MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Phill Stone

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

NOTICE OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

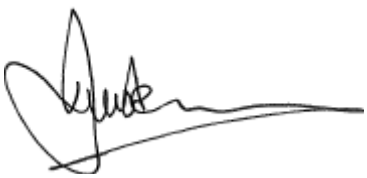
TO YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

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 21 SEPTEMBER 2026** 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: 17 September 2026

AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

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

4.1 Apologies – Nil
4.2 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 August 2026 *Page 5*

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 17 August 2026, as per copies supplied to Members, be adopted as a true and correct record to that meeting.

6.2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Monday 7 September 2026 *Page 17*

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Monday 7 September 2026, 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

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 – Nil

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.1 Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meetings – April and June 2026 *Page 20*

14. REPORTS – COUNCIL OFFICERS

14.1 Office of the Chief Executive – Ordinary Reports

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – September 2026 *Page 39*
14.1.2 Election of LGA President *Page 70*
14.1.3 Council External Bodies Representation *Page 87*

14.2 Corporate Services – Ordinary Reports

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – August 2026 *Page 91*
14.2.2 Caretaker Policy *Page 103*
14.2.3 Entertainment and Hospitality Policy Review *Page 113*

14.3 City Growth – Ordinary Reports

14.3.1 Cuttlefest 2026 *Page 122*
14.3.2 Revocation of Dedication to Council and Community Land Status *Page 154*

14.4 City Infrastructure – Ordinary Reports

14.4.1 Perks Property Development – Lease Fee *Page 159*
14.4.2 Driveway Crossover Policy *Page 165*

15. INFORMATION / DECISION REPORTS

15.1 Council Members

15.1.1 Mayor P Stone – List of Engagement *Page 175*

15.2 Corporate Services / City Growth / City Infrastructure

15.2.1 Monthly Information Report – August 2026 *Page 178*

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Deputy Mayor T Pond

16.1.1 Waste Vouchers *Page 212*

17. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

17.1 Cr D Knox

17.1.1 Various Matters *Page 214*

17.2 Cr B Simpson

17.2.1 Unsightly Properties *Page 216*

18. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE *Page 217*

19. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE *Page 217*

20. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 City Growth

20.1.1 BRM Business Review *Page 218*

21. CLOSE

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 6 October 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 8 October 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Workshop
- 9 October 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 19 October 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 2 November 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 16 November 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 7 December 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session

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

HELD ON MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2026 AT 5.45 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

PRESENT: Mayor P Stone, Deputy Mayor T Pond, Councillors P Borda, P Klobucar, D Knox, B Simpson, Z Westerman

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer *(Mr J Commons)*
General Manager Corporate Services *(Ms S King)*
General Manager Infrastructure *(Mr P Day)*
General Manager City Growth *(Mrs J Perone)*
Manager Finance and Knowledge Management *(Mr G Jennings)*
Manager Media and Communications *(Mr S Kelly)*
Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor *(Mrs M Armstrong)*
Executive Co-ordinator – Corporate *(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

Martha	VOS
Jessie	RUSSELL
Elizabeth	RING
Trevor	ARMSTRONG
Pamela	STRAWBRIDGE
Luka	KAPAC
Brian	HUNT
David	LEUBA

4. Attendance Record

Apologies – Crs M Inglis, K Campbell
Leave of Absence – Nil

5. Council Member / Executive Declarations

5.1 Conflicts of Interest

5.1.1 Mr J Commons; Chief Executive Officer, declared a material conflict of interest for Agenda Item 20.1.1 *"CEO End of Year Review",* as this relates to his role as Council's Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Commons further advised that he would leave the meeting at the time of discussion for Agenda Item 20.1.1.

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 July 2026*

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Borda

C6185-2026

That the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 20 July 2026, as per copies supplied to Members, be adopted as a true and correct record to that meeting.

Carried

6.2 *Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 August 2026*

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Cr Knox

C6186-2026

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 August 2026, 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

8.1 KordaMentha, OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Ltd – Briefing – Confidential
Mr S Hams; Partner – Restructuring

Moved Cr Simpson, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6187-2026

Pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(d) of the Local Government Act 1999, the 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, Sue King; General Manager Corporate Services, Paul Day; General Manager Infrastructure, Grant Jennings; Manager Finance and Knowledge Management, Sean Kelly; Manager Media and Communications, Michelle Armstrong; Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor and Lisette Symons; Executive Co-ordinator Corporate Services for Agenda Item 8.1 – Korda Mentha, OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Ltd – Briefing.

Council considers that the requirement for the meeting to be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in circumstances where the Council will receive 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.

Carried

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Borda

C6188-2026

Council:

1. notes the confidential briefing provided by KordaMentha; and
2. having considered Agenda Item 8.1 – Korda Mentha, OneSteel Manufacturing Pty Ltd – Briefing in confidence, under Sections 90(2) and (3)(d) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act, orders that the confidential briefing pertaining to this item, be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until August 2031 on the basis that it contains commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret), notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6189-2026

Council returns to Ordinary Meeting Procedures.

Carried

9. Petitions – Nil

10. Public Question Time – Nil

11. Council Members Activities

11.1 Cr B Simpson

Cr Simpson advised of his attendance at the following:

- 20 July 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 22 July 2026 – Australian Citizenship Ceremony
- 27 July 2026 – Northern Water Presentation
- 3 August 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 5 August 2026 – Splay and Play Plaza – Ground-breaking Ceremony
- 5 August 2026 – CEO Review Panel Meeting
- 5 August 2026 – Special Council Meeting
- 12 August 2026 – CEO Review Panel Meeting

11.2 Cr Z Westerman

Cr Westerman advised of her attendance at the following:

- 22 July 2026 – Australian Citizenship Ceremony
- 3 August 2026 – Catch-up Meeting with Mission Australia
- 3 August 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 5 August 2026 – Special Council Meeting
- 15 August 2026 – Whyalla Show

12. Presentations – Nil

13. Committee Reports – Nil

14. Reports – Council Officers

14.1 Office of the Chief Executive Officer – Ordinary Reports

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – August 2026

Moved Cr Simpson, seconded Cr Klobucar

C6190-2026

Council notes the Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – August 2026.

Carried

14.1.2 2027 Australian Citizenship Ceremony and Australia Day Awards Program

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Simpson

C6191-2026

Council:

1. notes the Australian Citizenship Ceremony and Australia Day Awards presentation will be held on Monday 25 January 2027;
2. endorses the launch of the 2027 Whyalla Australia Day Awards Program to occur in September 2026; and
3. appoints the following persons to a panel, to review nominations and select the recipients of the Australia Day Citizen Award, Senior Citizen Award, Young Citizen Award and Community Service Awards for 2027:

    - Mayor Phill Stone;
    - Deputy Mayor Tamy Pond and Cr Peter Borda;
    - Mr Gary Misan, immediate past Citizen of the Year; and
    - Mr Ford King, immediate past Young Citizen of the Year.

Carried

14.1.3 Appointment of Council Representative at the Local Government Finance AGM and Council Member attendance at the Local Government Association Conference

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Cr Simpson

C6192-2026

Council nominates Mayor Phill Stone as its representative at the Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia Annual General Meeting, to be held on Friday 4 December 2026.

Carried

14.1.4 EPLGA: Wudinna District Council – Notice of Motion – Electronic Participation in Council Meetings

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Knox

C6193-2026

Council supports the Notice of Motion, submitted by Wudinna District Council to the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Board Meeting on 20 February 2025, as amended as follows:

"The EPLGA advocate to the LGASA seeking legislative amendment to Section 86 Local Government Act 1999 and its subordinate regulations, to allow each Council to determine its own electronic attendance and voting rights for Elected Members."

Carried

14.1.5 SAROC Nominations for Spencer Gulf Cities Regional LGA

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6194-2026

Council:

a) writes to the LGA to advise that City of Whyalla supports the selection process where Spencer Gulf Cities is used in place of the standard SAROC election process, as our regional association comprises of all councils within our SAROC Regional Grouping, with this process also applying to any casual vacancies or leave of absences.

b) notes that Mayor Stone has indicated that he does not wish to be nominated for SAROC appointment.

c) notes that at the Spencer Gulf Cities meeting held on 4 August 2026, Mayor Shine and Mayor Stevens confirmed that they wish to represent the Spencer Gulf Cities on SAROC; and

d) notes that the Cities of Port Augusta and Port Pirie will nominate Mayor Shine and Mayor Stevens respectively as a member of the South Australia Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) as a contingency, in the unlikely event should the standard SAROC election process become necessary.

Carried

14.1.6 EPLGA Charter

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Borda

C6195-2026

Council

a) endorses the changes to the Eyre Peninsula LGA Charter as resolved by the EPLGA Special Board Meeting dated 22 July 2026;

b) supports the Eyre Peninsula LGA selection process held at the meeting on 22 July 2026, that appointed Mayor Dean Johnson (Kimba Council) as President and Mayor Quigley (Lower Eyre Council) as Vice President of the EPLGA; and

c) as a voting member of the Upper Spencer Gulf Region, notes that the Kimba Council and Lower Eyre Council will now nominate Mayor Johnson and Mayor Quigley respectively, as a member of the South Australia Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).

Carried

14.2 Corporate Services – Ordinary Reports

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – July 2026

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6196-2026

Council notes the Monthly Budget Report – July 2026.

Carried

14.2.2 Information and Records Management Policy

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Borda

C6197-2026

Council adopts the reviewed and updated Information and Records Management Policy, as attached at Attachment 1 to this report.

Carried

14.2.3 Close Loan Facility

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Simpson

C6198-2026

Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all necessary documents to close Cash Advance Debenture 141 held with the Local Government Finance Authority.

Carried

14.2.4 4 Year Delivery Plan

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6199-2026

Council adopts the 4 Year Delivery Plan, as at August 2026.

Carried

14.3 City Growth – Ordinary Reports

14.3.1 Community Grants

Moved Cr Simpson, seconded Cr Knox

C6200-2026

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

Group	Project	Amount
Foodbank of South Australia Inc	Healthy Meal Packs for Whyalla	$5,000
Youth Opportunities Australia Limited	Elevate Connect – Youth Leadership and Wellbeing Initiative	$5,000
	Total:	**$10,000**

Carried

14.3.2 Request for Formal Review – Licensed use of Memorial Oval

Moved Deputy Mayor Pond, seconded Cr Knox

C6201-2026

Council suspends formal meeting procedures for up to 10 minutes, to discuss Agenda Item 14.3.2 *"Request for Formal Review – Licensed use of Memorial Oval"*.

Carried

Formal meeting procedures suspended at 6.17 pm

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Simpson

C6202-2026

Council returns to formal meeting procedures.

Carried

Formal meeting procedures resumed at 6.26 pm

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Borda

C6203-2026

Council:

1. maintains the current arrangements in place for leased and licenced access to Memorial and Bennett Oval(s) for both Whyalla Cricket Association and Whyalla Women's Football League for season 2026/27;
2. undertakes a formal review of the operation of the Whyalla Cricket Association/Port Augusta Cricket Association 2026/27 season, with a view to ensuring the use of Memorial and Bennett Oval(s) is commensurate to the ratepayer costs of servicing and maintaining two turf wickets;
3. undertakes a formal review of the operation of the Whyalla Women's Football League 2026 season, with a view to ensuring the lease fee of the Whyalla Football League is commensurate to the ratepayer costs of servicing and maintaining the use of Council oval facilities; and
4. prepares a report for Council at the conclusion of both codes' seasons, with all findings, to inform preparation for the 2027 scheduling to include cost of maintenance for Bennett and Memorial Ovals, with particular reference to the maintenance of the cricket pitches and the future replacement of Memorial Oval cricket pitch.

Carried

14.3.3 2027 Australia Day Community Breakfast

Moved Deputy Mayor Pond, seconded Cr Knox

C6204-2026

Council notes the transition of Whyalla's Australia Day event to a free community breakfast from 2027 onwards.

Carried

14.4 City Infrastructure – Ordinary Reports – Nil

15. Information / Decision Reports

15.1 Council Members

15.1.1 Mayor P Stone – List of Engagements

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6205-2026

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

Carried

15.2 Corporate Services / City Growth / Infrastructure

15.2.1 Monthly Information Report – August 2026

Moved Borda, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6206-2026

Council notes:

1. the 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. August 2026 activity reports for the following services:

    - Asset Management including Recreation Centre
    - Childcare Centre
    - Building and Planning
    - Economic Development

Carried

16. **Notices of Motion** – Nil

17. **Questions on Notice** – Nil

18. **Questions without Notice** – Nil

19. **Motions without Notice** – Nil

20. **Consideration of Confidential Items**

20.1 **Corporate Services**

20.1.1 *CEO End of Year Review – Confidential*

5.1.1 *Mr J Commons; Chief Executive Officer, declared a material conflict of interest for Agenda Item 20.1.1 "CEO End of Year Review", as this relates to his role as Council's Chief Executive Officer.*

Mr Commons further advised that he would leave the meeting at the time of discussion for Agenda Item 20.1.1.

