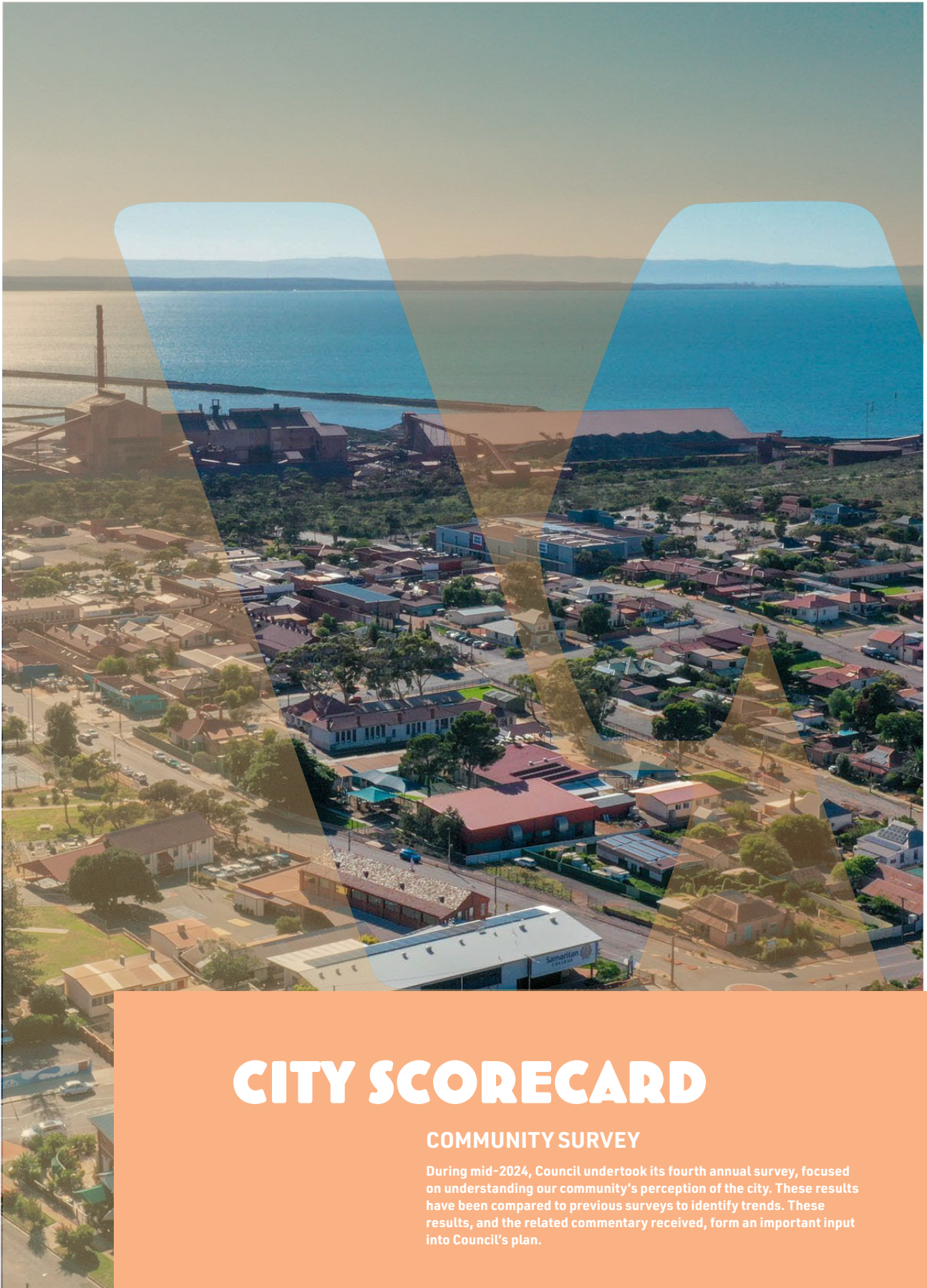
OUR ECONOMY

A diverse and prosperous economy.



OUR LEADERSHIP

Leadership that creates and shares a prosperous future for the community of Whyalla.



CITY SCORECARD

COMMUNITY SURVEY

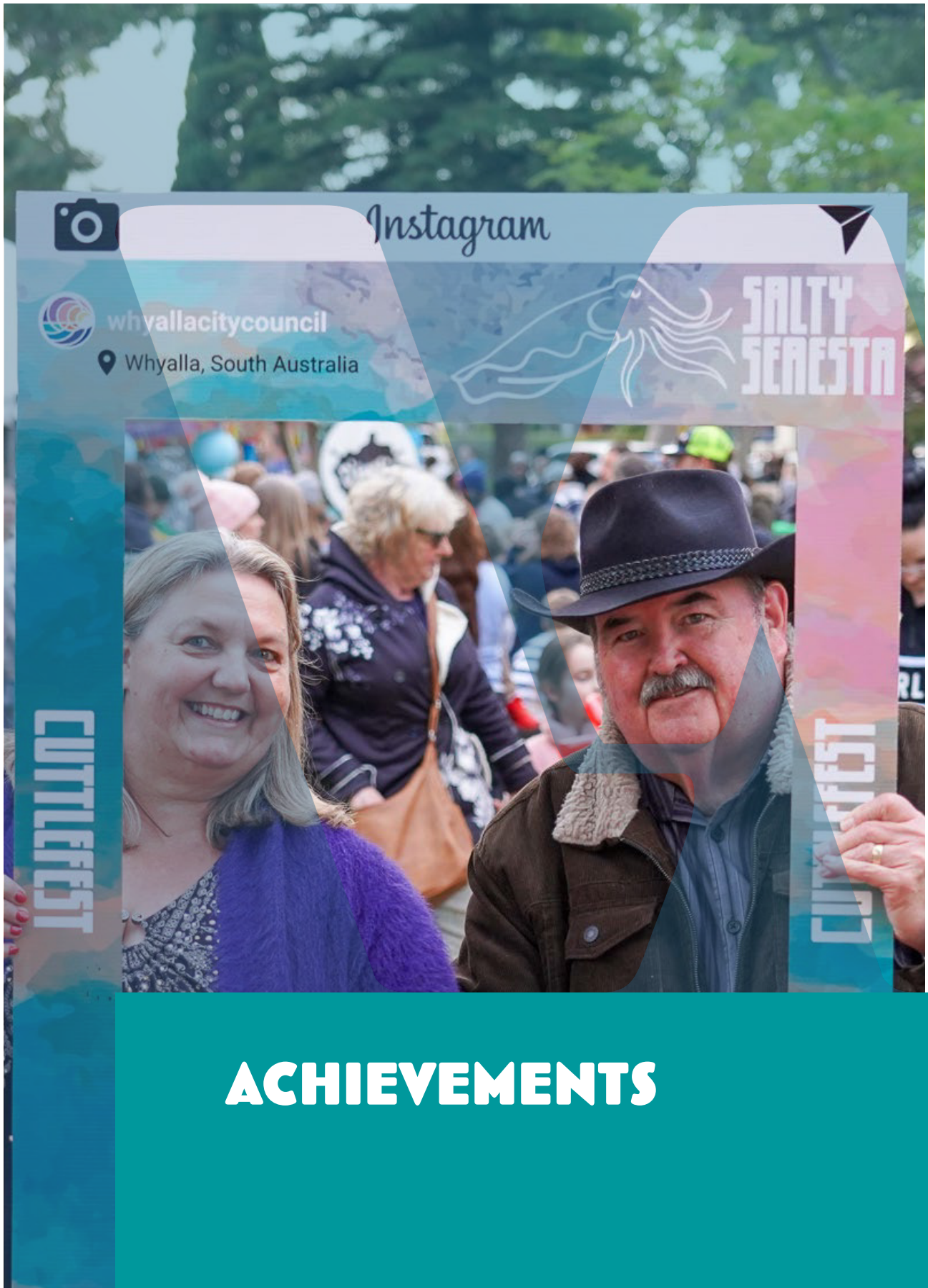
During mid-2024, Council undertook its fourth annual survey, focused on understanding our community's perception of the city. These results have been compared to previous surveys to identify trends. These results, and the related commentary received, form an important input into Council's plan.

Community Perceptions

SCORE – averages out of 5 (excluding net promoter scores as highlighted)		Weighted Score -/5	Trend
OUR PEOPLE – a safe and engaged community, which is healthy, culturally and socially rich			
Pride	Proportion who say they feel proud of Whyalla	3.19	↓
Safe	Proportion who say they feel safe in their community	2.72	↓
Safe, Healthy, Connected	Proportion who say they feel safe, healthy and connected to their community	2.94	↓
AVERAGE		2.95	↓
OUR PLACES – protecting our natural environment and enhancing our built environment			
Attractive and creative city	Proportion who say they have great memories of Whyalla's parks, gardens, public buildings and infrastructure	3.46	↓
Activated	Proportion who say Whyalla's parks, gardens, public buildings and infrastructure are well used and reflect community needs	3.05	↓
Sustainable environment	We look after our natural environment, effectively protecting it for us now and for future generations	3.04	↓
AVERAGE		3.18	↓
OUR ECONOMY – Whyalla has a diverse and sustainable economy			
Growing	New businesses in Whyalla	2.69	↓
Education	Opportunities for education in Whyalla are expanding	2.73	↓
Learning, working, staying	Higher education enrolments, higher education retention	2.29	↓
AVERAGE		2.57	↓
OUR IMAGE – Whyalla is respected and recognised as a strong community with a bright, positive and long-term future			
Belonging	Would you recommend Whyalla as a place to live? (Net Promoter Score)	*-54	↓
	Would you recommend Whyalla as a place to do business? (Net Promoter Score)	*-71	↓
AVERAGE		-62	↓
OUR LEADERSHIP – we are a City confident in its leaders			
Strategic Accountable Engaged Modern	Proportion who say Council delivers value for the rate dollar	1.86	↓
	Proportion who are satisfied with Council services	2.58	↓
	Proportion who say it takes little effort to do business with Council	2.75	↓
	Proportion who are satisfied with their experience in dealing with Council	2.77	↓
	Proportion who say Council is engaging with residents, ratepayers, community groups, visitors	2.53	↓
	Proportion who say Council is exciting, modern and embracing change	2.7	↓
AVERAGE		2.53	↓

* Net Promoter Score (NPS) measures how likely respondents are to recommend something. NPS is a score between -100 and 100, and is calculated using the percentage of promoters minus the percentage of detractors.

Promoters are those who score 9 or above while detractors are those who score 6 or below, with the remainder being considered neutral.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Our People

LIBRARY SPACE

COMPLETED

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Library is an important and well used community asset. Some components of the building are due for renewal and this is being taken as an opportunity to review the overall use of the space, to ensure it meets best practice.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Works to lay new carpet and install new shelving were completed in early April. This has led to the library being a much more contemporary event space, hopefully leading to increased utilisation. In 2025/26 some additional furniture replacement will occur.

RECREATION CENTRE

DELAYED

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Delivery of an energy efficiency project, to ensure that the centre is operating in an environmentally friendly way and at the lowest cost possible.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Unfortunately Council was unsuccessful in its funding bid, with no projects relating to facilities of this type being funded Australia wide. Council will now proceed to deliver a scaled down project in 2025/26, which will still see solar installed, but some of the other energy efficiency initiatives removed.

COMMUNITY AMENITY

ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Council is conscious of the need to ensure that service levels in the city continue to meet community expectations and not to be distracted by the development coming on line in the city. Areas of particular focus include the management of trees, weeds and illegal littering. Novel approaches may be required to make improvements in these areas while operating within current budget constraints.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Council has committed additional funds to the management of trees and has progressed the removal of a number of high risk trees in an urgent manner. A 5 year contract for tree removal will soon be finalised, which will continue to address the removal of at risk trees, allowing Council's internal team to focus on the planned pruning program.

A number of "blitzes" have been undertaken utilising multiple operations teams, with each seeking to get specific streets up to a high standard in a short period of time.

Work has begun on uplifting some specific verges in lower socioeconomic areas of the city. A program of offering free dump vouchers to targeted areas/houses has begun.



Our Places

BUILDING RATIONALISATION

ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Continue the review of Council's buildings and plan for their future use. A change of mindset is required to ensure that the community has access to modern multi-use facilities that are highly utilised and deliver community value.

PROGRESS TO DATE

A report was presented to the January Council Meeting outlining the progress made on the resolutions already passed by Council, with the majority either completed or in the late stages of being progressed. Further workshops will need to be held to identify the next tranche of buildings requiring focus.

REVIEW BUILDING ASSETS

ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Undertake a condition rating and valuation of Council's building and open space assets as part of the 5 year cycle. Buildings are Council's most run down asset class and also of particular interest to the community, so it is vital that this data is accurate, to assist with good decision making.

PROGRESS TO DATE

This work has now been completed. As usually occurs, some additional minor assets were identified, as Council continues to improve its asset data. Work was undertaken to reduce the impact on Council's ongoing financial position as much as possible, however there will still be a level of increase in depreciation.

FORESHORE MASTER PLAN*1

ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Progress the open space plaza component of the plan, including water play.
Focus on the renewal of marina assets reaching end of life, such as the boat ramp and swimming enclosure.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Council had funding approved for the Foreshore Plaza Project under the Growing Regions Program. This project already has the majority of detailed design completed, and the tender process will be able to be progressed over the coming months.

Funding was also approved for the replacement of the Surf Life Saving Club building, with this component of the precinct being more complex to progress and therefore taking more time, due to the stakeholders involved.

The contract for the boat ramp project has been executed, with initial works starting on site in July to fabricate components. In water works are planned to occur around September, after the cuttlefish season, and timed with dredging works.

The marina carpark will be progressed as part of Council's road renewal program.

The swimming enclosure was replaced.

Our Economy

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

MINOR DELAYS

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Delivery of the Economic Development Plan with the Eyre Peninsula RDA.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Council has rejoined the RDA, who are responsible for delivery of these actions. Council have expressed their desire that the RDA need to provide regular updates on what they are delivering for Whyalla.

NORTHERN COASTLINE MASTER PLAN*2

DELAYED

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Continue to plan for the future of the Cuttlefish Dive Site, to deal with the risks created by increased visitation, to improve the visitor experience and to look for ways for the community to benefit from this unique tourism asset.
- Continue with the negotiation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the Northern Coastline, to allow for improvements to the tourist experience to proceed.

PROGRESS TO DATE

- External Funding was sourced to construct pedestrian access at the dive site. However the timelines were extremely tight and contractors were not able to deliver this before the season. This project can be revisited after the season, however it is possible that this solution may not be the best way to move forward.
- Requests surrounding an ILUA have been sent, however BDAC are amongst the busiest determinations in the nation, so it is likely that any progress will take time.



Our Leadership

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Increase levels of community participation through engagement.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Previous improvements such as having Frequently Asked Questions available for high interest topics and responding quickly to questions posed on social media have worked well. Some members of the community have started actively responding to negative comments and pointing people towards information that is already available. However, it is still challenging handling some members of the community, which required a rethink on which posts have comments turned on or off and how active Council is on Facebook. More information is being relayed by Media Release only, or by targeted communication, when only a small section of the community is impacted by specific events.

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Continued improvement of overall Customer Experience.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The Customer Experience Framework has been implemented. Regular monitoring and reporting of customer requests is being undertaken, both internally, and to Council as part of the Information Report. Additional initiatives have also been put in place, such as an option for outcomes to be communicated to customers via SMS. This closes the communication loop, and allowing customers to see that their requests are being actioned in a timely manner. The implementation of a Customer Relationship Management solution over coming years, as part of the overall modernisation of systems, will be an important next step in further increasing the Customer Experience.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

With a performance management framework implemented the training and development plan will align Organisational and individual training and development needs.

PROGRESS TO DATE

The organisation has implemented Personal Development Plans for all employees in 2024/25, which helps to align the effort of all staff to Council's strategy and goals.
The Training Needs Analysis has been updated and is directing training programs.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

PAUSED

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Continue to plan for the future modernisation of Council's information systems, while recognising that significant investment is not viable at the current moment.

PROGRESS TO DATE

This project was temporarily paused, pending the availability of budget and some changes in the marketplace. Council's current software provider was recently acquired, which has led to additional investment in their products. They have provided a high level quote to transition to their cloud based product, which is at a much lower cost than some of the other options presented in the roadmap. Next steps will need to be considered by the incoming Executive.

SERVICE REVIEWS

NOT MET

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Council is committed to ensuring public value to the Whyalla community for all Council activities. This will be achieved by our Service Review Framework focused on identifying community need, achieving efficiency and effectiveness with the aim to achieve on-going savings that can be passed onto the rate payer, or redirected to areas identified as requiring higher need.

PROGRESS TO DATE

It was decided that the current Service Review Program was not meeting Council's requirements and so the partnership with the contractor was ended. A new way forward will need to be identified in 2025/26.

FUTURE CIVIC CENTRE

ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Planning for the future home of Council is an exciting opportunity to ensure the delivery of a multi-use facility that delivers the best possible outcome for the community.

PROGRESS TO DATE

A Prospectus has been developed, with the view that this will be released when market conditions are more favourable. Quotes are being sought for demolition of the existing building, to understand what the best course of action is.

ADVOCACY

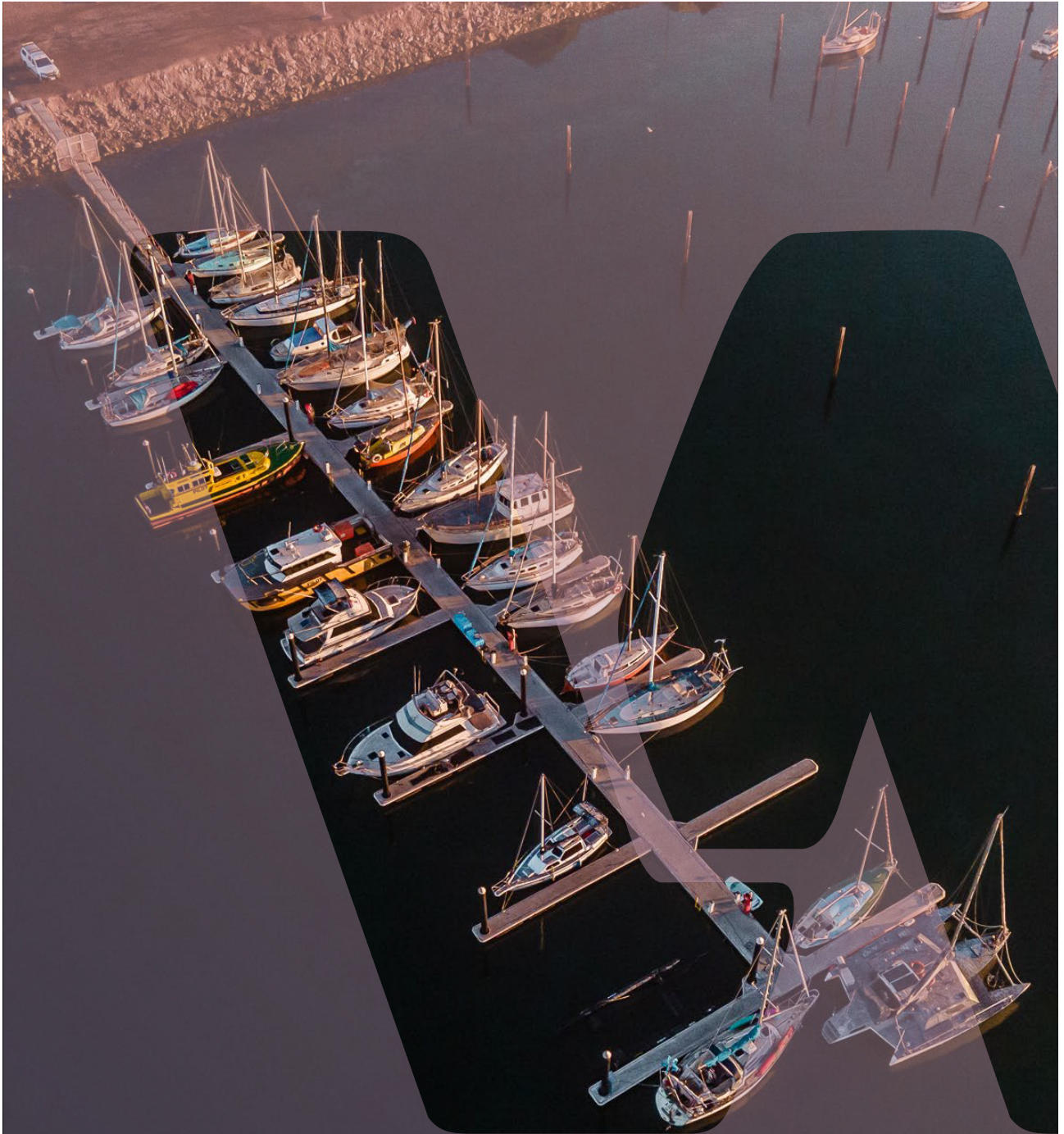
ON TRACK

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Water Security
Housing
Liveability
Precinct Partnerships
Alternate Funding Sources
Airport Sustainability

PROGRESS TO DATE

Advocacy for the desalinisation plant to be built at Mullaquana instead of Cape Hardy is ongoing. Some traction has been achieved with Renewal SA on housing in the city, but much more is required. Significant funding has been achieved for the Foreshore Precinct, which will be the first large liveability project for the city. Work continues on the development of a plan for the central precinct, which will be used to seek Precinct Partnership funding. Significant funding has also been achieved for the Runway Upgrade after a substantial amount of lobbying at both the State and Federal levels. Negotiations are taking pace with QANTAS to arrive at a passenger levy that will sustainably fund the airport moving forward. Council successfully negotiated a strategic land sale to the State Government, greatly improving Council's financial position, unlocking the land for development and removing management of the large land parcel from Council's workload.



MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

Key Imperatives / Project Delivery

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE	PROGRESS	PERFORMANCE
Staged delivery of the foreshore master plan	On track against plans	Council had funding approved for the Foreshore Plaza Project under the Growing Regions Program. This project already has the majority of detailed design completed, and the tender process will be able to be progressed over the coming months. Funding was also approved for the replacement of the Surf Life Saving Club building, with this component of the precinct being more complex to progress and therefore taking more time, due to the stakeholders involved. The contract for the boat ramp project has been executed, with initial works starting on site in July to fabricate components. In water works are planned to occur around September, after the cuttlefish season, and timed with dredging works. The marina carpark will be progressed as part of Council's road renewal program. The swimming enclosure was replaced.	ON TRACK
Implementation of the economic development plan	On track against plans	Council has rejoined the RDA, who are responsible for delivery of these actions. Council have expressed their desire that the RDA need to provide regular updates on what they are delivering for Whyalla.	MINOR DELAYS
Provide leadership and organisational resources to supporting region wide projects (e.g. Hydrogen Hub, EPLGA, Upper Spencer Gulf group) to attract state and federal funds & external partners	Feedback from external stakeholders	Recent feedback from representatives of both the State and Federal Government suggest that Council is doing very well in this area and that the other levels of Government are very keen to collaborate with Council on revitalising the city.	ON TRACK
Delivery of annual capital program	On track against plans	The addition of the \$32.4 million Airport Runway Project to the program during the year changed the complexion of the capital program. This project was urgent and so some other works had to be deferred to allow resources to go towards this project. Council's overall capital spend was much higher than in any previous year. A number of other major projects have been fully planned and are due to kick off early in 2025/26, such as the Boat Ramp Replacement.	ON TRACK
Delivery of initiatives outlined within the Annual Business Plan	On track against plans	Of the 15 initiatives, 2 are behind schedule due to circumstances beyond Council's control, such as being unsuccessful in securing grant funding. Only one item has not been met, and this is due to a conscious decision to change how Council undertakes its Service Review program.	ON TRACK