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Cr Knox

C6207-2026

Pursuant to Sections 90(2) and (3)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council orders that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of Sue King; General Manager Corporate Services and Peter Smith; Independent Advisor for Agenda Item 20.1.1 – CEO End of Year Review.

The Council is satisfied that pursuant to Sections 90(3)(a) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item:

a) information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because, on balance, it would be contrary to the public interest as information regarding the Chief Executive Officer's employment is to be discussed and disclosed. This order is to remain in force until February 2027.

Carried

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Simpson

C6208-2026

Council:

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8. having considered Agenda Item 20.1.1– CEO End of Year Review in confidence under Sections 90(2) and (3)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act, orders that this Report, Attachments and the Minutes pertaining to this item, be kept confidential and not available for public inspection, with the exception Attachment 7 which can be released and uploaded to the Council webpage, on the basis that the report contains information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead) and would, on balance, be contrary to the public, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Cr Simpson

C6209-2026

Council returns to Ordinary Meeting procedures.

Carried

Close – *meeting concluded at 6.41 pm*

21. Date of Next Meetings

- 28 August 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 7 September 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 21 September 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 6 October 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 9 October 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 19 October 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 2 November 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 16 November 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

Confirmed: ……
Presiding Member – September 2026

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

HELD ON MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 5.45 PM IN THE CIVIC RECEPTION ROOM

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer *(Mr J Commons)*
General Manager Corporate Services *(Ms S King)*
General Manager City Growth *(Mrs J Perone)*
General Manager Infrastructure *(Mr P Day)*
Manager City Development *(Mr L Trevisan)*
Manager Capital Works Delivery *(Mr L Jones)*
Manager Media and Communications *(Mr S Kelly)*
Manager Assets and Planning *(Mr Y Khan)*
Manager City Operations *(Mr C Sharp)*
Manager City Activation *(Ms G Rostig)*
Project Manager Landscape *(Mr S Bourne)*

1. Acknowledgement to Country

2. Attendance Record

Apologies – Mayor P Stone, Crs M Inglis, P Klobucar, D Knox
Leave of Absence – Nil

3. Declaration of Members' Conflict of Interests

3.1 Conflicts of Interest – Nil
3.2 Gifts and Benefits – Nil

4. Reports – Council Officers – Nil

5. Consideration of Confidential Items

5.1 Corporate Services

5.1.1 *emPowering SA Community Battery Program – Memorandum of Understanding and Site Feasibility Investigations – Confidential*

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Campbell

C6210-2026

Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, the 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, Sue King; General Manager Corporate Services, Paul Day; General Manager Infrastructure, Sean Kelly; Manager Media and Communications, Les Jones; Manager Capital Works and Delivery, Lucas Trevisan; Manager City Development, Yusuf Khan; Manager Assets and Planning, Colin Sharp; Manager City Operations, Gail Rostig; Manager City Activation and Sam Bourne; Project Manager Landscape for Agenda Item 5.1.1 – emPowering SA Community Battery Program – Memorandum of Understanding and Site Feasibility Investigations.

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to Section 90(3)(b) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item 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 Council.

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because on balance it would be contrary to the public interest as commercial information is to be discussed and disclosed.

Carried

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Simpson

C6211-2026

Council:

1.

2.

3. having considered Agenda Item 5.1.1 – emPowering SA Community Battery Program – Memorandum of Understanding and Site Feasibility Investigations in confidence under Sections 90(2) and (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act, orders that this Report, the Attachments and the Minutes pertaining to this item, be kept confidential and not available for public inspection on the basis that the report contains information the disclosure of which 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 would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. This order is to remain in force for a period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried unanimously

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Campbell

C6212-2026

Council returns to Ordinary Meeting Procedures.

Carried

Close – *meeting concluded at 5.48 pm*

Confirmed: ……
Presiding Member – September 2026

13 COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.1 Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meetings – April and June 2026 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Lisette Symons – Executive Co-ordinator – Corporate **File No.:** 0-159
Directorate: Corporate Services

Attachments:

1 – Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 10 April 2026
2 – Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 19 June 2026

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

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 10 April and 19 June 2026.

SUMMARY

The confidential versions of these Minutes were distributed to Committee and Council Members on 27 April and 29 June respectively.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meetings held on Friday 10 April and Friday 19 June 2026.

DUE DATE

Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 10 April and 19 June 2026 – For Noting	21/09/2026

MINUTES OF THE WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY AT 9.00 AM
HELD AT WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL, 21 GRUNDEL STREET, WHYALLA AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY BOARDROOM, SUITE 1205, 147 PIRIE STREET, ADELAIDE.

PRESENT:	Mr L Kozlovic (*chair*), Mr R Bria, Mr D Powell, Cr B Simpson (*proxy*)
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive Officer *(Mr J Commons)* General Manager Corporate Services *(Ms S King)* General Manager Infrastructure *(Mr P Day)* General Manager City Growth *(Ms J Perone)* Manager People and Culture *(Mrs E Papoulis)* Manager Finance and Knowledge Management *(Mr G Jennings)* Manager City Operations *(Mr C Sharp)* Manager Assets and Planning *(Mr Y Khan)* Finance Coordinator *(Mrs S Vigar)* Executive Coordinator – Infrastructure *(Ms N Jarvis)*
OBSERVERS:	Mayor P Stone

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Barngarla and Kaurna land and gave thanks for the use of this land.

1. STANDING ITEMS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies – Cr P Klobucar
Leave of Absence – Nil

1.2 Declaration of Members' Conflict of Interests

Nil

1.3 Minutes of Previous Meeting – Friday 20 February 2026

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr L Kozlovic

AC612-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee confirm the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Carried

1.4 Business Arising from Previous Meetings – as at 10 April 2026

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Mr R Bria

AC613-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee:
Note the progress of actions taken to address items of business arising from previous meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee as well as external reviews.

Carried

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures

The General Manager Corporate Services introduced this item advising that at the previous Audit and Risk Meeting held in February, the Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures was tabled and accepted but it was requested that reference be made to the ability to conduct free-flowing dialogue. This has now been included in the document

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Mr R Bria

AC614-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee reviews and recommends the amendments (as requested by the Committee) made to the Code of Practice Meeting Procedures that apply to Council committees, as outlined in this report.

Carried

2.2 Review Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget

The Manager Finance and Knowledge Management introduced this item advising that following consultation with other Councils and discussions around the current geopolitical uncertainty, the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) has been built around CPI of 3.5%. This uncertainty and any changes in the future (based on the assumption that this is a temporary state of affairs) will be discussed with Council Members at the upcoming Council Meeting to determine how this will be managed and communicated with the public during the consultation period.

The LTFP had an increase of 4.3% and based on community survey results from last year, the Council Members have had a strong appetite to add additional resources to improve city amenity and following investigations on how to fund that, an additional rate increase of 1% has been proposed. This brings the total rate increase to 5.3%.

Given that council excluding the airport is now at a break-even position, this position needs to be maintained, and it is expected that council including the airport will be at a modified breakeven within the next two years. Meeting this goal will be the main guide for Council financial decision making over the next 2-year period.

The items with the most direct impact caused by current geopolitical uncertainty is our waste contract as it is heavily fuel reliant, as well as direct fuel purchases. The committee felt that some allowance should be made regarding fuel as the belief is that fuel will remain high for quite some time and will have a significant impact particularly around waste and the depot. Going forward, alterations to service levels may also need to be considered with Veolia.

A starting point of a rate increase to bring the Council to a modified breakeven position in 2026/27 should be presented to the community in the first instance, for council inclusive of the airport, with the decisions that are consciously being made to minimise the impact to ratepayers itemised and the consequential events that will contribute to a deficit. This will provide transparency to the community around the extent of the financial challenges faced and how administration have worked hard to bring this rate increase down while still providing services.

The committee stressed that the messaging needs to be clear given that the Council is financially unsustainable, a rate increase has been recommended and yet amenities are also being increased at a time when cost pressures are high. The community need to be advised that either more money is drawn from the rate payer to achieve the amenity level that they expect or the service level needs to be reduced. Clear emphasis needs to be made that some flexibility will be required going forward given the volatility of the current geopolitical climate.

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC615-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. Recommends the draft Rating Policy for adoption, noting that minor changes may be required due to rates adjustments after consultation, if any;
2. Notes the CEO Report on Financial Sustainability – June 2026 included within Annexure A, and
3. Recommends that Council notes the Audit and Risk Committee's discussion and the following specific advice in their consideration of the draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget;

   a) Draft Annual Business Plan to be presented to community presenting the actual rate rise to achieve a balanced operating result inclusive of airport, together with conscious decisions made by the Council to minimise the short-term impact on local rate payers with these decisions itemised for full transparency.

   b) The budget should factor the expected increases in fuel costs particularly related to waste services and depot operations.

   c) Council continues to make conscious decisions to address the impact of the airport on ongoing financial sustainability.

Carried

3. ITEMS FOR NOTING

3.1 WHS Council Playground Audit Remaining High Risk Items

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC616-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee note the progress made towards mitigating the remaining high risk playground items and the intention to complete all outstanding mitigation works by 30 June 2026, and that the Committee will continue to receive progress updates upon request or where risk levels change.

Carried

3.2 Council Water Supply Charges

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC617-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee note the information provided on recycled water charges.

Carried

4. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

4.1 Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments – Confidential

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Mr R Bria

AC618-2026

Pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit and Risk Committee orders that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of Justin Commons; Chief Executive Officer, Sue King; General Manager Corporate Services, Paul Day; General Manager Infrastructure and Jodie Perone; General Manager City Growth, for Agenda Item 4.1 – "*Verbal Update on Council Business and City Development".*
The Audit and Risk Committee considers that the requirement for the meeting to be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in circumstances where the committee will receive and consider matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the committee does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligations or duty.

Carried

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC619-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee

1.
2. In accordance with Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit and Risk Committee orders that this report at Item 4.1 "*Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments*", the Appendix to this report, and the minutes pertaining to this item having been considered in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the Act be kept confidential and not available for public inspection 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. This order is to remain in force until February 2031, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried

Naomi Jarvis, Ellisha Papoulis, Colin Sharp and Sandra Vigar returned to the meeting at 10.31am

4.2 Update from Council Representative – Confidential

This item was deferred in the absence of the Council Representative, Cr Peter Klobucar.

4.3 Meeting Review - Confidential

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC620-2026

Pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit and Risk Committee orders that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of Justin Commons; Chief Executive Officer, Sue King: General Manager Corporate Services, Paul Day; General Manager Infrastructure, Jodie Perone; General Manager City Growth, Grant Jennings; Manager Finance and Knowledge Management, Ellisha Papoulis; Manager People and Culture, Yusuf Khan; Manager Assets and Planning, Colin Sharp; Manager Operations, Sandra Vigar; Finance Coordinator and Naomi Jarvis; Executive Coordinator – Infrastructure for Agenda Item 4.3 – "*Meeting Review*".

The Audit and Risk Committee considers that the requirement for the meeting to be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in circumstances where the Council will receive and consider 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 obligations or duty.

Carried

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Mr R Bria

AC621-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1.
2. In accordance with Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit and Risk Committee orders that this report at Item 4.3 "*Meeting Review*", the Appendix to this report, and the minutes pertaining to this item having been considered in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(g) or the Act be kept confidential and not available for public inspection to ensure that the Committee 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. This order is to remain in force until February 2031, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried

5. **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

6. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Friday 22 May 2026

8. CLOSE – Meeting closed at 10.48am

Confirmed: ……
Presiding Member – May 2026

MINUTES OF THE WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2026 AT 10.00 AM
HELD ONLINE

PRESENT: Mr L Kozlovic (*chair*), Mr R Bria, Mr D Powell, Cr P Klobucar

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Chief Executive Officer *(Mr J Commons)*
General Manager Corporate Services *(Ms S King)*
Manager People and Culture *(Mrs E Papoulis)*
Manager Finance and Knowledge Management *(Mr G Jennings)*
Manager City Operations *(Mr C Sharp)*
People and Culture Business Partner *(Ms L Green)*
Finance Coordinator *(Mrs S Vigar)*
Executive Co-Ordinator – Infrastructure *(Ms N Jarvis)*
BDO *(Ms T Occhiuto) – For Items 3.5 and 3.6*
BDO *(Mr P Horsman) – For Items 3.5 and 3.6*

OBSERVERS: Mayor P Stone

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was being held on Barngarla and Kaurna land and gave thanks for the use of this land.

1. STANDING ITEMS

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies – Nil
Leave of Absence – Nil

1.2 Declaration of Members' Conflict of Interests

Nil

1.3 Minutes of Previous Meeting – Friday 10 April 2026

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC622-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee confirm the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 10 April 2026 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Carried

1.4 Business arising from Previous Meetings – as at 19 June 2026

A Service Catalogue is currently being compiled with expected completion by the end of the month. Discussions have taken place with Peter Smith who has walked Executive through the methodology of the option of undertaking service reviews inhouse rather than externally.