Financial and Asset Management

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE	PROGRESS	PERFORMANCE
Performance against Council's adopted budget inclusive of savings	Financial results show improvement compared to adopted (or adjusted) budget	Council's final financial position is worse than the current budget. There are a number of larger one-off items that caused this, such as a change in the expected future costs of capping Council's second landfill cell. However, there were also a number of smaller budget over runs that have contributed to the result, and these need to be managed in future years. In addition, some expected income was not received.	NOT MET
Implement strategies to restore a surplus financial position by 2026/2027	LTFP projections	Modelling presented during 23-24 budget process show the current LTFP projections show a return to a breakeven position by 26/27 for Council excluding Airport. While there is still a deficit position once the Airport is included within the projections, the agreed position is now that the airport can operate at a deficit up to 50% of its depreciation, and once this is taken into consideration, the overall financial position for 26/27 is in line with Council's target.	ON TRACK

Organisational Development & Performance

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE	PROGRESS	PERFORMANCE
Build organisational capacity: culture, leadership, training and development	- Organisational development plan developed and implementation commenced - Leadership development undertaken - Training and development plan developed and implementation commenced - Retention of senior management team	- The organisation has implemented Personal Development Plans for all employees in 2024/25, which helps to align the effort of all staff to Council's strategy and goals. - Group Leadership development is part of the Training & Development Plan. - The Training Needs Analysis has been updated and will direct future training programs. 2 Directors left the organisation at the end of the year, this being the first major change in a number of years to Council's leadership team.	ON TRACK
Build organisational governance	Compliance with all Local Government Act requirements	Internal audit program is operating as expected, and has not highlighted any risks that are of concern.	ON TRACK
Implement agreed recommendations from external / independent reviews as required e.g. external & internal audit reports, governance health check	Timely and efficient implementation of recommendations from external / independent reviews	Progressing well, reported to the Audit and Risk Committee at each quarterly meeting.	ON TRACK

Customer & Stakeholder Engagement and Experience

KEY FOCUS AREA	MEASURE	PROGRESS	PERFORMANCE
Implementation of a customer experience framework inclusive of standards and systems	On track against plan	The Customer Experience Framework has been implemented. Regular monitoring and reporting of customer requests is being undertaken, both internally, and to Council as part of the Information Report.	ON TRACK
Improve Community engagement/ experience	Customer request closures, inbound correspondence response rate	Additional initiatives have been put in place, such as an option for outcomes to be communicated to customers via SMS. This closes the communication loop, and allowing customers to see that their requests are being actioned in a timely manner. The implementation of a Customer Relationship Management solution over coming years, as part of the overall modernisation of systems, will be an important next step in further increasing the Customer Experience.	ON TRACK
Build community leadership	Development and implementation of strategies to build community leadership	The work conducted last financial year on developing the Community Plan did a great job of highlighting who in the community has the ability and desire to be involved in community leadership. Further work needs to be done to harness this energy, allow the city to deliver on its plan and build resilience.	MINOR DELAYS
Undertake annual community survey	Survey results show increased ratings year on year against annual community survey	The survey was undertaken in July 2024. This coincided with issuing the first rates notices under the new rating system, and with the initial closure of the blast furnace due to technical issues. The results saw a drop in ratings across all questions, showing lower satisfaction levels from ratepayers.	OFF TRACK





PROJECT DELIVERY

Projects

OR SIGNIFICANTLY
PROGRESSED

Completed **AIRPORT RUNWAY UPGRADE**

Due to changes in the QANTAS fleet, a major upgrade of the runway was required, to ensure that heavier planes could continue to land in a safe manner. Council was successful in obtaining \$30 million of funding from the State and Federal Governments, covering more than 90% of the total project costs. The project had very tight timeframes and all major works needed to be completed at night, so that the airport could continue to accept flights each day. Despite these challenges, the project was delivered on time and under budget, a great outcome for the city.

CHILDCARE CENTRE UPGRADE

Expansion of the Child Care Building footprint, to allow a higher number of licences to be obtained, while also ensuring that services are delivered in line with modern expectations. The project is 50% externally grant funded. The upgrade works are now completed, and the new space has been activated. Works still to occur include renewal of both the old portion of the building as well as the play space.

WHYALLA LIBRARY RENEWAL

The library is an important and well used community asset. The project included laying new carpet throughout the space, as well as the replacement of all the shelving units. The new units meet DDA requirements and also allow the library to function as a flexible events space.

PUBLIC TOILET RENEWAL

The new Foreshore toilet was delivered early in 2024/25 and provides a much more contemporary facility for this key city precinct. Planning is well underway for the delivery of a similar facility at Civic Park, near the new playground that is also being delivered. Other more minor toilet refurbishments are also planned.

TRANSPORT RENEWAL PROGRAM

This was the third year of a three-year program, that includes renewal of road, kerb and footpath assets. The development of the program was based on detailed network condition data, in conjunction with visual assessments and usage information. Work was also undertaken on a number of traffic signals that were at end of life. For the first time in many years Council has budgeted for resheeting of the unsealed road network, with the first project being undertaken on Gulf View Road.

PLANT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

In the current year the following items were renewed:

● **Loader** ● **Excavator** ● **Tractor** ● **Mower** ● **5 fleet vehicles**

The replacement of vehicles is important to ensuring the most efficient delivery of Council operations. Replacement schedules are designed to ensure the lowest life cycle costs of vehicles, taking into account trade in values.

In addition, Council expanded its fleet with the purchase of a bus to undertake the Steelworks Tours. A business case showed that there are financial benefits from owning this vehicle rather than hiring as has been done in the past.

Projects in the Planning Phase

FORESHORE PLAZA

Council has been successful in achieving 50% funding for the delivery of the Foreshore Plaza upgrade. The works will be tendered over coming months, with works likely to commence early in 2026.

WHYALLA MARINA RENEWAL

Council has been successful in achieving 80% funding for the replacement of the Boat Ramp and pontoons. These works have been tendered and are planned to commence in September 2025 and be completed early in 2026. The works will be coordinated with dredging works.

Some minor project spend has been excluded from this listing, however detailed updates on the delivery of the entire capital program can be found in Council Agendas on a quarterly basis.

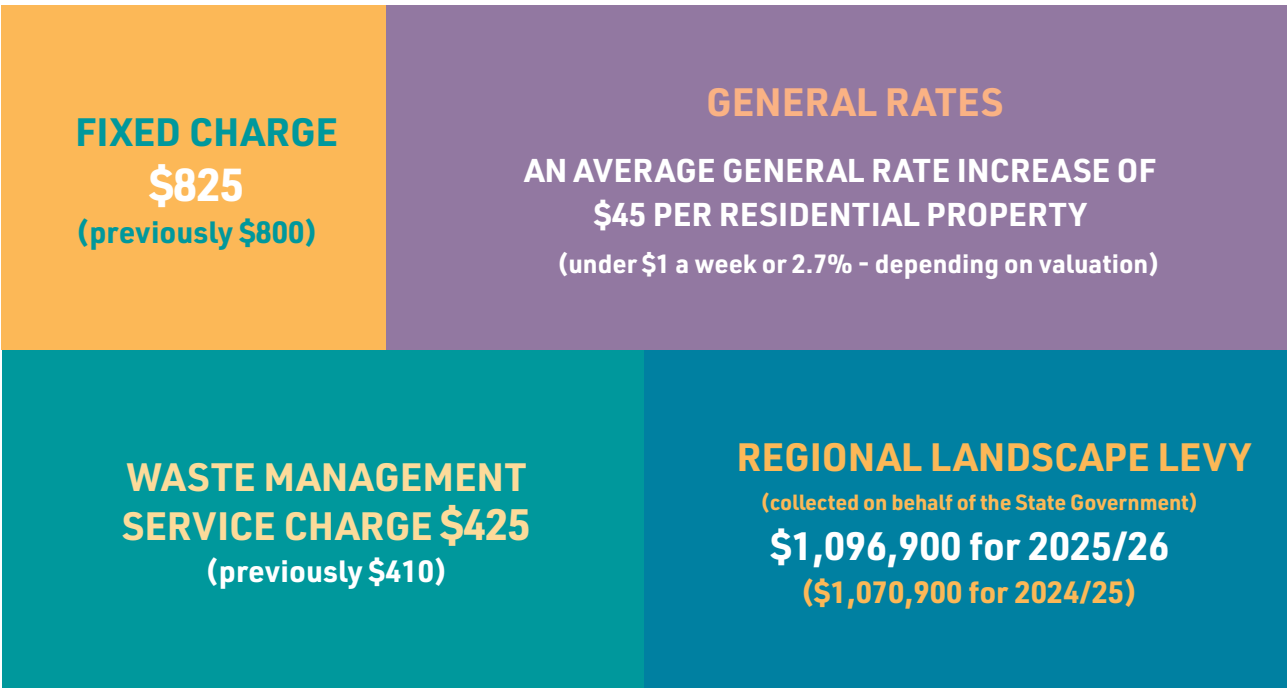


2025/26 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN SUMMARY

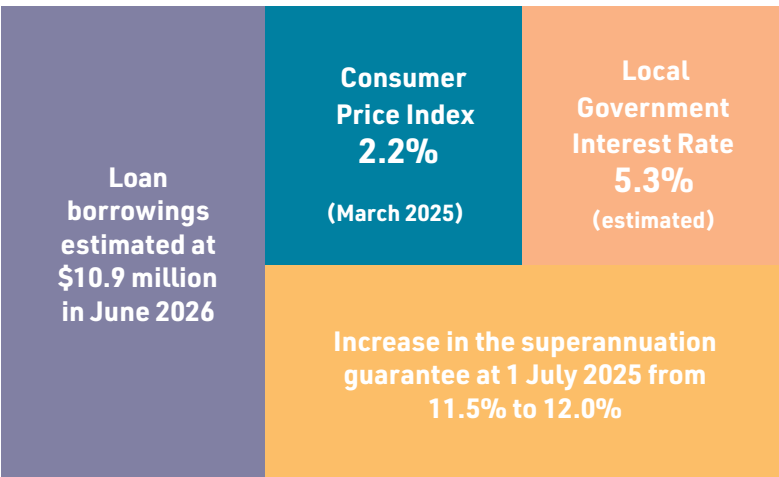
The Annual Business Plan sets out Council’s proposed services, programs and projects for 2025/26. It aims to maintain efficient legislated and discretionary services for the community and continue progress towards the longer-term objectives for the City of Whyalla as set out in the Strategic Plan due for adoption in May.

The Annual Business Plan is Council’s key management document reflecting the work that Council needs to undertake to meet its Strategic Plan goals and objectives within the constraints of the revised Long Term Financial Plan.

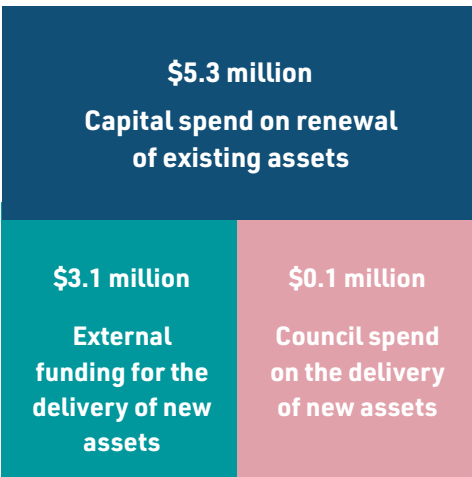
RATE REVENUE MADE UP OF



SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCES



CAPITAL SPEND



Strategic Initiatives

A key objective of the Annual Business Plan & Budget is to outline how Council will deliver on the Strategic Plan 2025-2034 objectives during the year. While much of Council's business involves ongoing service delivery, the list below outlines the specific initiatives that have been identified to be undertaken in 2025/26 to ensure that Council can deliver on these strategic objectives.

OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

Empowered people embrace their community to achieve a sense of belonging.

INITIATIVE

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

BUILDING RATIONALISATION

GOAL TO IDENTIFY
ONGOING SAVINGS OF
\$90,000
PER ANNUM

Continue the review of Council's buildings and plan for their future use. A change of mindset is required to ensure that the community has access to modern multi-use facilities that are highly utilised and deliver community value.

STAGE 1 - PLAN

MOUNT LAURA MUSEUM

BUDGET
\$50,000

Now that a Memorandum of Understanding is in place, look to develop the facility to improve the community offering.

STAGE 1 - DELIVER

Photography by Karen Bilney



OUR LIVEABILITY

A quality life in a safe and connected community.

INITIATIVE	PLANNED ACTIVITIES
CITY AMENITY BUDGET \$40,000	• Council is conscious of the need to ensure that service levels in the city continue to meet community expectations and not to be distracted by the development coming on line in the city. Areas of particular focus include the management of trees, weeds and illegal littering. Novel approaches may be required to make improvements in these areas while operating within current budget constraints. • Currently almost half of the waste put in general waste bins across the city could be diverted to green waste. If this occurred, it would save almost \$300,000 a year in disposal costs. Continued investment is required in this area to change behaviours and realise these benefits. Education programs will be undertaken with industry partners to empower the community to begin making this change.
	STAGE 1 - DELIVER
FORESHORE PRECINCT BUDGET \$9,465,000	Progress the Foreshore Plaza project in line with approved funding. Deliver the boat ramp and dredging projects in the Whyalla marina.
	STAGE 1 - DELIVER

OUR INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS

A diverse and prosperous economy.

INITIATIVE	PLANNED ACTIVITIES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN BUDGET \$176,000	Delivery of the Economic Development Plan with the Eyre Peninsula RDA.
	STAGE 1 - DELIVER

INITIATIVE	PLANNED ACTIVITIES
NORTHERN COASTLINE NOT YET BUDGETED \$395,000	- Continue to plan for the future of the Cuttlefish Dive Site, to deal with the risks created by increased visitation, to improve the visitor experience and to look for ways for the community to benefit from this unique tourism asset. - Continue with the negotiation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the Northern Coastline, to allow for improvements to the tourist experience to proceed.
	 STAGE 2 - PLAN
AIRPORT MASTERPLAN BUDGET \$50,000	Develop a comprehensive plan for the future use of the airport, to unlock commercial opportunities that will ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the facility.
	 STAGE 1 - PLAN

OUR LEADERSHIP

Leadership that creates and shares a prosperous future for the community of Whyalla.

INITIATIVE	PLANNED ACTIVITIES
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	Increase levels of community participation through engagement. STAGE 1 - DELIVER
CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE	Continued improvement of overall Customer Experience. STAGE 1 - DELIVER
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Increase maturity of the performance management framework and implementation of the training and development plan. STAGE 1 - DELIVER

INFORMATION SYSTEMS	Continue to plan for the future modernisation of Council's information systems, while recognising that significant investment is not viable at the current moment.	
NOT YET BUDGETED		STAGE 2 - PLAN
REVIEW IRRIGATION ASSETS	Undertake a condition rating and valuation of Council's irrigation assets as part of the 5 year cycle. Irrigation assets are vital to allow for greening of the city without the need for water trucks which are labour intensive to operate.	
\$100,000		STAGE 1 - DELIVER
SERVICE REVIEWS	Council is committed to ensuring public value to the Whyalla community for all Council activities. This will be achieved by our Service Review Framework focused on identifying community need, achieving efficiency and effectiveness with the aim to achieve on-going savings that can be passed onto the rate payer, or redirected to areas identified as requiring higher need.	
BUDGET \$80,000		STAGE 1 - DELIVER
FUTURE CIVIC CENTRE	Planning for the future home of Council is an exciting opportunity to ensure the delivery of a multi-use facility that delivers the best possible outcome for the community.	
NOT YET BUDGETED		STAGE 1 - PLAN
ADVOCACY	• Water Security • Alternate Funding • Public Safety Precinct • Air Port Sustainability • Liveability Sources	STAGE 2 - ADVOCATE

Measuring Our Performance

To ensure Council's accountability in delivering on the objectives in the Strategic Plan 2025-2034, the following measures have been put in place to track progress. These measures align with the Key Performance Indicators adopted by Council for the Chief Executive Officer.

FOCUS AREA	PERFORMANCE MEASURE
ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN DELIVERY	
Delivery of strategic initiatives	On track against plans
Delivery of capital program	On track against plans
Performance against Council's adopted budget inclusive of savings	Financial results show improvement compared to adopted budget
Implement strategies to restore a surplus financial position by 2026/2027	LTFP projections



Savings Targets

Council has incorporated saving targets into its Budget and Long Term Financial Plan projections, to put downward pressure on costs and in turn, required rate increases.

Below is a summary of saving targets that are included in the plan and how Council is performing against them.

It is important to note that cost pressures exist within many areas of Council's business, for example over the past two years significant increases have been experienced for electricity and animal rehoming. These savings targets are not a suggestion that Council's overall cost base hasn't risen, however, without them the overall impact to ratepayers would have been higher.

BUILDING RATIONALISATION	A reduction in ongoing costs from the removal of underutilised and poor quality buildings from Council's portfolio, through a mix of demolition, sale or transfer.	ONGOING SAVINGS OF \$250,000 PER ANNUM BY 2025/26.	The sale of the WEDEB building has generated annual savings of \$160,000 in depreciation and interest for the past two years. A number of options exist for generating the additional \$90,000 of savings over the next 12 months.
VACANT POSITION ALLOWANCE	Underbudgeting the payroll budget, to recognise that some positions in the business will always be vacant, while recruitment processes are undertaken.	AN AVERAGE OF 1.5 POSITIONS VACANT AT ANY TIME, A VALUE OF \$165,000 FOR THE YEAR	This has saved Council \$900,000 over the past three years, with the assumption previously being 3.5 vacant positions.
GENERAL EFFICIENCIES	Accumulation of small savings from process change.	\$25,000 OF ONGOING SAVINGS.	This will be worked through in 2025/26.
SEALED ROAD DEPRECIATION	A review of the useful life of sealed road pavement base, to ensure they are reflective of reality and industry standards.	\$150,000 OF ONGOING SAVINGS.	This process has been completed, with the ongoing savings of \$120,000 achieved, only slightly below target.



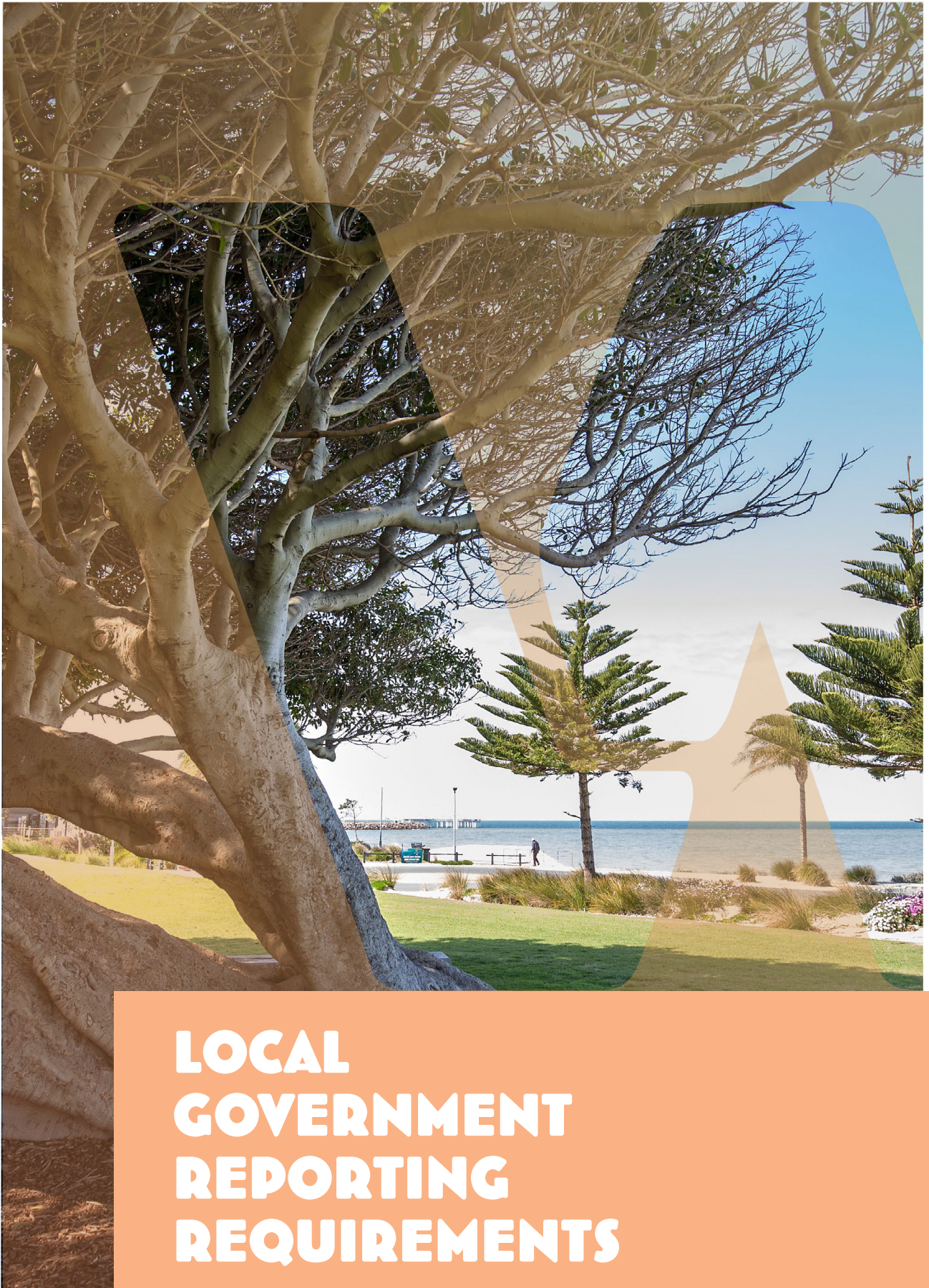
SERVICES

Council Services

COUNCIL IS PART OF YOUR EVERY DAY

Most people are surprised when they learn about all of the things Council provides for the community. Have you thought about how your daily life is improved by the services provided by the City of Whyalla? Below is a list of some of the services, programs and facilities Council delivers to make Whyalla a great place to live, work and play.

AIRPORT OPERATIONS 	ANIMAL MANAGEMENT 	ARTS AND CULTURE 	ASSET MANAGEMENT 	BUILDING ASSESSMENT 
CEMETERY & CREMATORIUM 	CHILD CARE SERVICES 	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 	PARKING MANAGEMENT 	PUBLIC AMENITIES 
DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT 	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 	IRRIGATION 	JETTY & MARINA 
KERB & FOOT-PATH MAINTENANCE 	LEISURE FACILITIES 	LIBRARY SERVICES 	MAYOR & ELECTED MEMBERS 	MEDIA & COMMUNICATION 
MEDIAN STRIPS & VERGES 	OFFICE OF THE CEO 	OTHER CIVIL MAINTENANCE 	PARKS, GARDENS & OPEN SPACES 	PROJECT DELIVERY 
LEASES & LICENCES 	ROAD MAINTENANCE 	SPORTING FACILITIES 	STORMWATER MAINTENANCE 	STREET LIGHTING 
TOURISM & EVENTS 	TREE MAINTENANCE 	VISITOR SERVICES 	WASTE MANAGEMENT 	YOUTH SERVICES 



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS, MANDATORY REGISTERS ETC.

City of Whyalla maintains the following registers and codes of conduct/ practice as required under the appropriate Local Government Acts:

REGISTERS

Register of interests (Members)	Register of public roads
Register of allowances and benefits (Members)	Register of by-laws Register of building upgrade agreements
Register of remuneration, salaries and benefits (Employees)	Register of gifts and benefits (Code of conduct for employees)
Register of interests (Employees)	
Register of community land	

CODES

Code of conduct for members	Code of conduct for employees
Access to meetings and documents—code of practice	Procedures at meetings—code of practice

AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

During the course of the financial year \$19,425 was paid to Council’s auditors. This included \$17,500 for audit fees and \$1,925 for travel, accommodation and other expenses. The auditors completed two additional grant acquittals during the period at a total cost of \$800.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REVIEW PANEL MEETINGS

for 2024/25 and who attended:

	Mayor Stone	Cr Pond	Deputy Mayor Peter
10 July 2024	Yes	Yes	
27 August 2024	Yes	Yes	
2 October 2024	Yes	Yes	
24 April 2025	Yes	Yes	
28 May 2025	Yes		Yes



COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Council Member attendance at both the Ordinary and Special Council Meetings for 2024/25.