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC623-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee:
Note the progress of actions taken to address items of business arising from previous meetings of the Audit and Risk Committee as well as external reviews.

Carried

2. ITEMS FOR DECISION

2.1 Review of Finance Policies

The Manager Finance and Information Technology introduced this item advising that very minor changes have been implemented on the three policies.

Feedback from the committee was for the Budget Management Review Policy:

- 3.1 – when referencing the Strategic Management Plans – define these plans
- Regarding the Draft Business Plan – reference ESCOSA as this needs to be taken into consideration
- 3.3 – with reference to variations outside of the scope – list the exemptions

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC624-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. recommends the updated Budget Management and Review Policy to Council for adoption with minor amendments;
2. recommends the updated Treasury Management Policy to Council for adoption;
3. recommends the updated Financial Hardship Policy to Council for adoption; and
4. notes the current Debtor Management Procedure, with this document not requiring Audit and Risk Committee review in the future, instead being internally reviewed as required.

Carried

2.2 Close Loan Facility

The Manager Finance and Knowledge Information introduced this item advising that following a review of CAD facilities and LTFP projections, the LGFA had recommended closure of this loan.

The Committee recommended that given there is only 1 ½ years remaining on the loan, it should run its natural course, rather than closing it. This would provide a buffer for Council with zero downside and risk.

Moved Mr R Bria, Mr D Powell

AC625-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee has reviewed the proposal to close Cash Advance Debenture 141 held with the Local Government Finance Authority and does not find it necessary to close in advance of its natural expiry however Council may still consider this item.

Carried

Ms T Occhiuto and Mr P Horsman (BDO) joined the meeting at 10.39am

The Chair sought leave of the meeting to alter the order of the Agenda
Leave of the meeting was granted

3.5 Human Resource Planning and Management

The Manager People and Culture introduced this item advising that Council has undertaken a HR Planning and Management Review as part of the internal audit program and engaged BDO to undertake this review. It was noted that the Report is in draft form and is yet to be presented to the Executive Leadership Team after which the finalised document will return to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Mr Horsman advised that the objective was to build a risk and control matrix and map what Council is doing against core objectives of the workforce planning function with the result being *partially effective*. There were many good practices observed but also a number of improvement opportunities.

Ms Occhiuto noted good practices around PDP completion rates (although the PDP itself requires further guidance around process for completion for consistency) and also organisational culture development with a significant amount of work occurring around culture values and developing a Culture and Leadership Plan.

A key area for improvement is around strategic workforce planning which is not in place currently. While a talent management strategy was developed last year this is still a work in progress and requires attention. Identified resource allocation and succession planning is also in need of attention, along with employee value proposition and ability to attract capability.

A number of policies and procedures are still in draft form and earmarked for development.

While Work Health Safety Training is very important, some documentation around requirements could be broadened and have a more organisational view rather than just focusing on WHS.

The Health and Wellbeing vision statement is detailed but would benefit from a policy and action plan to ensure initiatives detailed are implemented.

A high-level review of Mandatory Training was undertaken, and some gaps were identified in meeting requirements, particularly around more high-risk competencies.

Feedback from the committee:

- Mandatory Training should be a high risk if not completed
- Management actions should be linked to a roadmap and risk should be classified consistent with Council's Risk Framework.
- There are many actions and work needs to be done to identify which actions give the organisation the most benefit and value and prioritise these.
- Large high-risk actions need to be broken down into management pieces.
- An agreement needs to be reached as to how timing correlates with high, moderate and low risks.
- The preference of the committee is to be involved in the initial scoping of the program and then seeing final outcomes rather than working through a draft.

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Mr R Bria

AC626-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee note the Human Resources, Planning and Management Review.

Carried

3.6 External Stakeholder Relationship Management

The Manager Finance and Knowledge Management introduced this item with a proposed scope and methodology for this next external audit item.

The Committee cautioned that the current available resources need to be taken into consideration when outcomes are reviewed and need to be managed accordingly. A maturity model for this audit was suggested with targeted directions. Consideration is t be given as to who our stakeholders are and how we communicate with them to ensure that it is fit for our environment. Significant projects across Council have been mainly due to funding from external stakeholders so that needs to be the area of focus that will drive the largest impacts and outcomes for Whyalla going forward. A survey tool to key stakeholders around their perception of our maturity would be helpful.

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC627-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee note the internal audit scope for the External Stakeholder Relationship Management Review.

Carried

Ms T Occhiuto and Mr P Horsman left the meeting at 11.12am

2.3 Change of Third Quarter Meeting Date

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC628-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee endorse the rescheduling of the July 24 meeting to the following date, noting a leave of absence for Roberto Bria:

August 28, 2026

Carried

3.0 ITEMS FOR NOTING

3.1 Budget Review 2025/26 Quarter 3

The Manager Finance and Knowledge Management introduced this item advising that a significant amount of work has been done to bring the budget in as neutral as possible and maintain Council's previous budget position from the mid-year review which was achieved.

The committee noted that the key financial indicator reviews were useful as was the split between Council excluding airport and including airport.

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC629-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee note the Budget Review 2025/26 Quarter 3

Carried

3.2 Receive Interim Management Report

The Manager Finance and Knowledge Management introduced this item advising that this is the first interim audit with the new auditors, Galpins. Nothing of concern was raised and anything minor has been rectified. Good conversation with Galpins has taken place around the airport and they were supportive of Council's position of the airport funding more than 50% of it's depreciation would mean it would be considered viable. Additional tables show what a modified operating result looks like, and this is what we target and measure and will be added as a line to the Budget Review Report.

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC630-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee

1. receive and note the Interim Management Report, including management's feedback; and
2 accept the interim audit outcomes as closed, noting that all items raised are either minor in nature or already part of existing work program

Carried

3.3 Quarterly Procurement Report

The Manager Finance and Knowledge Management introduced this item advising of a significant number of tender activity in the period following Christmas with many of these now closed.

The committee questioned the need to review the Procurement Policy given the large number of exemptions. The policy is due for review with the new council, and this will be taken into consideration, along with the possible need to raise some thresholds.

The committee also requested a change to the table advising who has authorised exemptions confirming that the request has been reviewed and approved.

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC631-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee receive and note the Quarterly Report – Procurement for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.

Carried

3.4 People and Culture Metrics

The Manager People and Culture introduced this item advising that this report initially went to the Audit and Risk Committee in October 2025, seeking an agreement on the data to be presented. Feedback is now sought from the committee.

It was noted that the average turnover rate has increased, and it was advised that this is mostly due to planned retirement.

Encouraging to see the turnover dropping and the survey appears reasonable. The rate of Lost Time Injury (LTI) days has increased, and this is due to a recently approved psychological injury claim which was backdated to September 2024 and so has significantly contributed to the LTI days.

Mitigations have been put in place; a psychosocial risk procedure is in place, inductions to ensure managers are skilled in this area, HSRs take a specific People at Work training around return to work, and all staff are inducted on psychosocial risk. This has also been addressed in our cultural development planning. A gap analysis has also taken place. An industrial investigation has also taken place around this issue, and no misconduct has been identified, however, improvements have been put in place.

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC632-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee note the reports against the CEO's KPI targets and provide feedback for any additional information requested in the bi-annual reporting

Carried

3.7 Update on Risk Management Policy Framework

The Manager People and Culture introduced this item seeking feedback on the framework.

The committee advised that best practice in rating risk would involve three levels: inherent, current and target. This is consistent with whole of government guidelines and is a useful tool when aligning with risk appetite. The third level (target) is a better way to assess risk and see trends in terms of a treatment plan. The current risk matrix is also risk averse with 8 squares being extreme which is inconsistent across the board. There is also the ability to move one square on the diagonal and move down two levels from extreme to medium or high to low. The current matrix creates extreme outcomes which are not realistic nor representative of the issues. *Significant* should also be altered to *Critical*.

Moved Mr D Powell, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC633-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee note the status of the Risk Management Framework and acknowledges the supporting work occurring to progress Council's overall risk maturity, noting further feedback is to be incorporated hereafter.

Carried

3.8 Operational Resource Capacity and Open Space Service Levels Review

The Manager Operations introduced this item advising that his report was presented to Council and is now in its trial period.

Moved Cr P Klobucar, seconded Mr R Bria

AC634-2026

The Audit and Risk Committee note the "Operational Resource Capacity and Open Space Service Levels Review" Report

Carried

Mr C Sharp, Ms L Green and Ms S Vigar left the meeting at 12.13pm

4. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

4.1 Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments – Confidential

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC635-2026

Pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1999,* the Audit and Risk Committee orders that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of Justin Commons; Chief Executive Officer, Sue King; General Manager Corporate Services, Grant Jennings; Manager Finance and Knowledge Management, Ellisha Papoulis; Manager People and Culture and Naomi Javis; Executive Coordinator – Infrastructure for Agenda Item 4.1 – *"Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments".*

The Audit and Risk Committee considers that the requirement for the meeting to be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in circumstances where the Council will receive and consider 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.

Carried

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Cr P Klobucar

AC636-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee

1.

2. In accordance with Section 91(7) and (9) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Audit and Risk committee orders that this report at Item 4.1, *"Verbal Update on Council Business and City Developments",* the Appendix to this report, and the minutes pertaining to this item having been considered in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the Act be kept confidential and not available for public inspection 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 obligations or duty. This order is to remain in force until February 2031, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried

4.2 Update from Council Representative – Confidential

Moved Mr R Bria, seconded Mr D Powell

AC637-2026

Pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit and Risk Committee orders that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of Justin Commons; Chief Executive Officer, Sue King; General Manager Corporate Services, Grant Jennings; Manager Finance and Knowledge Management, Ellisha Papoulis; Manager People and Culture and Naomi Jarvis; Executive Coordinator – Infrastructure for Agenda Item 4.2 – "*Update from Council Representative."*

The Audit and Risk Committee considers that the requirement for the meeting to be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in circumstances where the committee will receive and consider matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the committee does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligations or duty.

Carried

Moved Cr P Klobucar, seconded Mr D Powell

AC638-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1.
2. In accordance with Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit and Risk Committee orders that this report at Item 4.2, *"Update from Council Representative",* the appendix to this report and the minutes pertaining to this item having been considered in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the Act be kept confidential and not available for public inspection 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. This order is to remain in force until February 2031, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried

4.3 Meeting Review

Moved Cr P Klobucar, seconded Mr D Powell

AC639-2026

Pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Audit and Risk Committee orders that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of Justin Commons; Chief Executive Officer, Sue King: General Manager Corporate Services, Grant Jennings; Manager Finance and Knowledge Management, Ellisha Papoulis; Manager People and Culture and Naomi Jarvis; Executive Coordinator – Infrastructure for Agenda Item 4.3 – Meeting Review.

The Audit and Risk Committee considers that the requirement for the meeting to be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in circumstances where the committee will receive and consider matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the Committee does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence or other legal obligations or duty.

Carried

Moved Cr P Klobucar, seconded Mr D Powell

AC640-2026

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1.
2. In accordance with Section 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Audit and Risk Committee orders that this report at Item 4.1, *"Meeting Review",* the Appendix to this report and the minutes pertaining to this item having been considered in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(g) of the Act be kept confidential and not available for public inspection to ensure that the committee does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligations or duty. This order is to remain in force until February 2031, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.

Carried

5. **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Nil

6. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 28 August 2026

8. CLOSE – Meeting closed at 1.08pm

Confirmed: ……
Presiding Member – August 2026

14.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – September 2026 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Justin Commons – Chief Executive Officer **File No.:** 1-0
Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Attachments:
1 – Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – September 2026
2 – Committee/ Working Party/ Workshop/ Sub-committee Meetings Listing
3 – 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

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

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

☐ **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 Attachment 1. This enables Council Members to view outstanding resolutions and gives advice as to the timeframe for the completion and outcome of the said resolutions.

Attachment 2 lists Council Member representation at meetings held during the month and meetings to be held over a period of three (3) months.

Attachment 3 provides a summary of key meetings and external engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer during the period 17 August – 20 September 2026, 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 – September 2026.

DUE DATE

Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – September 2026 – For Noting	21/09/2026

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – September 2026 – For Noting

REPORT

DISCUSSION

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

Attachments 1 and 2 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 attachments, provides a description of the process, which is to be followed, and timeframe allocated to outstanding resolutions.

Attachment 3 provides a summary of key meetings and external engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer during the period 17 August – 20 September 2026, inclusive.

UPDATES – VARIOUS MATTERS

Kathy Jarrett – Women of Impact Award



The Premier of South Australia, Peter Malinauskis, submitted a posthumous nomination of Kathryn "Kathy" Jarrett for the 2026 South Australian Women of Impact Awards, after receiving a letter from Kathy's sister, Julianne Willis, advising that Kathy passed away on 14 February 2026 following a brief battle with cancer.