	Ordinary Council	Special Council
Number of Meetings	12	14
Mayor P Stone	12/12	14/14
Deputy Mayor T Pond	9/12	12/14
Cr D Knox	8/12	11/14
Cr M Inglis	11/12	13/14
Cr P Klobucar	12/12	12/14
Cr S Todd	6/12	8/14
Cr K Campbell	11/12	5/14
Cr P Borda	10/12	11/14
Cr Z Westerman	9/12	7/14
Cr B Simpson	12/12	14/14

COUNCIL MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND SUPPORT

Council members receive an annual allowance to assist with expenses incurred undertaking their role. Councilors in charge of chairing a committee are also paid an additional allowance.

The Local Government Act 1999 provides for periodic adjustments to Council Member Allowances and for these to be adjusted on each respective anniversary of the periodic election to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. A formula is set out in the relevant Regulations, and the States' Remuneration Tribunal applies the formula and determines the applicable amounts.

In addition, Council Members are issued with a Microsoft Surface Pro to enable them to access their email calendar, agendas and minutes.

The Mayor is provided with a Council vehicle, a Microsoft Surface Pro and a mobile phone. Office space and administrative support is also provided.

Council Members are able to claim for reimbursement of further costs in accordance with Councils' Council Members Allowances and Benefits Policy.

Council maintains a register of allowances which details the amounts and benefits paid to Council Members and is available for viewing at the Corporation of the City of Whyalla Civic Building (also available on the Council website).

COUNCIL MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS

	Mayor Phil Stone	Deputy Mayor Peter Borda	Councillor Kathryn Campbell	Councillor Mark Inglis	Councillor Peter Klobucar
Council Member Allowances	\$82,827	\$21,193	\$20,707	\$20,707	\$20,707
Travelling expenses for attendance at specific events					
Travelling expenses for an eligible journey					
Child care costs for attendance at specific events					
Dependant care costs for attendance at specified events					
Information Technology hardware & software					
» All Council Members have use of a Microsoft Surface Pro	\$207	\$382	\$382	\$382	\$382
» Internet access					
All Council Members have access to required stationery and office consumables					
» Business Cards	\$80				
MAYORAL SPECIFIC FACILITIES AND SUPPORT					
Fully Maintained motor vehicle	\$10,509				
Mobile phone handset and hands free car kit, including mobile phone plan	\$418				
Administrative support					
» Office Space					
» Access to Personal Assistant					
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES/CONFERENCES/SEMINARS					
» All Council Members have access to whole of Council training & development activities	\$484	\$484	\$484	\$484	\$484
NB: the Council's financial statements reflect overall costs to Council for provision of training and development activities to members					
» Air Fares	\$1,755				
» Accommodation	\$2,228	\$245			
» Taxi Fares/Mileage Reimbursements	\$31	\$80			
OTHER BENEFITS PAID OR PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL					
Memberships and subscriptions					
Events	\$2,011	\$609			
Meals and refreshments	\$76				
Corporate attire or attire specific to a council event					
Access to Council Office resources					
» Storage facilities					
» Use of Council meeting rooms					
» General media and communication support					
TOTAL	\$100,626	\$22,994	\$21,572	\$21,572	\$21,572

	Councillor David Knox	Councillor Tamy Pond	Councillor Bill Simpson	Councillor Sharon Todd	Councillor Zia Westerman
Council Member Allowances	\$20,707	\$23,162	\$20,707	\$20,707	\$20,707
Travelling expenses for attendance at specific events					
Travelling expenses for an eligible journey					
Child care costs for attendance at specific events					
Dependant care costs for attendance at specified events					
Information Technology hardware & software					
» All Council Members have use of a Microsoft Surface Pro	\$207	\$207	\$207	\$382	\$382
» Internet access					
All Council Members have access to required stationery and office consumables					
» Business Cards					
MAYORAL SPECIFIC FACILITIES AND SUPPORT					
Fully Maintained motor vehicle					
Mobile phone handset and hands free car kit, including mobile phone plan					
Administrative support					
» Office Space					
» Access to Personal Assistant					
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES/CONFERENCES/SEMINARS					
» All Council Members have access to whole of Council training & development activities	\$484	\$484	\$484	\$484	\$484
NB: the Council's financial statements reflect overall costs to Council for provision of training and development activities to members					
» Air Fares					
» Accommodation					
» Taxi Fares/Mileage Reimbursements					
OTHER BENEFITS PAID OR PROVIDED BY THE COUNCIL					
Memberships and subscriptions					
Events	\$170	\$170			
Meals and refreshments					
Corporate attire or attire specific to a Council event					
Access to Council Office resources					
» Storage facilities					
» Use of Council meeting rooms					
» General media and communication support					
TOTAL	\$21,398	\$23,853	\$21,398	\$21,572	\$21,572

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

The Competitive Neutrality Policy Statement from the South Australian Government was last revised in July 2002 and applies to all Local Government authorities in South Australia, including the City of Whyalla. This Statement sets out how South Australia will enact the principles of competitive neutrality set out within the National Competition Policy.

The main aims of the Policy are to:

- » **Develop an open and integrated Australian market for goods and services by removing unnecessary barriers to trade and competition;**
- » **Ensure no buyer or seller in a market is able to engage in anti-competitive conduct against the public interest;**
- » **As far as possible, apply the same rules of market conduct to all market participants, regardless of the form of business ownership – that is government business activities should not enjoy any net advantages solely as a result of their public ownership;**
- » **Ensure that regulation of business activities which restrict competition is subject to an assessment of the likely costs and benefits.**

National Competition Policy does not mean competition at any cost, however competitive neutrality is one of the key principles of the Policy. The principle is based on the concept of a level playing field for people competing for business and relates to situations where there is, or the potential for, competition between the private and public sectors.

Councils are required to identify any significant business activities that they undertake in either Category One (annual revenue in excess of \$2m or employing assets in excess of \$20m) or Category Two (all other significant business activities).

Council currently operates one business activity identified as falling under Category Two, being the Whyalla Child Care Centre. Council is of the belief that competitive neutrality principles are currently being met for this service, as the service has now increased fees to be at or very close to all local competitors.

Confidential Items

TABLE 1

Identifies the number of times during 2024-25 that Council or a Committee made a confidential order against the provisions contained in section 90(3) paragraphs (a) – (na) of the Act. If a provision is not identified, then no orders were made during 2024-25 against that provision.

LG ACT 1999 PROVISION	SECTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT	NO. OF TIMES USED IN
90(3)(a)	information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)	24/25 14
90(3)(b)	Information the disclosure of which: (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council, and (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest	32
90(3)(d)	commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which – (i) could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest	6
90(3)(e)	matters affecting the security of the council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person	4
90(3)(g)	matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty;	11
90(3)(h)	legal advice	1
90(3)(i)	information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the council or council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place, involving the council or an employee of the council	1
90(3)(j)	information the disclosure of which – (i) would divulge information provided on a confidential bases by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official (not being an employee of the council, or a person engaged by the council); and (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest	1
90(3)(k)	Tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works	3
TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS CONSIDERED IN CONFIDENCE		73

The Local Government Act 1999 specifies that Council meetings be held in a public place but, on occasion, this principle is outweighed by the need to keep the information or discussion confidential for reasons predetermined under the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act).

TABLE 2

Identifies the 72 items that Council or a Committee was satisfied of the necessity to consider in confidence during 2023/24, in accordance with Section 90² and Section 90³ of the Act.

MEETING		ITEM	CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION APPLIED	KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
DATE	TYPE			
15/07/2024	Ordinary Council	Unsolicited Proposal – Marina Land	S90 ² 3(d)	Yes
15/07/2024	Ordinary Council	Lease Consideration	S90 ² 3(b)	Yes
15/07/2024	Ordinary Council	TTEG Update	S90 ² 3(h)(i)	Yes
15/07/2024	Audit and Risk	Cyber Security Review Report	S90 ² 3(e)	Yes
15/07/2024	Audit and Risk	Unsolicited Proposal – Marina Land	S90 ² 3(d)	Yes
15/07/2024	Audit and Risk	Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments	S90 ² 3(g)	Yes
29/07/2024	Special Council	Lease Considerations	S90 ² 3(b)	Yes
19/08/2024	Ordinary Council	Local Heritage Register	S90 ² 3(b)	Yes
19/08/2024	Ordinary Council	GFG Alliance Update	S90 ² 3(d)	Yes
26/08/2025	Special Council	Licensed Use of Memorial Oval	S90 ² 3(b)	Yes
27/08/2024	CEO Review Panel	CEO End of Year 2023/24 Review 360 degree Feedback Report	S90 ² 3(a)	Yes
27/08/2024	CEO Review Panel	CEO End of Year Review 2023/24 Performance Plan Report	S90 ² 3(a)	Yes
27/08/2024	CEO Review Panel	CEO Employment Contract	S90 ² 3(a)	Yes
27/08/2024	CEO Review Panel	CEO Latest Contract Amendment	S90 ² 3(a)	Yes
16/09/2024	Ordinary Council	Foreshore Café Pod Lease - Confidential Representation	S90 ² 3(b)	Yes
16/09/2024	Ordinary Council	Foreshore Café Pod Lease	S90 ² 3(b)	Yes
01/10/2024	Audit and Risk	Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments	S90 ² 3(g)	Yes
02/10/2024	CEO Review Panel	CEO End of Year 360 Degree Feedback Report	S90 ² 3(a)	Yes

MEETING		ITEM	CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION APPLIED	KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
DATE	TYPE			
21/10/2024	Ordinary Council	Concrete Crushing Lease	S90(2)(b)	Yes
21/10/2024	Ordinary Council	Tree Management	S90(2)(e)	Yes
21/10/2024	Ordinary Council	Department of Premier & Cabinet Meeting in Whyalla - Update	S90(2)(b)	Yes
04/11/2024	Special Council	Tree Management	S90(2)(e)	Yes
04/11/2024	Special Council	Whyalla Economic Precinct Stimulus Program Proposal	S90(2)(b)	Yes
04/11/2024	Special Council	Whyalla Surf Life Saving Club and Stage 1 Whyalla Foreshore Masterplan (Beach Plaza and Playground) Update	S90(2)(b)	Yes
04/11/2024	Special Council	Electricity Contract	S90(2)(b)	Yes
04/11/2024	Special Council	Whyalla Airport Upgrade – Business Case and Prudential Report	S90(2)(b)	Yes
18/11/2024	Ordinary Council	Draft Whyalla Master Plan – Formal Response	S90(2)(b)	Yes
18/11/2024	Ordinary Council	Whyalla Airport Upgrade – Procurement of Contractor	S90(2)(b)	Yes
18/11/2024	Ordinary Council	Land Transaction with Office of Hydrogen Power SA – Settlement Processes	S90(2)(j)	Yes
18/11/2024	Ordinary Council	CEO Performance Review – End of Year Review	S90(2)(a)	Yes
09/12/2024	Audit and Risk	Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments	S90(2)(g)	Yes
16/12/2024	Ordinary Council	Civic Building Market Approach – Next Steps	S90(2)(b)	Yes
22/01/2025	Special Council	Whyalla Airport Upgrade Project – Appointment of Contractor	S90(2)(b)	Yes
17/02/2025	Ordinary Council	Representation Review	S90(2)(k)	Yes
24/02/2025	Special Council	State/Federal Government Announcement – OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Ltd	S90(2)(d)	Yes
24/02/2025	Special Council	Electricity Contract	S90(2)(b)	Yes

MEETING		ITEM	CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION APPLIED	KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
DATE	TYPE			
03/03/2025	Audit and Risk	Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments	S90(2)(3)(g)	Yes
03/03/2025	Audit and Risk	Update from Council Representative	S90(2)(3)(g)	Yes
03/03/2025	Audit and Risk	Budget Considerations	S90(2)(3)(g)	Yes
03/03/2025	Audit and Risk	Meeting Review	S90(2)(3)(g)	Yes
03/03/2025	Risk Special Council	CEO Employment Agreement and Engagement of a Qualified Independent Person for the CEO Review Panel	S90(2)(3)(k)	Yes
13/03/2025	Special Council	CEO Contract Variation and Presentation by Short-listed Proponents for CEO Review Panel	S90(2)(3)(k)	Yes
17/03/2025	Ordinary Council	SSE Solar Farm – Extension to Agreement to Lease	S90(2)(3)(b)	Yes
17/03/2025	Ordinary Council	Whyalla Economic Precinct Stimulus Program Update	S90(2)(3)(b)	Yes
17/03/2025	Ordinary Council	Community Land Management Plans Review and Consultation	S90(2)(3)(b)	Yes
17/03/2025	Ordinary Council	Whyalla Surf Life Saving Club and Café Funding Update and Decision	S90(2)(3)(d)	Yes
17/03/2025	Ordinary Council	Rate Relief Request	S90(2)(3)(d)	Yes
24/03/2025	Special Council	Whyalla Cuttlefish Coast Stony Point (Short Term) Temporary Water Access Path and Ramp	S90(2)(3)(b)	Yes
07/04/2025	Audit and Risk	Meeting Review	S90(2)(3)(g)	Yes
14/04/2025	Special Council	Offer for the Patterson Street Library	S90(2)(3)(b)	Yes
24/04/2025	CEO Review Panel	CEO Contract Consideration Process	S90(2)(3)(a)	Yes
28/04/2025	Ordinary Council	Unmetered and Large Site Electricity Contract	S90(2)(3)(b)	Yes
28/04/2025	Ordinary Council	Playground Management	S90(2)(3)(e)	Yes
28/04/2025	Ordinary Council	Staff Update	S90(2)(3)(a)	Yes
05/05/2025	Special Council	CEO Contract Consideration Process	S90(2)(3)(a)	Yes
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Childcare Centre Service Review – Verbal Update	S90(2)(3)(b)	Yes

MEETING		ITEM	CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION APPLIED	KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
DATE	TYPE			
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Whyalla Airport Considerations	S90(2)(b)	Yes
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Airport Passenger Levy	S90(2)(b)	Yes
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Appointment of External Auditor	S90(2)(b)	Yes
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Program Considerations	S90(2)(b)	Yes
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Vehicle Usage and Working Arrangements	S90(2)(b)	Yes
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments	S90(2)(g)	Yes
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Update from Council Representative	S90(2)(g)	Yes
12/05/2025	Audit and Risk	Meeting Review	S90(2)(g)	Yes
19/05/2025	Ordinary Council	Airport Considerations	S90(2)(b)	Yes
19/05/2025	Ordinary Council	Airport Passenger Levy	S90(2)(b)	Yes
19/05/2025	Ordinary Council	Section 184 Process Update	S90(2)(a)	Yes
19/05/2025	Ordinary Council	Program Considerations	S90(2)(b)	Yes
19/05/2025	Ordinary Council	Organisational Matters	S90(2)(a)	Yes
20/05/2025	CEO Review Panel	CEO Contract Consideration Process	S90(2)(a)	Yes
28/05/2025	CEO Review Panel	CEO Panel Report	S90(2)(a)	Yes
02/06/2025	Special Council	CEO Panel Report	S90(2)(a)	Yes
TOTAL NUMER OF ITEMS CONSIDERED IN CONFIDENCE				72

TABLE 3

Reports the number of orders made in 2023-24 pursuant to section 91⁷ of the Act to keep items confidential for a specified period. It also reports the number of orders that lapsed or were released during the year and the number of orders that remained operative at the end of the financial year.

	NUMBER
No. of items that remained confidential at the end of the 2023-24 financial year	108
No of items where orders were made to keep the item confidential in 2024-25	64
No of confidential orders to lapse or items released during 2024-25	12
No of items that remained in confidential at the end of the 2024-25 financial year	160

MEMBERS BEHAVIOURAL STANDARDS

There were no conventions of sections 75E or 75G of the Local Government Act 1999, relating to Elected Member Behavioural Standards, for 2024/25.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

There were 2 applications under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. Both applications were personal applications requesting Council specific correspondence and Council legal costs.

The cost for a Freedom of information request in 2024/25 was \$42.00 per application.

ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION

Section 12⁴ of the Local Government Act 1999 requires a council to conduct an elector representation review at least once every eight years. Whyalla Council undertook a full review in accordance with the Act during 2025.

The table below provides a comparison of the electoral representation quota for Councils of a similar size and type to Whyalla with a ratio of council members to electors.

Derived from information provided by the Electoral Commission of SA (28/02/2025).

COUNCIL	ELECTORS	MEMBERS	RATIO
Mount Gambier	20,567	9	2,285
Barossa	19,351	12	1,613
Gawler	20,695	11	1,881
Whyalla	16,007	10	1,601
Murray Bridge	16,077	10	1,608
Port Pirie	13,170	10	1,317

SECTION 270 REVIEWS

A person aggrieved by a council decision can request an internal review of the decision under section 270 of the Act.

In the 2024/25 financial year, the City of Whyalla received no applications for review.

GIFTS TO COUNCIL MEMBERS FUNDED BY COUNCIL

There were no gifts to council members funded by council.

LOCAL NUISANCE AND LITTER CONTROL

Abatement notices issued for unsightly property 4	
Burning complaints	47
Litter complaints	524
Parking complaints	150
Pollution complaints	3
Abandoned vehicle complaints	46
Complaints related to caravan and camping	23
Littering infringements issued	19
Parking infringements issued	60
Infringement for non compliance of an order 3	

NUMBER OF ILLEGAL DUMPING REPORTS TO COUNCIL IN PREVIOUS YEARS:	
2021/2022	230
2022/2023	277
2023/2024	381
2024/2025	524

LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping across the city remains very high, and costs council a huge amount of money every year to clean up. Council staff are continually looking for ways to reduce the amount of rubbish dumped, e.g. waste education (reduce, reuse, recycle), hard waste bookings, recycling of scrap metal etc. Illegal dumping has been highlighted as part of a City Amenity Project for 24/25 and council officers will work together to implement strategies that will assist residents to manage their waste responsibly which, in turn may help to reduce the instances of illegal dumping and the cost.

**EXPIATION FEE
OF \$1000**

**applies to general litter
of more than 50 litres.**

During the reporting period 1 July – 30 Sep 24:

131 REPORTS OF ILLEGAL DUMPING, ITEMS ON THE VERGE.	7 expiation notices have been issued during the reporting period for those caught illegally dumping (and those who fail to clean up their illegal dumping)
--	---

During the reporting period 1 October to 31 December 2024:

136 REPORTS	42 reports related to items placed on the verge with no hard waste collection booked. The rest of the reports related to rubbish (including green waste) that had been dumped in rear laneways, on street corners, in park reserves, and in surrounding bushland.	5 expiation notices were issued during the reporting period for those caught illegally dumping (and those who fail to clean up their illegal dumping).
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During the reporting period 1 January – 30 June 2025:

257 REPORTS OF ILLEGAL DUMPING, ITEMS ON THE VERGE Reports were related to rubbish that had been dumped on the verge, in rear laneways, on street corners, in park reserves, and in surrounding bushland. Types of rubbish include green waste, car tyres, building materials, concrete, engine oil, lounges, mattresses, and general household items and furniture.	7 expiation notices have been issued during the reporting period for those caught illegally dumping (and those who fail to clean up their illegal dumping)
--	---

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Maintaining contemporary skills and knowledge is critical to ensuring the ongoing effectiveness of Council decision-making. Council Members have ongoing training based on current Council business and their own professional development requirements.

The below Refresher Training was undertaken on 15th June 2024 and delivered by Mark Searle.

CORE	MODULES
COUNCIL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP	
An interactive session designed to unpack the effectiveness of your Council's leadership. A deeper dive into understanding how differences in leadership styles bring value. KEY LEARNINGS - Explore and check in on Council's leadership purpose - Heighten Council's capability to lead through shared conversation and learning - Unpack the collective leadership behaviours - Build and strengthen Council and CEO/Executive team culture - Leverage leadership momentum for Council's success	Values, Ethics and Behaviour Understanding values and ethics, Behavioural standards for Council Members, WHS, bullying and harrasment. Leadership Skills Strategic thinking, Change management, Building resilience

CREDIT CARD EXPENDITURE	
Month	Amount
July	\$15,073.22
August	\$12,047.10
September	\$13,660.23
October	\$10,575.39
November	\$17,993.47
December	\$9,317.68
January	\$6,486.33
February	\$10,960.86
March	\$23,552.04
April	\$19,359.21
May	\$17,628.70
June	\$10,045.80
TOTAL	\$166,700.03

LEGAL FEES Total		
\$290,155.68		
INTERSTATE TRAVEL		
Kathy Jarrett	\$2,968.30	
Tanvir Sadeque	\$2,968.30	
Anthony Bray	\$2,560.50	
Colin Sharp	\$2,560.50	
TOTAL	\$11,057.60	
Interstate travel for 2024/25 related to attendance at the Airport Paving and Lighting Forum in Sydney and the Placemaking Summit in Melbourne.		
Fees paid to independent members of Council's Audit Committee were:	Fees	Other
Presiding Member	\$11,300	\$143
Committee Members	\$16,000	\$-
TOTAL	\$27,300	\$143

PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK REVIEW

The reviewed templates have been updated as any anomalies or things which hadn't been taken into consideration during the review process are encountered. Documents are now running smoothly

COMPETITIVE TENDERING

In the 2024-2025 period a total of 61 bids were called as follows:

APPROACH TYPE	CRITERIA	NUMBER TAKEN
REQUESTS FOR WRITTEN QUOTES	Works/Services under \$40,000 Low Risk Goods \$100-\$250,000	26
REQUESTS FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	Market Unknown	3
REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL	Process for Works/Services Unknown	6
REQUESTS FOR QUOTES	Works/Services \$40,000 to \$250,000	21
REQUESTS FOR TENDER	Goods/Plant/Works/Services above \$250,000	5

REQUESTS FOR WRITTEN QUOTES

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| » Supply & Servicing of Depot Emulsion Tank | » Purchase of High Pressure Cleaner | » Delivery of Road Base to Gulf View Drive |
| » Trade In/Replacement of 3 Tonne Forklift for Depot Workshop | » Foreshore Café Pod Repair Works | » Supply/Install Trailer, Cage for Generator & Outdoor Shower Rail |
| » Asbestos Register Update | » Shade Sail Replacement Child Care Centre | » Cuttlefish Drive Site Shelter |
| » Trade In/Replacement of Cars 2, 20, 22 & 43 | » Old Civic Building Flashing Installation | » Point Lowly Cottage Wall Rectification |
| » Trade In/Replacement of Rough Terrain Vehicle (RTV) | » Demolish Homing Society Building | » Replacement of Council Services |
| » Trade In/Replacement of Mower Decks | » Alex Ramsay Community Hub Renovations | » Depot Shed Concreting |
| » Trade In/Replacement of Mini Excavator | » Demolition of Toilet Block North Whyalla Football Club carpark | » Depot Building Remedial Works |
| » Purchase of Bus for Steelworks Tours | » Bennett Oval Scoreboard Structure | » Assurance Suite Software Renewal |
| » Supply & Delivery of Emulsion | » Purchase of Floor Scrubber for Leisure Centre | |

REQUESTS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

- » Foreshore Café Lease
- » Airport Café Lease
- » Garden Maintenance Civic On Grundel

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL (REF)

- » WHS Superintendent & Superintendents Representatives Airport Airside Upgrade
- » Provision of Whyalla Airport Airside Fuel Facility
- » CEO Performance Reviews (4 Years)
- » Jubilee Park Basketball Stadium Fire Services Upgrade
- » Recruitment Services Director Corporate, Director City Growth, Director Infrastructure and Manager Assets & Planning
- » Cuttlefish Drive Access Ramps

REQUESTS FOR TENDER (RFT)

- » Security of Council owned Buildings
- » Child Care Centre Playground, Fencing, Shed & Play Space
- » Airport Pavement Upgrade Works
- » Foreshore Playground (relocating to Civic Park)
- » Removal of High Risk Trees (5 year period)

REQUESTS FOR QUOTES (RFQ)

- » Topdressing of Jubilee Park, Bennett and Memorial Ovals
- » Foreshore VIC Pod Door Supply/Installation
- » Supply of Library Shelving
- » High Risk Tree Removals in Ada Ryan Gardens
- » Refurbish Shade Structures at Child Care Centre
- » Maritime Museum Walkway
- » Library Flooring Supply/Install
- » Asbestos Removal, Demolition & Site Refurbishment of the Old Fauna Park Buildings
- » Revaluation of Buildings and Land
- » Nicolson Avenue School Crossing Refurbishment
- » Air Conditioning Maintenance (3 years)
- » Painting of the HMAS Whyalla
- » Supply/Install Playground McGee Street Reserve
- » Design, Supply & Fabrication of Bin Enclosures
- » Design, Fabricate and installation of Bus Shelters and Shade Shelters various locations
- » Design Fabricate and Install Bench Seating various locations
- » Design Fabricate and Install Seating various locations
- » Jubilee Park Electrical Switchboard Upgrade
- » Provision of External Auditing Services (5 years)
- » Provision of Debt Collection Services (5 years)
- » Hummock Hill Solar Lighting

LOCAL PARTICIPATION

The Council is committed to maximising its ability to positively impact the local economy and community. Wherever possible, procurement is to be undertaken in a manner that will seek to create local employment opportunities and increase economic growth within the local area.