At the 2026 Women of Impact Awards ceremony, held at Government House on Tuesday 8 September 2026, Kathy's family were in attendance to receive Kathy's posthumous award for impact in Community, and I attended on behalf of City of Whyalla and more broadly the local government sector.

The following is an extract from the Premier's letter of nomination, that was supported by Testimonials prepared by Dr Felicity-Ann Lewis OAM and City of Whyalla.

1. What is the nature and length of the nominee's impact and involvement in the community, field of work or endeavour, and the lasting effects of their contributions?

Kathy devoted more than two decades of her career to serving the South Australian community through senior leadership in local government, leaving an enduring legacy across multiple regions and communities including Whyalla, Marion and Palmerston.

Most recently, as Director Corporate Services at the City of Whyalla (2020 – 2025), Kathy made an extraordinary contribution to the city's future. She was instrumental in delivering the $30 million Whyalla Airport Runway Upgrade, completed ahead of schedule and under budget, creating a critical economic asset that will support the region for decades to come.

It was while celebrating the completion of the new airport in Whyalla, that I had the pleasure of meeting Kathy, where she made a lasting impression on me for her dedication to the Whyalla community and commitment to advancing the City of Whyalla.

Kathy also led transformative strategic work to empower the Whyalla community. She played a central role in developing the "What's the Future (WTF) Community Plan — 2030 and Beyond," engaging more than 2,500 community contributions in a process that ensured the plan was genuinely "developed by the Whyalla community, for the Whyalla community." Through this work, she sought to "create a movement" and enable Whyalla to "regain its voice" in shaping its future.

Her impact was deeply felt within the organisation and community. As Whyalla Chief Executive Officer, Mr Justin Commons reflected, Kathy was "the most reliable, genuine, ethical and compassionate professional" he had worked with in over 20 years.

Her appointment as the inaugural University of South Australia Industry Fellow in 2023 to research "Whyalla: A Flourishing City," further reflects the significance of her contribution to this community. Her research examined the city's identity, opportunities, and future in the context of major economic transformation.

Prior to Whyalla, Kathy made substantial contributions in other communities. At the City of Palmerston, she delivered initiatives aimed at improving community safety, including innovative approaches to reducing anti-social behaviour.

During her 12 years at the City of Marion, she led major infrastructure and community development projects, including the SA Aquatic Centre, Cove Civic Centre and Oaklands Wetlands, and secured more than $30 million in external funding. She also led many departments within the City of Marion from Libraries, Community Development and Environmental Services to Infrastructure Services and Projects, as well as Human Resources.

She pioneered award-winning community engagement practices, gathering over 16,000 contributions to inform Marion's Community Plan.

Kathy's lasting impact is evident in the strengthened communities, improved infrastructure, and enduring governance frameworks she helped establish. Her legacy continues through the empowered communities, capable organisations, and future-focused strategies she leaves behind.

2. How does the nominee actively support women's rights and social justice, and demonstrate a special commitment to equity and diversity?

Kathy Jarrett dedicated her professional life to advancing social justice, equity and inclusive community outcomes. Her leadership was grounded in integrity and a deep commitment to ensuring that decision-making processes reflected fairness, diversity, and genuine community voice.

She was widely recognised as a principled leader. As Marion Chief Executive Officer, Mark Searle observed, Kathy was *"one of the most principled and values driven people" he encountered, noting that" she didn't simply advocate for justice and ethics – she lived them every day"* and consistently challenged others to consider *"not just what was possible, but what was right"*.

Kathy demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting women in leadership. She actively mentored and encouraged women across local government, generously sharing her knowledge and championing their achievements. Many women have credited Kathy with building their confidence and supporting their leadership development.

Former Mayor of the City of Marion, Dr Felicity-Ann Lewis OAM states: *"A particular strength was her ability to nurture and support women —generously sharing her knowledge and experience. This was particularly evident with the development of the women in local government"*.

Her commitment to social justice was also reflected in her community engagement approach. Kathy believed deeply in empowering communities to shape their own future. As Community Engagement Strategist and author Ms Becky Hirst reflected, her leadership and respect for her community was defined by the principle: *"it's their plan — every single word"*, describing this as *"leadership of a rare and quiet kind ... exactly the kind that changes places"*.

Ms Hirst also reflected "*I have worked in community engagement for nearly three decades, across two countries, and l can say without hesitation that Kathy Jarrett changed the course of my career— and my faith in this work —more than any other single person. From her time at the City of Marion, Kathy had built a reputation as someone who believed communities were capable of far more than the sector usually gave them credit for"*.

Through her broader sector work, including with the Local Government Association, Kathy strengthened governance and participation. The LGA acknowledged her *"determination to lead good governance, ensure meaningful engagement ... and deliver high-quality services"* as exemplary.

Her leadership ensured that equity, participation and inclusion were embedded in both processes and outcomes.

3. Describe how the nominee is recognised as a leader or role model in the community.

Kathy Jarrett was widely recognised as an exceptional leader and role model, whose influence extended far beyond her formal roles. She was known for her integrity, compassion and ability to inspire others to lead with purpose. Mayor of the City of Whyalla, Mr Phill Stone, reflected that *"Kathy brought out the best in people ... and sharpened our collective focus on serving our community to the best of our abilities"*. This ability to elevate others defined her leadership.

Kathy's leadership also extended to building strong relationships at the highest levels and fostering collaboration across community, government and industry. She supported the establishment of a strategic relationship with the Governor of South Australia and was instrumental in the Governor's 2024 Whyalla State Dinner, which brought together key decision-makers to position Whyalla as a leader in renewables and decarbonisation.

Her influence was deeply personal as well as strategic. Governor, Frances Adamson, described Kathy in the following way: *"Kathy spoke from the heart and had both a genuine compassion and optimistic vision for Whyalla. Her desire to empower the local community to regain its voice and embrace with optimism the impending socio-economic change Whyalla was facing, was inspiring and compelling. She was a true leader within the Whyalla community"*.

She was also a committed mentor and developer of people. Through her work and leadership, she supported emerging professionals and future leaders across the sector. Her influence was deeply personal and far-reaching, with Ms Becky Hirst noting that that others will *"practice differently because of her"*.

Kathy's leadership was defined by authenticity, courage and a strong ethical foundation. She was known for speaking the truth and holding a firm focus on community benefit.

Her legacy as a role model is profound. She inspired others not only through what she achieved, but through how she led with integrity, empathy and unwavering commitment to community.



Official Opening – Whyalla Airport Runway Upgrade

Foreshore Activities

- Café pod currently being relocated – completion due end of September.
- Outdoor Ideas due to commence works on Splash n Play – fencing is up and site possession given; tree removal by our crew over next two weeks; then Outside Ideas break ground.
- Contract for tender to construct Whyalla Foreshore Centre (SLSC and SWFC), to be let by the end of September. First activity will be demolition of existing building.

- Marina area upgrade comprising new fish cleaning station, relocation of boat cleaning bay, resealing of car park/line-marking, etc. due to commence from the first week of November and completed pre-Christmas.
- SLSC to commence utilisation of VIC Pod and shipping containers from first week of October.

Parliamentary Senate Inquiry : Aviation

On behalf of City of Whyalla, Council's CEO, Justin Commons and General Manger Corporate Services, Sue King, appeared at a public hearing for the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee: Inquiry into Australia's Aviation Sector—Regional Service Delivery on Friday 11 September 2026.

City of Whyalla – Opening Statement

Sue King; General Manager Corporate Services

Thank you, Chair and Senators, for the opportunity to appear today.

I am appearing on behalf of Whyalla City Council and as a life-long resident of Whyalla, a regional city that is heavily reliant on a single airline service to connect our community with Adelaide and the rest of Australia.

While aviation services to regional communities are often discussed in terms of routes, schedules and passenger numbers, the reality for people living in Whyalla and our region is that air services directly affect our ability to access business opportunities, government services, healthcare, education, investment and tourism.

Whyalla is currently serviced by only one airline. This lack of competition significantly limits choice, flexibility and resilience within the market. If services are reduced, delayed or cancelled, there are few practical alternatives available to residents and businesses.

One example of the challenges we face, is the flight schedule between Whyalla and Adelaide. The afternoon departure from Adelaide is typically around 4.00 pm, which restricts the ability of travellers to conduct a full day's business in the capital city before returning home. In many cases, this results in an additional overnight stay, increasing accommodation, meal and travel costs for individuals, businesses and government organisations.

More recently, Saturday services have been removed due to passenger number considerations. While this decision may make commercial sense from an airline perspective, it further reduces connectivity for regional residents. It limits weekend travel options, reduces flexibility for visitors and tourists and can make regional communities feel increasingly isolated.

For regional centres such as Whyalla, aviation is not simply a transport option. It is critical infrastructure. Reliable and affordable air services enable economic growth, workforce attraction, specialist service delivery and community wellbeing. When services are reduced, the impacts are felt across the entire community.

We encourage the Committee to consider the broader economic and social importance of regional aviation and the unique challenges faced by communities that rely on a single carrier and limited flight schedules.

Justin Commons; Chief Executive Officer

Chair, Senators

The key message from City of Whyalla's submission is simple: ***regional aviation is essential infrastructure, yet the current funding model places an unfair burden on smaller regional communities such as Whyalla****.*

Whyalla Airport serves not only our city but also the broader Upper Spencer Gulf and Eyre Peninsula regions. However, the airport operates in a very challenging environment. We have around 48,000 passengers annually, only one airline currently servicing the route, and significant fixed operating costs that cannot be spread across a large passenger base.

As a result, the airport currently operates at an annual deficit of almost $1.5 million. That equates to around 60 per cent of the airport's gross expenditure and approximately six per cent of Council's total rate revenue being used to support the provision of air services.

A major contributor to this challenge is the cost of aviation security screening. Security screening costs alone are approximately $1.3 million per year, creating a cost of around $54 per departing passenger before any other airport charges are considered.

The problem is compounded by the fact that Whyalla is around four hours by road from Adelaide. When airfares rise, many residents simply choose to drive, reducing passenger demand and making it even harder for the airport to recover its costs. Passenger numbers are already almost 40 per cent below pre-COVID levels.

It is also important to note that the South Australian aviation sector ***struggles disproportionately*** *to other states with lack of competition on regional routes, due to the small population numbers outside of capital city of Adelaide. Whereas other states have regional cities with larger population bases, South Australia as a city state only has Mount Gambier (population 28,000) in the south and Whyalla (population 22,000) in the North of the state. Consequently, regional south Australia is more dependent on a fly in fly out workforce with residents (predominately) of Adelaide, commuting in/out of regional South Australia for employment purposes.*

Another concern is the lack of competition. Since the departure of REX in 2023, Qantas has been the sole airline servicing Whyalla. This has reduced consumer choice and contributed to concerns around airfare affordability and service flexibility.

Our submission argues that aviation for regions such as Whyalla is not a luxury. It is critical for:

- *supporting regional mining, steelmaking and renewable energy investment;*
- *access to healthcare, specialist services;*
- *attracting skilled professionals and specialist contractors;*
- *education;*
- *employment;*
- *emergency response;*
- *tourism and investment; and*
- *flight disruptions or service reductions have significant impacts on residents, businesses and the regional economy.*

*Accordingly, our primary recommendation is the introduction of a **uniform national aviation security levy**. Rather than regional passengers bearing a disproportionate share of security screening costs, those costs should be distributed equitably across the national aviation network. **We believe aviation security is a national responsibility and should be funded accordingly.***

Industry modelling referenced in our submission suggests that a nationally administered approach could add approximately one dollar to tickets across the network, compared with the current impact of between fifteen and fifty dollars per passenger in many regional communities.

We also advocate for continued capital funding for regional airports, greater support for ongoing compliance costs, increased airline competition and policies that strengthen the resilience of regional aviation services.

***In closing**, our submission highlights that communities such as Whyalla are currently paying twice: first through higher airfares and secondly through local rates that subsidise airport operations. We have been waiting – through multiple Aviation White Papers and Inquiries – for **meaningful reform**, particularly through a national security funding model, to ensure regional Australians have access to affordable, reliable and sustainable air services into the future.*

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 Attachments, of the process to be followed and timeframes to be applied.

Attachment 1

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	Dec 2026 However, there is no commitment of date from the Commonwealth.		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.* *Commonwealth have still not responded. Kelledy Jones seeking a response.* *Email reminder has been sent to Kelledy Jones, seeking update/action required – 12 August 2026.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
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	Dec 2026 However, there is no commitment from the Minister for Primary Industries, that this date will be met.		75%	***In progress*** *Final permissions are being lodged with State Commission Assessment Panel and we anticipate approval is imminent.* *As of 21 July, easement marked 'B' has been extinguished from both Allotments 126 and 128. Still awaiting a response from the Minister for Primary Industries regarding the Right of Way marked 'R". The recent invoice shows they are calling and checking progress.*
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			75%	***In progress*** *Minister approval has been provided – refer report Item 14.3.2 contained within this Agenda to revoke land and gazette accordingly.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

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	Dec 2026 However, there is no commitment from the Department for Defence that this date will be met.		75%	***In progress*** *Contract is back with Defence for agreement of minor amendments. Also reviewing annexed reports to ensure they are satisfactory.* *No change – awaiting confirmation.* *15 July – Provided instruction to Kelledy Jones to make minor final changes. Transfer deed has been updated as per instructions and forwarded back to Department of Defence. Awaiting response.*
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*** *Council has been advised that the requirement for the Steelworks to make an ex-gratia payment to Council, in lieu of rates, has been included in the Indenture Agreement that will be negotiated with the future owner.* *The quantum of the ex-gratia payment is to be negotiated by Council with the future owner, once the current tender process concludes.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

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	Dec 2026 However, there is no commitment from Korda Mentha that this date will be met.		50%	***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.* *Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March with OneSteel Manufacturing, to discuss further.* *No formal response has been received regarding consent (verbally provided from Management); a follow-up email was sent the week of 10 August.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
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	Mar 2027		20%	***In progress*** *Asset Management Plans (AMPs) for Council's structural assets are currently under development. Due to the complexity of Council's asset portfolio, the number of assets requiring assessment, and the need to ensure the plans are prepared to a high professional standard, additional time is required for completion.* *The development of the AMPs involves comprehensive data validation, condition assessments, risk profiling, lifecycle modelling and alignment with Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Strategic Asset Management Framework. This work is being undertaken by existing staff alongside core operational responsibilities.* *As a result, Administration is advising Council that all Asset Management Plans will be completed by 31 March 2027.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
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.	GMCG/MCWD	Nov 2026		75%	***In progress*** *A concept brief has been developed; outlining minimalist signage, QR codes with maps and post-style markers that identify existing trails, required fitness levels and rider risk.* *The Woking Party met with James Brown and Troy Brougham (local mountain bike event organiser) to review and refine the brief, confirming the high-level scope of work. James and Troy understand that the bike stand and repair toolkit stand will be provided by them at no cost to Council.* *Administration are now developing a detailed scope, including cost estimates, signage/directional marker locations and trailhead maps.* *Planning requirements have been reviewed with advice received that the signage associated with the Mount Laura bike tracks is exempt from requiring development approval.* *Work on site is scheduled to start in September with completion anticipated by the end of November 2026.*

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	Dec 2026			***Complete*** *Outdoor locker design has been confirmed and lockers will be installed to the rear of the SLSC/Café building.*
C5828-2025 15/12/25	**Economic Development Related Matters** Council: ~~a) considers the information within the report;~~ ~~b) writes to the South Australian Premier requesting that the Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation Unit (WSITU) 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).	CEO		Oct 2026	10%	***In progress*** *Correspondence forwarded to Premier and relevant Ministers requesting that the Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation Unit (WSITU) 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 – 27 January 2026.* *In the absence of a response, Council's CEO will seek to convene a meeting as proposed in October 2026.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5840-2026 27/01/26	**Revocation of Dedication to Council and Community Land Status** Council: ~~1. notes the public consultation process undertaken and the public submissions received;~~ 2. having prepared and made publicly available a report under Section 194(2) of the Act, makes a submission to the Minister under Section 194(3) of the Act for the revocation of community land status for the following land parcels: a. Lot 130 Lincoln Highway b. 20 Whitehead Street 3. having prepared and made publicly available a report under Section 194(2) of the Act, makes a submission to the Minister under Section 194(3) of the Act 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 1882 McEwin Street; and 4. resolves to not progress further at this time with the revocation of both community land status and care, control and management for Lot 1134 Playford Avenue.	MF			75%	***In progress*** *The McEwin Street property is already the subject of consultation by Crown Lands with Government Departments on whether any plans exist for the site, with the Nicolson Avenue property to follow soon. If there is no interest, they will likely both be sold on the open market.* *For Ayliffe Street, a high-level contamination was prepared for Crown Lands, however, they now want a more detailed report, which is likely to be expensive. Next steps are being considered.* *In early September, the Minister for Local Government approved revocation of the two land parcels owned by Council. A final report will need to be presented to Council, and if approved, the revocation can be Gazetted.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6032-2026 16/02/26	**Whyalla Local Heritage Code Amendment** Council: ~~1. receives and notes the community feedback on the Whyalla Local Heritage Code Amendment, submitted during the formal consultation period, as contained in Annexure "B" (the Engagement Report, January 2026);~~ ~~2. endorses the Whyalla Local Heritage Code Amendment, under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, as contained in Annexure "C" (the Code Amendment);~~ 3. submits the Whyalla Local Heritage Code Amendment, seeking approval of the Minister for Planning; and 4. delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer (or sub-delegate), to make any minor editorial or inconsequential changes following any feedback from the Minister's office.	MCD	Dec 2026 However, there is no commitment from the Minister for Planning and Land Use Services that this date will be met.		75%	***In progress*** *The Local Heritage Code Amendment has been submitted to the Minister for endorsement.* *The Minister's office has stated that no endorsement will occur until after the State election.* *Council staff have followed up with Planning and Land Use Services, re Ministerial approval.* *6 August – Spoke to DHUD to check for updates. No updates were provided and Council Administration have been told that the Code Amendment is still being discussed internally to DHUD. Awaiting further response. Will check back with them in two weeks.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6034-2026 16/02/26	**Honouring our Local Legends – Barrie Robran Gates** That research is undertaken to cost out design and construction of gates honouring local legend Barrie Robran at the entrance to Memorial Oval situated on Duncan Street, with findings to be brought back to Council for discussion/decision.	MCA	Dec 2026		25%	***In progress*** *Design finalised for family review, once approval is provided, costings will be finalised. On track for completion at end of calendar year.*
20/04/26	**Question without Notice** **Cr Inglis** Point Lowly Boat Ramp – rubbers are coming away from the floating pontoon, exposing bolts – rubbers need to be replaced.	GMI/MO	Nov 2026			***Complete*** *CRM I120089 created – 29/04/26.* *Repairs have been completed.* *A project to replace the timber and rubber around the boat ramp will be included within the draft capital projects budget for 2027/28.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
20/04/26	**Question without Notice** **Cr Knox** Sacred Rocks fencing – requested a report on what details are transpiring and/or discussion that has taken place with regard to the current fencing eyesore.	CEO/GMCS/ GMCG				***In progress*** *Administration has received a reply from BDAC, with a proposed meeting date of 18 September 2026 to take place between Council and BDAC members, regarding works.* *Council has been informed by BDAC that:* *The Barngarla women in Whyalla met and discussed the matter and propose the following:* *1. That the site be protected and preserved and the area securely fenced.* *2. That signage at the site be replaced so that it is clearly marked (the current signage is quite small).* *3. That adequate lighting and a bench seat or similar structure be placed near the site for women to sit and enjoy the site.* *4. That Barngarla women be involved with the site maintenance / cleaning, on a regular basis, in accordance with traditional laws and customs.*

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6156-2026 20/07/26	**Substitution of Members on the Building Fire Safety Committee under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016** Council endorses: ~~1. Courtney Cox of the Port Augusta City Council be appointed to the Whyalla City Council's Building Fire Safety Committee, pursuant to Section 157 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, effective immediately for the remainder of the current committee term expiring on 19 July 2027, as a person who holds prescribed qualifications as an Accredited Professional – Building Level 2, replacing Nadene Denton;~~ ~~2. an authorised officer under Part 3 Division 5 or Section 86 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* who has been authorised by the Chief Officer of the relevant fire authority, be appointed to the Whyalla City Council's Building Fire Safety Committee pursuant to Section 157 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, effective immediately for the remainder of the current committee term expiring on 19 July 2027;~~ ~~3. Troy Olds be appointed to the Whyalla City Council's Building Fire Safety Committee pursuant to Section 157 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, effective immediately for the remainder of the current committee term expiring on 19 July 2027, as a person with expertise in the area of fire safety, replacing Peter Harmer;~~	GMCG/MCD	Nov 2026		75%	***In progress*** *Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 completed – 11 August 2026.* *Thank you letters to be sent to:* • *Peter Harmer* • *Nadene Denton* *Meeting regarding the Terms of Reference to be organised.* *Conversation with Troy Olds as the new Chair has occurred.* *Council staff have been instructed to schedule first 'establishing' meeting. Meeting to be scheduled.*

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
	~~4. Troy Olds be appointed as the Presiding Member of the Whyalla City Council Building Fire Safety Committee for the remainder of the current term;~~ 5. the Terms of Reference of the Whyalla City Council's Building Fire Safety Committee be amended as described within Annexure "A" to reflect the membership updates; 6. Council wishes to express its appreciation to both Nadene Denton and Peter Harmer for their invaluable input and service to the Committee; and 7. to forward correspondence to Nadene Denton and Peter Harmer thanking them for their service.					
C6158-2026 20/07/26	**Kerbside Waste Collection and Disposal Services Contract Extension** Council: 1. approves a twelve (12) month extension of the Waste Management and Disposal Services Contract with Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027; and 2. authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute all documents necessary to give effect to the extension.	GMI	30/09/26		60%	***In progress*** *Contract documentation has been reviewed by Council Administration and sent to Veolia for signing.* *Once returned by Veolia, Council will finalise accordingly.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6162-2026 20/07/26	**Lot 3 Lincoln Highway – Agreement to Lease** Council: 1. notes the conditional support provided by OneSteel Manufacturing (Annexure "B") relating to this project; 2. supports in principle the proposed development, subject to negotiation of suitable terms in a new Agreement to Lease; 3. delegates authority for the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate a new Agreement to Lease for Part Lot 3 Lincoln Highway with Chow Energy Public Company Limited, through its subsidiary Premier Solutions OpCo, for the development of agritech/ greenhouse and solar farm; and 4. having considered Agenda Item 20.1.1 in confidence under Sections 90(2) and (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act, orders that this Report and Annexures to this item, be kept confidential and not available for public inspection on the basis that the report contains information the disclosure of which 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 would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. This order is to remain in force for a period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year.	GMCG	Dec 2026		25%	***In progress*** *Draft Agreement to Lease being prepared by Council's lawyers (at developers cost). Anticipate receiving this, the week beginning Monday 10 August.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6192-2026 17/08/26	**Appointment of Council Representative at the Local Government Finance AGM and Council Member attendance at the Local Government Association Conference** Council nominates Mayor Phill Stone as its representative at the Local Government Finance Authority of South Australia Annual General Meeting, to be held on Friday 4 December 2026.	CEO				***Completed*** *Nomination completed and forward to LGFA – 20/08/26.*
C6193-2026 17/08/26	**EPLGA: Wudinna District Council – Notice of Motion – Electronic Participation in Council Meetings** Council supports the Notice of Motion, submitted by Wudinna District Council to the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association Board Meeting on 20 February 2025, as amended as follows: *"The EPLGA advocate to the LGASA seeking legislative amendment to Section 86 Local Government Act 1999 and its subordinate regulations, to allow each Council to determine its own electronic attendance and voting rights for Elected Members."*	CEO				***Completed*** *Correspondence forwarded to EPLGA, advising Council's resolution – 20/08/26.*

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6194-2026 17/08/26	**SAROC Nominations for Spencer Gulf Cities Regional LGA** Council: a) writes to the LGA to advise that City of Whyalla supports the selection process where Spencer Gulf Cities is used in place of the standard SAROC election process, as our regional association comprises of all councils within our SAROC Regional Grouping, with this process also applying to any casual vacancies or leave of absences. b) notes that Mayor Stone has indicated that he does not wish to be nominated for SAROC appointment. c) notes that at the Spencer Gulf Cities meeting held on 4 August 2026, Mayor Shine and Mayor Stevens confirmed that they wish to represent the Spencer Gulf Cities on SAROC; and *d)* notes that the Cities of Port Augusta and Port Pirie will nominate Mayor Shine and Mayor Stevens respectively as a member of the South Australia Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) as a contingency, in the unlikely event should the standard SAROC election process become necessary.	CEO				***Completed*** *Correspondence forwarded to LGA – 21/08/26.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6195-2026 17/08/26	**EPLGA Charter** Council a) endorses the changes to the Eyre Peninsula LGA Charter as resolved by the EPLGA Special Board Meeting dated 22 July 2026; b) supports the Eyre Peninsula LGA selection process held at the meeting on 22 July 2026, that appointed Mayor Dean Johnson (Kimba Council) as President and Mayor Quigley (Lower Eyre Council) as Vice President of the EPLGA; and c) as a voting member of the Upper Spencer Gulf Region, notes that the Kimba Council and Lower Eyre Council will now nominate Mayor Johnson and Mayor Quigley respectively, as a member of the South Australia Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).	CEO				***Completed*** *Correspondence forwarded to EPLGA – 21/08/26.*
C6198-2026 17/08/26	**Close Loan Facility** Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal all necessary documents to close Cash Advance Debenture 141 held with the Local Government Finance Authority	MF				***Completed*** *Signed and Common Seal applied, forwarded to LGFA.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – September 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6203-2026 17/08/26	**Request for Formal Review – Licensed use of Memorial Oval** Council: 1. maintains the current arrangements in place for leased and licenced access to Memorial and Bennett Oval(s) for both Whyalla Cricket Association and Whyalla Women's Football League for season 2026/27; 2. undertakes a formal review of the operation of the Whyalla Cricket Association/Port Augusta Cricket Association 2026/27 season, with a view to ensuring the use of Memorial and Bennett Oval(s) is commensurate to the ratepayer costs of servicing and maintaining two turf wickets; 3. undertakes a formal review of the operation of the Whyalla Women's Football League 2026 season, with a view to ensuring the lease fee of the Whyalla Football League is commensurate to the ratepayer costs of servicing and maintaining the use of Council oval facilities; and 4. prepares a report for Council at the conclusion of both codes' seasons, with all findings, to inform preparation for the 2027 scheduling to include cost of maintenance for Bennett and Memorial Ovals, with particular reference to the maintenance of the cricket pitches and the future replacement of Memorial Oval cricket pitch.	GMCG				