Additionally, Council is committed to maximising the skills development and employment opportunities available to young people in the city of Whyalla, by the Council, where deemed appropriate, promoting and preferencing suppliers who engage apprentices, trainees, and cadets in their work practices.

During the development of the Acquisition Plan and associated evaluation criteria for procurement above \$250,000, Council Officers must apply a fixed weighting of 30% to local content which was raised from 20% via a Council resolution on 17 March 2025 for a period of one year due to the economic climate at the time. In other circumstances, local prices of up to 15% above the best non- local price will be considered.

COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT

Council reviewed its Land Management Plans during 2024/25, and after a period of public consultation, the updated plans were adopted early in 2025/26.

AIRPORT AIRSIDE UPGRADE PROJECT

In August 2025 we signed off Final Practical Completion for the \$29.7 Million Airport Runway Upgrade Project. The project was delivered on time, approx. \$2.3M under budget and to an excellent quality standard. This project wouldn't have been possible without the funding received from the Federal Government (\$16.2 Million) and State Government (\$13.8 Million).

We also spent \$4.1M in the local community and engaged 110 locals in the work.

This is a fantastic outcome and one that Council can be proud of. Numerous Council staff were involved in this project from the tendering stage through to the completion of works. Their knowledge and commitment were vital in contributing to a successful project.

Due to the high value of the project and the urgent nature of the works, additional process was placed around this procurement, with a probity officer engaged and external financial assessment of tenderers undertaken. This contributed to the appointment of a supplier that was capable of delivering the project to a very high standard.

The upgraded strengthened runway will allow for larger aircraft to service the region which is a great outcome for Council and the community.

People & Culture

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Council has an Executive Leadership Team (ELT) comprising the Chief Executive Officer and three General Manager roles OR Acting Director City Growth, Acting Director Corporate and Director Infrastructure, currently vacant. The ELT's salary packages may include any of the following:

- » **Annual salary**
- » **Fully maintained vehicle with private use**
- » **Accommodation**
- » **Electronic devices**
- » **Professional development allowance**
- » **Professional memberships allowance**
- » **Additional leave entitlements**

LABOUR MARKET FLUCTUATION

Employee Numbers on 30 June 2025 were 162, compared to 158, 30 June 2024.

TRAINEES

Council engaged three full-time Trainees for a three-year term, two in Horticulture and one in Civil Maintenance.

Two of the Trainees successfully gained permanent Municipal Employee positions in the Open Spaces and Civil Maintenance Teams in the 2024-25 financial year. Council continues to support these employees in completing their studies, now undertaken independently of a formal traineeship agreement.

All appointments to positions were made following a merit-based recruitment and selection process.

Council continues to expand its school-based traineeship program as part of its commitment to supporting youth employment in our community. In 2024-25, Council engaged five school-based trainees across Civil Maintenance, Library Services, Visitor Information Services, Administration, and Community and Events. These traineeships are delivered in collaboration with local high schools, students, and Council, and are designed to provide young people with paid, hands-on work experience. All on-the-job and off-the-job training contributes toward the completion of their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). School-based trainees undertake a Certificate II or Certificate III qualification relevant to their chosen field.

OUR WORKFORCE

The Annual Employee turnover rate 2024-25 was 13.9%, including unplanned and genuine retirement. In comparison to 12.3% in the 2023-24 financial year.

The full time equivalent as of 30 June 2025 was 136.98 – compared to 137.71 as of 30 June 2024.

The City of Whyalla's workforce average age is 46.3 years. The average length of service for employees (workforce tenure) is 11.5 years.

At 30 June 2025, the City of Whyalla's gender balance for male, female and other employees was 39%, 60% and 1% respectively. The gender split for Executive Management is 66% female to 33% male.

YEARS GENDER BALANCE

The average length of service for employees at the Council (workforce tenure) is:

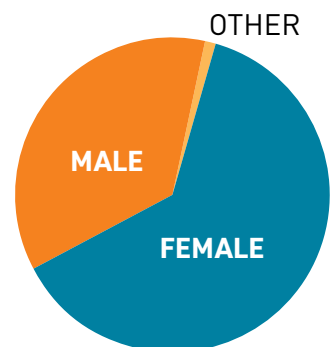
11.5

City of Whyalla's workforce average age is:

46.3

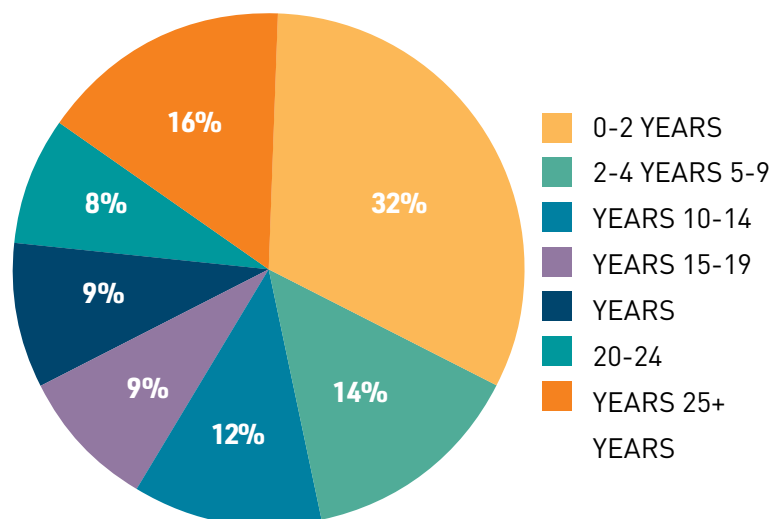
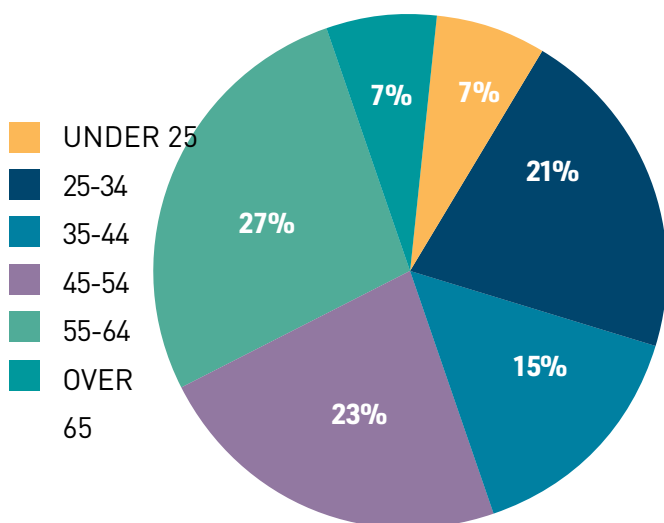
Ratio of Male, Female and Other employees % as at 30 June 2025

39:60:1



AGE OF WORKFORCE %

TENURE - YEARS OF SERVICES %



RISK AND WHS MANAGEMENT

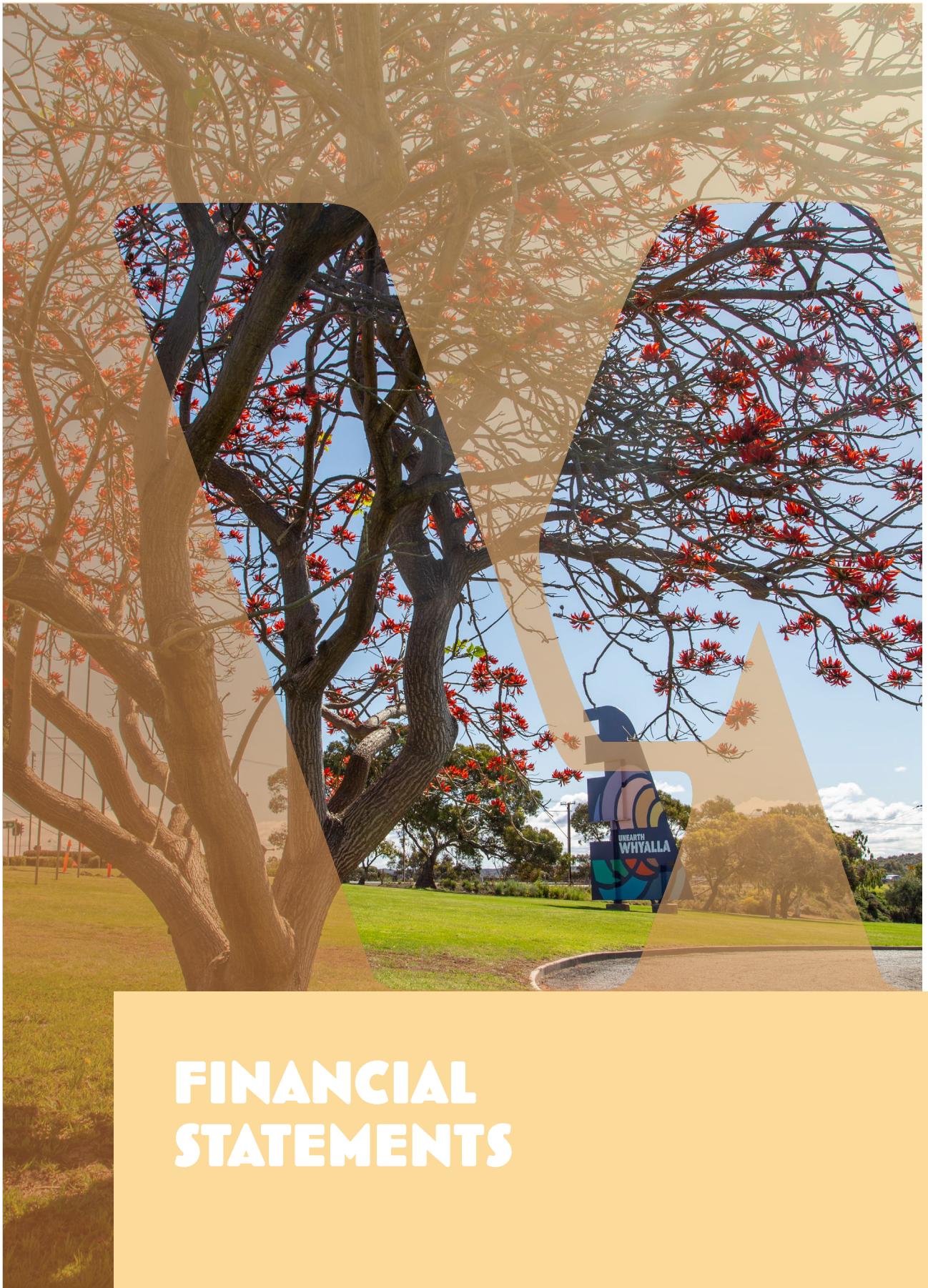
The City of Whyalla has continued its commitment to the safety of staff by ensuring staff have access to appropriate WHS training and are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to maintain a safe working environment. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect the latest standards, regulatory requirements and operating processes.