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

Meetings held: 17 August – 20 September 2026

Meeting Date	*Name of Meeting*	*Quorum*
17 August	Ordinary Council Meeting	Y
28 August	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	Y
7 September	Special Council Meeting	Y
7 September	Council Members Briefing Session	–

Future meetings: September – December 2026

Meeting Date	*Name of Meeting*
21 September	Ordinary Council Meeting
6 October	Council Members Briefing Session
8 October	Audit and Risk Committee Workshop
9 October	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
19 October	Ordinary Council Meeting
2 November	Council Members Briefing Session
16 November	Ordinary Council Meeting
7 December	Council Members Briefing Session
TBC	Ordinary Council Meeting

Attachment 3

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

Monday 17 August 2026

- Monthly Executive Meeting with Whyalla Steelworks Transformation Unit
- Weekly Catch-up with Mayor Stone and Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor
- Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 18 August 2026

- Vietnam Veterans Day
- Mayoral Reception: Sunrise Christian School – Hydrogen Grand Prix (H2GP) World Finals
- Adelaide Uni: Future Minds: Creativity and Ethics in the Age of AI



Vietnam Veterans Day

Thursday 20 August 2026

- Meet with Ms Elise Ganley, SA Unions
- LGA Mutual Quarterly Briefing to CEOs – Psychosocial Support – via Teams
- Whyalla Business and Tourism: Your Rights on Theft and Vandalism in Your Business

Friday 21 August 2026

- Combined Regional Council Executive Meeting – Port Augusta

Monday 24 August 2026

- Waste to Resources Committee Meeting
- RAP Meeting

Tuesday 25 August 2026

- ELT, Mayor, Deputy Mayor Monthly Catch-up

Wednesday 26 August 2026

- Whyalla Delivery Coordination Group - Meeting 5 – online
- Parliament of Australia Inquiry into Local Government Funding – Port Lincoln
- Whyalla Project Delivery Co-ordination Meeting

Thursday 27 August 2026

- ICC Local Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting
- Meeting with Ms Anne Evans; Centacare, re 'Surviving to Thriving' program.

Friday 28 August 2026

- Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – Adelaide

Monday 31 August 2026

- HILT CRC Affiliate and Associate Town Hall Meeting
- Meet with Ms Sara Khoo; Siemens Energy

Wednesday 2 September 2026

- LG Innovate: AI Conference

Thursday 3 September 2026

- LG Innovate: AI Conference

Monday 7 September 2026

- Special Council Meeting
- Council Members Briefing Session

Tuesday 8 September 2026

- Stakeholder (internal/external) Discussion: Future Cuttlefish Seasons
- 2026 SA Women of Impact Awards – Government House, Adelaide





SA Women of Impact Awards – Government House

Wednesday 9 September 2026

- USG Housing Advisory Group

Thursday 10 September 2026

- 'Common Ground': Coffee with Council's CEO – Whyalla Public Library
- Northern Water SRG Meeting
- R U OK Day – staff afternoon tea



'Common Ground' – Whyalla Public Library

Friday 11 September 2026

- Regular catch-up: City of Whyalla and DEM Industry Development Team
- Inquiry into Australia's Aviation Sector—Regional Service Delivery – Public Hearing – online

Monday 14 September 2026

- Monthly Executive Meeting with Whyalla Steelworks Transformation Unit
- Meet with Premier, Treasurer and Korda Mentha, re Blast Furnace announcement
- Contractors and Suppliers meeting, re Blast Furnace announcement
- Special Council Members Confidential Briefing Session, re Blast Furnace announcement

Tuesday 15 September 2026

- Official Opening of Copperhouse Court Extension – Flinders Avenue
- Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce Meeting
- Adelaide University: Whyalla Connect Session



Together with Regional Manager Paul Havelburg and Vice Chancellor, Professor Nicola Phillips

Wednesday 16 September 2026

- Meet with Tom Venning, MP
- Meet n Greet: Music SA Chief Executive Officer; Ms Christine Scholithe
- Nonowie Wind Farm – Tilt Renewables / Whyalla City Council catch-up

Thursday 17 September 2026

- Meet the LGA Presidential Candidates Session – online

Friday 18 September 2026

- Regular Meeting with Northern Water Project Team

14.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14.1.2 Election of LGA President – For Decision

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Justin Commons – Chief Executive Officer **File No.:** 1-0
Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Attachments:
1 – Candidate Profiles
2 – Ballot Paper for LGA President

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

Council is required to determine by resolution, their preferred candidate for the position of LGA President.

SUMMARY

Pursuant to Clause 28 of the *Local Government Association of South Australia Constitution – Nominations for the Office of President*, nominations were called for the position of LGA President on 9 July 2026 and closed on Tuesday 1 September 2026.

Four nominations were received, and as a result of the number of persons nominated exceeding one and in accordance with Clause 29.4 of the LGA Constitution (**the Constitution**), an election for the position of LGA President will take place.

RECOMMENDATION

Council nominates, in order of preference (1 – 4), its preferred candidate for the position of LGA President:

1. ***
2. ***
3. ***
4. ***

DUE DATE

Election of LGA President – For Decision	03/11/2026

14.1.2 Election of LGA President – For Decision

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Association (**LGA**) has previously called for nominations for the position of LGA President. The successful candidate will take office from the conclusion of the LGA's 2026 Annual General Meeting, for a term ending at the conclusion of the 2028 LGA Annual General Meeting.

DISCUSSION

In accordance with Clause 29.4 of the Constitution, an election for the position of LGA President will take place.

The four candidates for election are listed below (in alphabetical order by surname):

- Mayor Simone Bailey – Mid Murray Council
- Mayor Moira Jenkins – City of Victor Harbor
- Mayor Dean Johnson – District Council of Kimba
- Mayor Leon Stephens – Port Pirie Regional Council

Refer Attachment 1 – Candidate Profiles.

Since the 2024 LGA elections, there have been amendments made to the Constitution – one being, the introduction (from 2026) of preferential voting as the vote count method for the election of LGA President.

Pursuant to Clause 29 of the Constitution, the casting of the vote by each Council must be conducted as follows:

- Each Member Council must determine which candidate it wishes to elect, by passing a resolution that:
  - **places the number 1** next to the name of their preferred candidate; and
  - **places consecutive ascending numbers** next to all remaining candidates, in order of the Member Council's preference;

All four candidates must be assigned a number within the resolution, for the ballot to be valid.

Ballot papers must be returned to the LGA by 5.00 pm, Tuesday 3 November 2026.

The counting of votes will take place on Monday 9 November 2026, commencing at 2.15 pm with the Returning Officer declaring the candidate elected, at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Friday 4 December 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
Promote positive stories, positive image

Legislation

Local Government Association – Constitution

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Not applicable

Social Considerations – Not applicable

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

Pursuant to Clause 28 of the *Local Government Association of South Australia Constitution – Nominations for the Office of President*, nominations were called for the position of LGA President on 9 July 2026 and closed on Tuesday 1 September 2026.

Four nominations were received, and as a result of the number of persons nominated exceeding one and in accordance with Clause 29.4 of the LGA Constitution, an election for the position of LGA President will take place.

Council is required to determine by resolution, their preferred candidate for the position of LGA President.

Attachment 1

From the office of the Mayor

1 September 2026

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE FOR THE LGA

Dear Colleagues,

I have nominated for President of the Local Government Association of South Australia because I believe our sector needs a strong, practical and genuine representative voice.

I am approaching this role differently. I have never been a member of the LGA Board. I see that as a strength.

After 10 years in local Government, two as Council's accountant, four as elected member and the last four as Mayor of Mid Murray, I have become increasingly convinced that our sector needs a stronger voice, fresh thinking and determined advocacy.

While, all of our individual circumstances may be different, whether we represent a metropolitan, regional, large, small, growing or remote Council, I believe we share a common challenge: local government needs to be better understood, better valued and better heard.

There is considerable discussion across our sector about the LGA; its cost, its priorities, its governance, the value councils receive from membership and whether it is delivering what members need.

If we believe change is needed, then I think it is reasonable to ask whether that change is best delivered by those who have already been part of the existing leadership structure, or whether there is value in bringing fresh eyes, fresh questions and a different perspective to the table.

My experience has taught me not to accept "that's how we've always done it" as an answer.

As Mayor of Mid Murray, I have led through flood, drought, serious financial sustainability challenges and significant infrastructure and service pressures. I understand the realities facing councils trying to deliver more with limited resources. I am proud to have been part of turning my councils financial situation around, we currently have no debt, we were one of the lowest rate rises this financial year (2.9%) and have had 2 years of surpluses after nearly 10 years of deficits.

I have also built strong and constructive relationships across State and Federal Government. I believe the LGA President needs to be able to walk into the offices of Ministers, MPs and decision-makers from across the political spectrum, make the case for local government and be taken seriously.

I want an LGA that is in the room when important decisions affecting councils are being made, and an LGA that is prepared to speak loudly when our sector needs to be heard.

If elected, my priorities would be simple:

- Value for members - every dollar councils contribute to the LGA should have a purpose, Mid Murray's membership fees have risen by 27% in my 4 year term and I think this is too high.
- Stronger advocacy - particularly on financial sustainability, cost shifting and infrastructure funding.
- Less duplication and bureaucracy where it does not add value.
- Better connection with councils - metropolitan, regional, large and small.
- Transparency and accountability in how our Association operates.
- A strong, independent voice for all 68 South Australian councils.

I have been open that I will not seek another term as Mayor of Mid Murray, and that decision has not changed. In fact, I see that as a strength in putting myself forward for this role. I'm not seeking the presidency to secure another Mayoral term or because I need another title. I am putting my hand up because my experience in local government has convinced me that our sector needs strong leadership, stronger advocacy and fresh thinking and I genuinely believe I have something valuable to contribute.

If successful in becoming president, I will consider nominating as a councillor in my new Council area. This would allow me to remain an elected member while having the capacity to give the presidency the time, energy and commitment it deserves. I appreciate this may be a different pathway from what we have traditionally seen, but I do not believe different is something we should be afraid of. Sometimes different is exactly what is needed to create positive change.

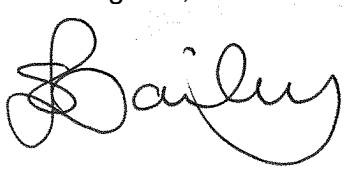
I am not nominating because I believe the LGA is broken. I am nominating because I believe it can be better.

Sometimes organisations benefit from someone prepared to look at things differently, ask the uncomfortable questions and challenge established thinking. That is what I would bring to the Presidency.

Over the coming weeks, I hope to speak with as many of you as possible. I want to hear what is working, what isn't, and most importantly, what you want from your LGA and it's next President. My number is below, please feel free to reach out for a chat.

When the time comes for your council to cast a vote, I would be incredibly grateful if you would consider giving me the opportunity to be that voice. I'm ready to work hard, listen, advocate and do things a little differently. I hope I can earn your support.

Warm regards,



Simone Bailey
Mayor, Mid Murray Council
Candidate for President - Local Government Association of South Australia

Ph 0438 858 439

Office of the Mayor

city of Victor Harbor

31 August 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Subject: Nomination for President of the Local Government Association of South Australia

Prior to making the decision to stand for President, I asked the following question to elected members across the State: Do you think you receive value for money from the LGA? The overwhelming response I have received is No. Because of this response, and after considerable thought and reflection, I have decided to nominate for the position of President of the Local Government Association of South Australia. I want to change this.

I have been in local government for nearly 12 years now, and a Mayor of Victor Harbor for nearly 8 years. I am a member of SAROC, President of the Southern and Hills and Kangaroo Island LGA and a director on the LGA Board. I am on a number of LGA boards and committees and am very familiar with the challenges and the great opportunities that the SA LGA offers. I am not in local government as a political career move, but here because I passionately believe in the sector.

I believe there are two main policy positions that make me stand out from the other candidates. ESCOSA has highlighted the difficult financial situation that many councils are in, and this should matter to all of us. We don't want to be forced into amalgamations or even forced into rate capping, which has happened interstate, and certainly discussed here. I believe there are two ways we can be more efficient as a sector. I believe the LGA should lead the way in dramatically improving the financial situation of al councils by providing greater shared services, central enterprise bargaining. This will save individual councils money, assist the sector broadly and show the State government that we are serious about local government efficiencies and creating value for our members.

1. Shared Services:

There are 68 councils in SA. All of them have similar governances needs such as risk services, HR services, governance officers, IT, Risk management, freedom of information officers and more..., We need to ask what genuinely needs to be replicated in each council 68 times?

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1 Bay Road
Victor Harbor SA 5211

www.victor.sa.gov.au

Much of the machinery sitting behind our councils is remarkably similar. Where it makes sense, councils should be able to share these services with neighboring councils in a regional structure, or the through the LGA providing a centralised service. I believe the LGA can provide a centralised HR service for those councils that want it, a risk management service, legal advice and more. This would especially benefit rural councils and smaller councils who struggle with attracting skilled staff for these services, and metropolitan councils where similar services are duplicated in each council.

Because every time we stop duplicating something, there is an opportunity to put that money somewhere else in our community that adds value.

2. Sector wide enterprise bargaining is another example.

Across SA each CEO independently negotiates enterprise agreements with staff every few years. That is 68 councils, and 68 separate agreements, one for indoor and one outdoor staff (as they are two separate unions.) This means that across the sector there are around 136 separate enterprise agreements negotiated every three years. This is not the smartest or most cost efficient way for our sector to operate. Because of this fragmented approach all 68 councils have different rates of pay and conditions for employees who basically do the same or similar work. This contributes to councils competing against each other for the same employees. At the moment, one council can increase salaries to attract staff, only for employees from a neighbouring council to leave for better pay. This creates a cycle of councils competing against each other for the same workforce. Sector-wide enterprise bargaining would help level the playing field, retain skilled staff, and create greater workforce stability across local government.

If we don't shape sector wide reform ourselves, eventually someone will do it for us.
Our best response to rate capping is not simply to say no to rate capping.
Our best response to forced amalgamation is not simply to say no to amalgamation.
Our best response to ESCOSA is not simply to say we need more money.

Our strongest response is to demonstrate that local government is capable of reforming itself. That we can control costs. That we can collaborate. We can remove unnecessary duplication, and we can share expertise.

We need to show the Government that we can make public money go further while protecting the local representation and the local decision making that our communities value. That gives us credibility to the state government. For me, that is what a strong LGA should look like.

In two years time, when I ask the question, what value does the LGA provide to my council?

The answer should be clear:

- It saves us money.
- It provides expertise and skills we could not afford ourselves.
- It helps solve problems.
- It supports workforce development.
- It creates opportunities for collaboration.
- It makes our council stronger.
- It supports our elected members when times are tough.

Advocacy will always remain an important part of the LGA's role. However, the next chapter must be about more than advocacy. It must be about leadership, ongoing reform and helping the sector to be strong.

I am nominating for president because I believe the LGA can lead that change. Not an LGA that simply defends the status quo, and does what it has done in the past (but louder), but an LGA that helps local government reform itself, addresses the needs of its members, and goes to government from a position of confidence and credibility. This is the LGA that I want us to become and the LGA that I would be proud to lead. With our new CEO, who I have worked well with over the last 8 years, I believe we are up to this challenge. and the time is right.

Regional and Remote Councils

Regional and rural councils face unique challenges, including smaller rate bases, workforce shortages, infrastructure demands, and the increasing impacts of drought, fire and flood.

As President, I will work closely with SAROC, regional mayors, elected members and regional LGAs to ensure rural voices are heard and represented at the highest levels of government.

The reforms outlined above will be particularly valuable for regional council, many who are struggling with sustainability through no fault of their own, by improving access to expertise and skills, services that are shared or centralised therefore reducing costs and strengthening capability.

The skills and experience needed for the role

This election of the LGA President is unique as it provides an opportunity to appoint a leader with the advocacy, communication and negotiation skills needed to strengthen the voice of local government across South Australia. I believe I will bring a unique combination of experience and qualifications to the role. My professional background as a psychologist, my postgraduate qualifications in dispute resolution, and negotiation, have provided me with the skills to build relationships, navigate complex issues, facilitate constructive dialogue and advocate effectively on behalf of diverse stakeholders.

I have already been part of the LGA's development of an early intervention system for behavioral complaints and I look forward to this being rolled out soon. At a time when the LGA must reform what it does, strengthen its influence and negotiate with state and federal governments, my training and background is important if we are to effect change as a sector rise to our challenges, and take advantage of the opportunities we have.

Listening directly to councils

One of my commitments as President is to hold regular online forums with councils at their briefing sessions via Microsoft Teams or Zoom, providing all elected members (not just mayors) with a direct opportunity to raise concerns, share ideas and discuss emerging issues. I believe the LGA is strongest when it listens, engages and advocates based on the experiences of councils across the state. We have started some improvement in this, but I know we can do better. As a member organization, this is an opportunity for us to strengthen our approach and achieve better outcomes for our member .

Continuing the conversation

I am arranging meetings with councils across the state over the coming weeks and would welcome the opportunity to speak with you and your elected members directly. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me on 0412 733 453.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Moira Jenkins
Mayor, City of Victor Harbor
Nominee for President of the LGA

cc: Chief Executive Officer

Mayor Dean Johnson

A Strong Voice. Proven Leadership. Ready to Deliver.

Seeking Your Support for President of the Local Government Association of South Australia

It was one of the greatest honours of my local government career to serve as President of the Local Government Association of South Australia.

After 23 years in local government, including the past 12 years as Mayor of the District Council of Kimba, I remain just as passionate about this sector today as the day I first became involved.

The past two years, serving as Immediate Past President, have reinforced for me just how important strong leadership, trust and advocacy are to the future of local government.

They've also strengthened my resolve.

I'm standing again because I know I can make a difference from day one.

I understand the role. I understand the challenges. I understand the opportunities. This is not a time for learning on the job. It is a time for experienced leadership, clear advocacy and decisive action.

The relationships I've built across local government, State Government and Canberra remain strong and current. Those connections matter because advocacy is built on trust, credibility and respect, and they allow us to begin conversations from a position of influence rather than starting from scratch.

Over the past four years I've had the privilege of representing metropolitan and regional councils alike. While every council is unique, each one deserves a strong voice, fair representation and a President who understands that the success of one part of our sector strengthens us all.

My integrity remains unchanged.

My passion for local government is stronger than ever.

Most importantly, my determination to deliver real outcomes for councils and our communities has never been greater.

I'm not seeking this role because of what I've achieved before.

I'm seeking it because of what I know we can achieve together in the future.

Governance. Accountability. Transparency. Action. Trust.

Those five words should define our sector.

Within local government, many of us strive to live those values every day. Yet outside our sector, our credibility has been challenged. Fairly or unfairly, public confidence has been tested.

I want to help restore it.

That begins with leadership.

I will pursue stronger conflict of interest provisions across the LGA, SAROC and GAROC Boards so they more closely reflect the obligations expected of every elected member in South Australia. The highest representative bodies in our sector should meet the highest governance standards. That should be our benchmark.

Communication must improve

Every elected member deserves to know what is happening across our sector. I will communicate directly with elected members on important issues, emerging challenges and advocacy priorities. You'll know what we're doing, why we're doing it and where we're heading.

You'll never be left wondering.

Our advocacy must become stronger

Local government has an extraordinary story to tell, but we also need to be prepared to challenge respectfully, negotiate firmly and demand better outcomes when our communities deserve them.

I've done it before.

Together we secured the Office of Regional Housing.

We delivered the statewide jetties campaign which led to the State Government's Jetties Renewal Program.

We successfully changed the conversation around council rates through evidence-based advocacy.

Those weren't accidents. They were the result of persistence, relationships, credibility and a willingness to lead.

We must continue partnering with State and Federal Government, but partnership should never mean silence. Where necessary, we must advocate harder, challenge decisions and ensure local government has a respected voice at every table where decisions affecting our communities are made.

Financial sustainability remains our sector's number one priority

I'll continue championing evidence-based advocacy supported by quality research and credible data. Governments respond to facts, and we must continue building the strongest possible case for our sector.

I'll also continue working with the Local Government Finance Authority to improve outcomes for councils most in need while avoiding unnecessary costs for those already performing well. Good policy can achieve both.

Leadership also requires courage

As an LGA Board member, I strongly supported pursuing legal action regarding the Remuneration Tribunal's CEO remuneration determination. It wasn't the easy option, but it was

the right one. The successful court outcome demonstrated that when our sector stands together and acts decisively, we can achieve meaningful results.

I'll continue making the difficult decisions when they're in the best interests of local government.

I've heard suggestions that the LGA Secretariat lacks local government experience.

I simply don't accept that.

We have capable people throughout our organisation. With our new CEO, Victoria, we have an opportunity to strengthen relationships, sharpen our focus and deliver even better outcomes. My role will be to support, challenge and work alongside our team to achieve exactly that.

Relationships matter

The trust we've built with Ministers, agencies and colleagues is valuable, and I'll use every one of those relationships to benefit South Australian councils.

At the national level, I'm already established around the ALGA Board table and have strong working relationships with Ministers Kristy McBain and Catherine King. Those doors are open, and I intend to use them to advocate strongly for South Australia.

Last month I spent several days at Parliament House in Canberra meeting with both sides of politics, advocating not just for my region but all South Australian councils, including local government financial sustainability, proposed changes to Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and improving healthcare, childcare and mobile connectivity in our regions.

Council visits are back

One commitment I'm particularly passionate about is reconnecting with councils.

During my previous term I visited 52 councils. This time I'm aiming for all 68.

How can I represent you if I don't hear from you? How can I advocate for your community if I haven't seen your challenges firsthand?

I want to hear your concerns, see your successes, and understand your priorities.

And when I leave, I want you to know you've been heard.

I'll be available

Every elected member will have my direct contact details. Phone or email — I will be accessible.

I won't have every answer, and I won't be able to solve every problem, but I will always listen, respond and do everything I can to help.

I'm deeply passionate about local government.

I believe our sector deserves better than the unfair criticism it too often receives.

When local government is treated unfairly, I'll call it out.

When our achievements deserve recognition, I'll promote them.

When our communities need someone in their corner, I'll fight for them.

I will be visible.

I will be accessible.

I will be courageous.

And every single day, I will fight for local government with everything I have.

I want our credibility back.

I want our influence restored.

I want every council — regional and metropolitan — to know they have a President who will listen, who will lead, and who will deliver.

I am ready from day one.

I'd be honoured to have your support.

Together, let's get to work, we have much to do!

VOTE 1, Mayor Dean Johnson

0427 619 815

Dean.Johnson@kimba.sa.gov.au

July 2026

Port Pirie Regional Council

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Leon Stephens for LGA President:
Experienced Leadership, Strong Advocacy, United Representation

Dear Colleagues,

I am seeking your support for the position of President of the Local Government Association of South Australia.

With 16 years of local government experience, including eight years as Mayor of the Port Pirie Regional Council and service on the LGA Board, I offer proven leadership, strong advocacy and a deep understanding of the issues facing councils across metropolitan and regional South Australia. My commitment is to ensure every council has a strong voice, strengthen engagement between the LGA and its members, and deliver practical outcomes that benefit our communities.

Experience and Leadership

- Mayor, Port Pirie Regional Council (8 years)
- Deputy Mayor and Elected Member (16 years total service)
- Chair, SAROC
- Active involvement with the Northern and Yorke Regional Local Government Association
- Chairperson, Spencer Gulf Cities (8 years)
- Founder of an intergovernmental panel bringing together Spencer Gulf Cities, State Government Ministers, and key agencies through quarterly meetings
- Two-term member of the LGA Board
- Committee involvement with CWMS, LGTAP and SABFAC

My Vision

I firmly believe the LGA has the foundation of a strong, member-driven organisation. My vision is to build on that foundation by strengthening communication, improving engagement with member councils, and ensuring that council priorities are effectively represented and advocated.

With the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer, there is a unique opportunity to refine and strengthen the organisation's focus on serving its members. My intention is not change for the sake of change, but practical improvements that deliver better outcomes for councils and communities across South Australia.

A Stronger Connection with Members

One of my key priorities is to build a better-communicated Board, creating structured opportunities for councils to raise emerging issues through GAROC and SAROC, ensuring the Board remains fully informed and responsive to member concerns.

I am committed to fostering stronger connections between the LGA Board and member councils, ensuring local government voices are heard, respected and represented. I welcome the opportunity to meet directly with your council to discuss my vision, hear your priorities and answer your questions.