Access to healthy lifestyle programs are promoted and offered within the organisation. These processes are designed to support the safety, health and well-being of our people.

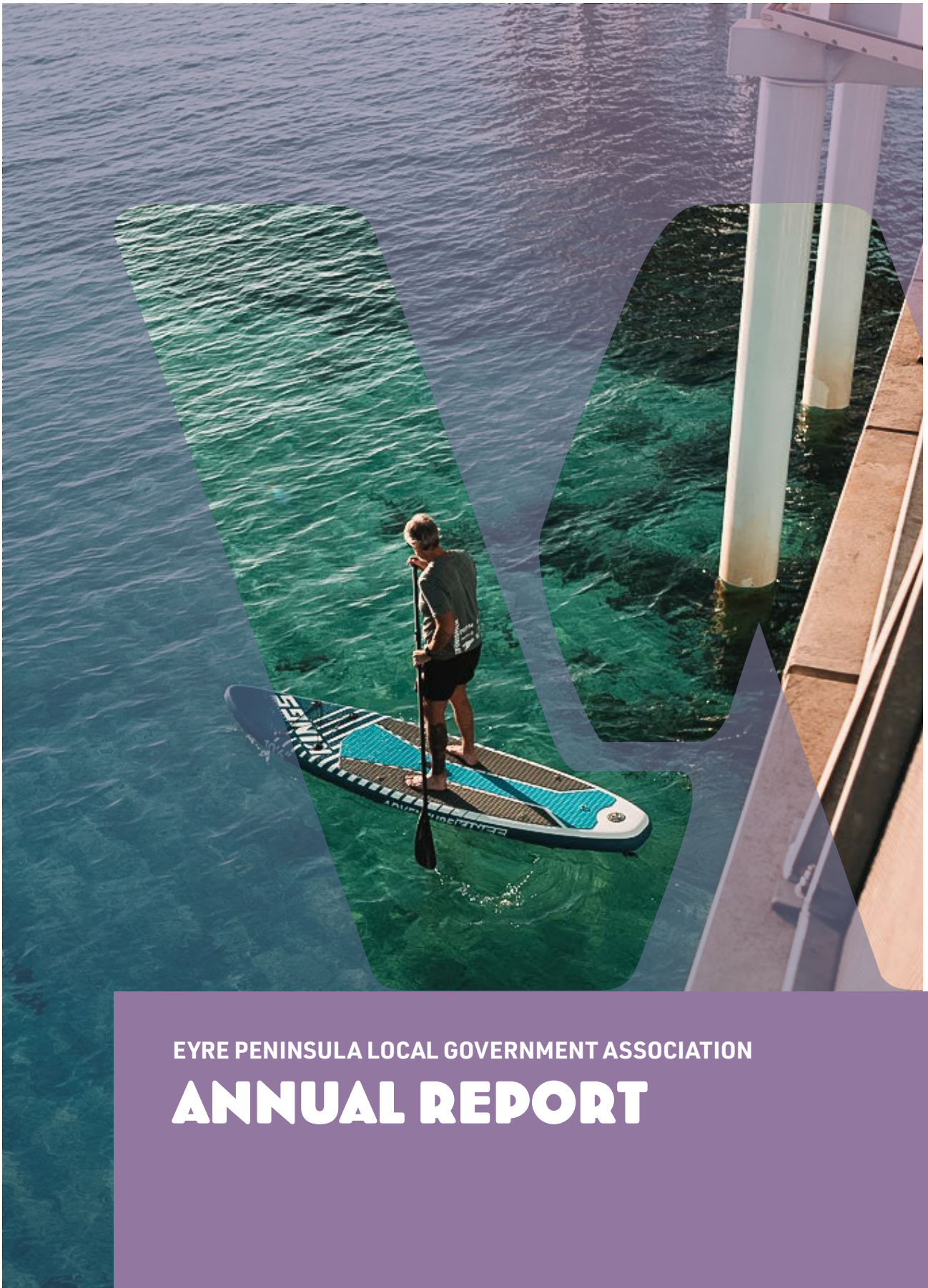
Council has initiated the development of a comprehensive plans and program, to further enhance WHS and risk management practices. The key focus areas of the plans and program are:

1. Responsibility and Accountability
2. Training Needs Analysis and Training Plan
3. Incident Reporting and Investigation
4. Hazard Management
5. Contractor Management
6. Workplace Emergency Management
7. Internal Audit

Council continues to align its risk management efforts with ISO 31000: Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



EYRE PENINSULA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT



AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL 2024/2025

INTRODUCTION

Clause 9.3 of the Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference provides that the Committee shall report annually to the Council summarising the activities of the Committee during the previous year.

This report provides an overview of the Committee's operations in 2024/2025 as provided for under the *Local Government Act 1999*. To provide context, a summary of the Committee's role as per Clause 2.3 of the Terms of Reference is:

- Oversight of relevant activities to facilitate achieving City of Whyalla's objectives.
- Enhancing the credibility and objectivity of internal and external financial reporting.
- Effective management of risk and the protection of Council assets.
- Compliance with laws and regulations as well as use of best practice guidelines.
- The effectiveness of internal audit and maintaining a reliable system of internal control.
- The provision of an effective means of communication between the external auditor, any internal audit function, management/administration, and Council.
- The continuous development and review of Council's ethical practices.

In preparing this report, it is noted that:

- The composition of the Audit and Risk Committee is one (1) Council Member, two (2) proxy Council Members and three (3) independent members, one of whom will be the Presiding Member. The Committee (when considered as a whole) will have skills, knowledge and experience in financial management, risk management and governance.
- In January 2025, Council re-appointed Mr L Kozlovic as Independent Member for a further 12 months until January 2026.
- In November 2024, Council re-appointed Cr Klobucar as the Council Member representative for a further two years, concluding at the next periodic election and appointed Crs Campbell and Todd as proxies for two years.
- In June 2025, Mr G Strawbridge resigned from his position as Chair and Mr L Kozlovic assumed this role.
- A recruitment process was run early in 2025/26, with new member David Powell to join the committee early in 2026.
- This report covers the period July 2024 to June 2025.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

This section outlines significant items brought before the Committee for consideration during the year.

Strategic Management

There were no major reviews of Council's Strategic Management Plans undertaken during 2024/25, as this process was undertaken in 2023/24 and is only required once in each 4-year election cycle. Instead, the Long-Term Financial Plan receives a minor review each time that a Budget or Budget Review is presented for adoption. The Asset Management Strategy is also reviewed during the development of the budget.

The Committee's comments relating to these plans is reflected in the following section relating to financial management.

Financial and Prudential Management and External Audit

The following is a summary of work progressed by the Committee during 2024/25 in the key focus area of financial and prudential management and external audit:

- The Committee met with the External Auditor and undertook a high-level review of the 23/24 Annual Financial Statements, including the Management Representative Letter, Valuations, Estimates and Assumptions, Accounting Standards, Operating Surplus, Grants, Subsidies and Contributions and Other Reserves. After receiving satisfactory responses, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the financial statements.
- The Committee reviewed and recommended to Council the process and parameters to be used for the development of the draft 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget.
- The Committee reviewed the draft 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget and recommended it to Council for public consultation. Commentary was made on the unusual operating environment that Council operates in, which makes viewing the big picture much more complex. It was also noted that Council needs to do more to control and reduce its costs.
- Quarterly budget reviews – the Committee considered the impact of three quarterly budget reviews for 2024/25, and recommended them to Council for adoption, noting the need to identify and advise on the re-engineering of activities and review options available to reduce the projected deficit back to budget. The Committee feels that much more needs to occur in this area, as the current trend of actual financial position being worse than the budget cannot continue unabated.
- The Committee reviewed the outcome of the internal financial control self-assessment and requested further information on credit card usage and contractor management, which was provided.
- The Committee reviewed a number of Finance policies and recommended them to Council for adoption, including the Budget Management and Review Policy, Corporate Credit Card Policy and Procedure, Financial Hardship Policy, Procurement & Contract Management Policy and Rating Policy.
- The Committee considered the Interim Management Report issued by Council's external auditor Dean Newbery on Council's internal controls.
- Reviewed Council's insurance claim profile and, in this context, considered the adequacy of Council's insurances.

- Reviewed Council's Quarterly Procurement reports, outlining local vs non-local spending and any procurement that was exempted from Council's normal processes.
- Reviewed a report on the performance of Council's loan and investment portfolio.
- Other one-off items:
 - Considered the impact of a request for rate relief from Council's largest rate payer.
 - Endorsed the process to appoint a new External Auditor for the next 5-year period and reviewed the submissions in making the final recommendation to Council on who to appoint.
 - Recommended to Council that a bridging loan be arranged with the Local Government Finance Authority to assist with any cashflow timing issues related to the delivery of the Airport Runway project. This facility was approved but ultimately not required, as grant funding was received in a timely manner.
 - Considered a report outlining proposed strategies to improve Council's ability to operate within budget over the next few years.
 - Considered a proposal from QANTAS relating to a long term pricing model for passenger flights at the Whyalla Airport.
 - Reviewed a provisional update on the outcome of the revaluation of land, building and open space assets.
 - Considered an unsolicited proposal in relation to land at the Whyalla Marina.

From an overall perspective, during the course of 2024/2025, the Committee expressed its concern regarding the financial sustainability of the Council, and particularly the impact that the Whyalla Airport has on the financial position of Council.

Risk Management

The following is a summary of work progressed by the Committee during 2024/25 in the key focus area of risk management:

- Received updates on the development and testing of Council's Business Continuity Plan.
- Reviewed Council's insurance claim profile and, in this context, considered the adequacy of Council's insurances.
- Noted the outcomes of Council's Cyber Security Review.

Internal Audit and Service Review Program

The following is a summary of work progressed by the Committee during 2024/25 in the key focus area of financial and prudential management and external audit:

- Considered two reports from Council's Internal Auditor, the first relating to Budget Establishment, Monitoring and Management, and the second to the Strategic and Business Planning Process. Neither report highlighted any areas of concern, only suggested areas of improvement.
- Received updates on the Service Reviews for Childcare, Airport and Open Space.
- Other one-off items:
 - Considered the scope for a review of Hybrid Working Arrangements by the Internal Auditor, but noted that the work had started before they had a chance to provide feedback.
 - Recommended that Council cease undertaking Service Reviews with BDO and consider other options for delivery of this program.

Ethics, Integrity and Culture

In addition to the annual CEO report on the effectiveness of the organisation's culture, the Committee received a report outlining the operation of Council's framework for ensuring Council's ethical standards are monitored.

Details of Meetings Held

During the 2024/25 financial year, a total of six (6) Audit and Risk Committee meetings were held on the following dates:

- Monday 29 July 2024
- Monday 1 October 2024
- Monday 9 December 2024
- Monday 3 March 2025
- Monday 7 April 2025
- Monday 12 May 2025

Audit and Risk Committee attendance at meetings during the year 2024/2025 were:

MEMBER	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr Grant Strawbridge (Independent Member and Chair)	6
Ms Pat Christie (Independent Member)	6
Mr Laurie Kozlovic (Independent Member)	6
Cr Peter Klobucar (Council Member)	5
Cr Kathryn Campbell (Council Member Proxy)	0
Cr Sharon Todd (Council Member Proxy)	1

2025/2026 Work Program

Major items for the Committee to review and provide comment and feedback on during 2025/26 will be:

- Reviewing and monitoring the program and outcomes of internal audit assignments
 - Asset Management
 - Human Resource Planning and Management
 - External Stakeholder Relationship Management
- Annual Business Plan and Budget, including a review of the assumptions underpinning the Plan and Budget and monitoring Management's progress in addressing Council's financial position
- Liaising with the Council's external auditor on the end-of-year financial statements
- Review of Council's Risk Management Framework, Appetite Statements and Profile
- Review of the Audit and Risk Committee's performance and operations
- Review of finance and governance policies
- Review of unsolicited proposals received from external parties.
- Assist with the development of an updated service review program.

..... ____ / ____ / 2025.

Laurie Koslovic
Chair and Independent Member
Whyalla City Council, Audit and Risk Committee



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