Stronger Intergovernmental Partnerships and Advocacy

Recognising and supporting the different but complementary roles that Councils and State and Federal Governments play in servicing and supporting the economic, social and environmental development of our individual communities is a fundamental role of the LGA, I am keen to work with member Councils to ensure that we have a proactive and high profile intergovernmental agenda that strengthens our representation and advocacy role of our communities. In addition, advocacy to the Parliament when legislation is introduced impacting on Councils and communities is an important role and must be informed through consultation with Councils regarding impacts on them and their communities and formulating amendments that will create effective outcomes.

Local Government's image and contribution to servicing local communities and advocating for them is critical and raising its profile as a sphere of government is one of my key priorities.

As voting approaches, I respectfully ask for your council's endorsement and support for my candidacy as President of the Local Government Association of South Australia. With your backing, I will work tirelessly to strengthen our collective voice, advocate effectively on behalf of all councils and ensure the LGA remains responsive, united and member focused.

Yours sincerely,



Leon Stephens
Mayor, Port Pirie Regional Council
Email: mayor@pirie.sa.gov.au
Phone: 0417 080 961

Attachment 2

BALLOT PAPER – LGA President (2026-2028)

Pursuant to clause 29.5.4 of the LGA Constitution, *the chief executive officer of the Member or in the chief executive officer's absence, the person acting in that position, shall sign a copy of the minutes or an extract of the minutes of the meeting at which the resolution is passed (in a manner consistent with section 91(11) of the Local Government Act 1999) and send a copy of the signed minutes, which shall be deemed to be the ballot of the Member, to the [LGA] Chief Executive.*

Pursuant to clause 29.5.3 of the LGA Constitution, *each Member shall determine by resolution the candidate it wishes elected by passing a resolution which places the number 1 next to the name of the candidate for whom it votes as its first preference, and consecutive numbers next to the names of all of the remaining candidates, so as to indicate the order of preference for all candidates.*

All four candidates must be assigned a number in the resolution for the ballot to be valid.

Name of Council Submitting Ballot	Whyalla City Council
Extract of minutes	*(insert meeting date and resolution number)* *(insert extract of minutes with council resolution)*
CEO signature	
CEO name	Justin Commons
Date signed	
Preference	**Candidate Names**
#1	
#2	
#3	
#4	

14.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

14.1.3 Council External Bodies Representation – For Decision

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Justin Commons – Chief Executive Officer **File No.:** 1-0
Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Attachments – Nil

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

Council demonstrates its commitment to local, regional and state leadership through Council Member representation on external bodies.

Following South Australian Parliament passing legislation to move South Australia's next round of council elections from November 2026 to April 2027, this report seeks Council endorsement for existing Council representation on external bodies.

SUMMARY

Council representation on external bodies was due for review in November 2026. However, with the passing of legislation to postpone the November 2026 Council elections until April 2027, Council is now required to determine Council Member representation on external bodies for the intervening five-month period.

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

1. **retains the current Council Member representation on external bodies until April 2027, as follows:**

    - **GFG Environmental Consultative Group –**
      Mayor Phill Stone and Cr Peter Borda
    - **Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council –**
      Deputy Mayor Tamy Pond
    - **Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group –**
      Deputy Mayor Tamy Pond
    - **Spencer Gulf Cities –**
      Mayor Phill Stone *(role of Deputy Mayor as Proxy)*
    - **Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association –**
      Mayor Phill Stone *(role of Deputy Mayor as Proxy)*
    - **Local Government Association –**
      Mayor Phill Stone *(role of Deputy Mayor as Proxy)*; and

2. **nominates *** as Council's representative on the Mount Laura Museum Advisory Group, until April 2027.**

DUE DATE

Council External Bodies Representation – <u>For Decision</u>	21/09/2026

14.1.3 Council External Bodies Representation – For Decision

REPORT

BACKGROUND

External bodies have various leadership functions at the local, regional and state levels and are governed by their Charter, Terms of Reference, Act or Legislative requirement.

The Council process for appointing a Council Member(s) for external representation, considers the function of the external body, the commitment required by the Council Member and the public value of the external nomination process.

The role of the Council Member is to attend and be a conduit for information exchange, and to ensure community opportunities are championed.

DISCUSSION

Council representation on external bodies was due for review in November 2026. However, with the passing of legislation to postpone the November 2026 Council elections until April 2027, Council is now required to determine Council Member representation on external bodies for the intervening five-month period.

At the Briefing Session held on 7 September 2026, Members reviewed the current Council Member external bodies representation and, in consultation with Administration, indicated a preference to retain Council's existing representation, as follows:

External (local)

- GFG Environmental Consultative Group – **Mayor Phill Stone and Cr Peter Borda**
- Whyalla Hospital and Health Services Health Advisory Council – **Deputy Mayor Tamy Pond**
- Giant Australian Cuttlefish Working Group – **Deputy Mayor Tamy Pond**
- Mount Laura Museum Advisory Group – **to be determined at this meeting**

Regional

- Spencer Gulf Cities – **Mayor Phill Stone** *(role of Deputy Mayor as Proxy)*
- Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association – **Mayor Phill Stone** *(role of Deputy Mayor as Proxy)*

State

- Local Government Association – **Mayor Phill Stone** *(role of Deputy Mayor as Proxy)*

At the Briefing Session, Administration identified the need for a representative on the Mount Laura Museum Advisory Group (following the recent passing of Cr Sharon Todd). Council is now required to consider and appoint a replacement representative (via Council resolution).

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
Promote positive stories, positive image

Legislation

Local Government Association – Constitution

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Not applicable

Social Considerations – Not applicable

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

Following South Australian Parliament passing legislation to move South Australia's next round of council elections from November 2026 to April 2027, this report seeks Council endorsement to retain Council's existing representation on external bodies and nominate a Council representative for the Mount Laura Museum Advisory Group.

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – August 2026 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Grant Jennings, Manager Finance and Knowledge Management **File No.:** 0-216
Directorate: Corporate Services

Attachments:
1 – Monthly Budget Report – August 2026

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 August 2026 and includes year-to-date income and expenditure figures for the 2026/27 financial year as at that date.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the Monthly Budget Report – August 2026.

DUE DATE

Monthly Budget Report – August 2026 – For Noting	21/09/2026

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – August 2026 – For Noting

REPORT

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 Attachment 1 – Monthly Budget Report – August 2026

The report provides Council's financial position at the end of August 2026 and includes year to date income and expenditure figures for the 2026/27 financial year, as at that date. Analysis of detailed transaction data has been undertaken and any identified budget variances not already reported through a Budget Review are listed for information.

At this stage, the only variances to the budget that have been identified relate to the retiming of funds unspent by 30 June 2026. $3.1 million of capital expenditure will be re-timed to 2026/27, with the majority of this relating to projects already in progress at the end of June, or that commenced in July . In addition to this, $119,000 relating to a small number of operating projects still in progress at 30 June 2026 will need to be re-budgeted.

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.

Attachment 1

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - August 2026

UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCES	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000	% Budget
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Income				**14%**
Rates	29,454	29,454	4,990	17%
Statutory Charges	476	476	89	19%
User Charges	6,434	6,434	737	11%
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	732	732	-	0%
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	7,661	7,661	612	8%
Investment Income	12	12	1	8%
Reimbursements	10	10	-	0%
Other Income	1,280	1,280	24	2%
Expenses				**15%**
Employee Costs	(16,851)	(16,851)	(2,416)	14%
Materials, contracts & other expenses	(19,758)	(19,758)	(2,962)	15%
Depreciation, amortisation & impairments	(10,323)	(10,323)	(1,716)	17%
Finance Costs	(441)	(441)	(35)	8%
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	**(1,314)**	**(1,314)**	**(676)**	
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES				
Net Outlays on Existing Assets				
Capital Expense on Renewal and Replacement of Existing Assets	(8,972)	(8,972)	(1,127)	13%
add back Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	10,323	10,323	1,716	17%
add back Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	184	184	50	27%
Net Outlays on Existing Assets	**1,535**	**1,535**	**639**	
Net Outlay on New and Upgraded Assets				
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	(13,642)	(13,642)	(285)	2%
add back Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Asse	7,152	7,152	15	0%
add back Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets	-	-	-	
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets	**(6,490)**	**(6,490)**	**(270)**	
Net Lending/ (Borrowing) for Financial Year	**(6,269)**	**(6,269)**	**(307)**	
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
New Borrowings	1,600	1,600	-	
Repayment of Principal	-	-	-	
(Increase)/Decrease in Cash and Investments	94	94	(1,110)	
Net Balance Sheet Funding (Debtors & Creditors etc)	4,575	4,575	1,417	
Total Financing Transactions	**6,269**	**6,269**	**307**	

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - August 2026

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
INCOME			
Rates	29,454	29,454	4,990
Statutory Charges	476	476	89
User Charges	6,434	6,434	737
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Capital	732	732	-
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Operating	7,661	7,661	612
Investment Income	12	12	1
Reimbursements	10	10	-
Other Income	1,280	1,280	24
TOTAL INCOME	**46,059**	**46,059**	**6,453**
EXPENSES			
Employee Costs	16,851	16,851	2,416
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	19,758	19,758	2,962
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairments	10,323	10,323	1,716
Finance Costs	441	441	35
TOTAL EXPENSES	**47,373**	**47,373**	**7,129**
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**(1,314)**	**(1,314)**	**(676)**
Amounts Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets	7,152	7,152	15
Net Gain (Loss)	-	-	67
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**5,838**	**5,838**	**(594)**
Other Comprehensive Income	16,459	16,459	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	**22,297**	**22,297**	**(594)**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - August 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	199	199	1,500
Trade & Other Receivables	7,140	7,140	2,329
Inventories	2,548	2,548	2,561
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**9,887**	**9,887**	**6,390**
Non-current Assets			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	453,460	453,460	431,591
Other Non-Current Assets	2,164	2,164	1,284
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**455,624**	**455,624**	**432,875**
Total Assets	**465,511**	**465,511**	**439,265**
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	4,495	4,495	2,563
Short Term Borrowings	-	-	-
Short Term Provisions	2,503	2,503	2,842
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**6,998**	**6,998**	**5,405**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Term Borrowings	10,100	10,100	2,500
Long Term Provisions	1,194	1,194	1,114
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**11,294**	**11,294**	**3,614**
Total Liabilities	**18,292**	**18,292**	**9,019**
NET ASSETS	**447,219**	**447,219**	**430,246**
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	77,071	77,071	73,339
Asset Revaluation Reserve	366,594	366,594	356,675
Reserves	3,554	3,554	232
TOTAL EQUITY	**447,219**	**447,219**	**430,246**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
Accumulated Surplus			
Balance at Beginning of Period	71,233	71,233	73,933
Change in Financial Position Resulting from Operations	5,838	5,838	(594)
Transfers from Other Reserves	-	-	-
Transfers to Other Reserves	-	-	-
Balance at End of Period	**77,071**	**77,071**	**73,339**
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance at Beginning of Period	350,135	350,135	356,675
Revaluation Increment	16,459	16,459	-
Balance at End of Period	**366,594**	**366,594**	**356,675**
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	**447,219**	**447,219**	**430,246**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - August 2026

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Rates	29,454	29,454	4,990
Statutory Charges	476	476	89
User Charges	6,434	6,434	4,442
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Operating	7,661	7,661	612
Investment Income	12	12	1
Reimbursements	10	10	-
Other Income	1,280	1,280	24
Payments			
Employee Costs	(16,851)	(16,851)	(2,416)
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	(19,683)	(19,683)	(5,250)
Finance Costs	(441)	(441)	(35)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	**8,352**	**8,352**	**2,457**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	7,152	7,152	15
Grants Utilised for Capital Purposes	732	732	-
Sale of Replaced Assets	184	184	50
Sale of surplus assets	-	-	-
Payments			
Purchase of Renewal/Replacement Assets	(6,722)	(6,722)	(1,127)
Purchase of New/Expansion Assets	(11,392)	(11,392)	(285)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities	**(10,046)**	**(10,046)**	**(1,347)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Proceeds from Borrowings - Council	1,600	1,600	-
Payments			
Repayment of Borrowings	-	-	-
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities	**1,600**	**1,600**	**-**
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	**(94)**	**(94)**	**1,110**
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	293	293	390
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	**199**	**199**	**1,500**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - August 2026

Loans - August 2026

Fixed Loans

Loan	Term	Loan Value	Interest Rate	Expiry
139	1 year	$500,000	5.63%	16/07/2027
139	2 years	$1,000,000	5.58%	17/07/2028
139	3 years	$1,000,000	5.52%	16/07/2029
		$2,500,000		

Variable Loans

Loan	Total Facility Value	Drawn Down Value	Interest Rate	Expiry
139	$11,500,000	$0	5.85%	15/07/2030
140	$5,000,000	$0	5.85%	15/12/2031
	$16,500,000	**$0**		

Loan Summary

Fixed Loan Balance	$2,500,000	100%
Variable Loan Balance	$0	0%
Total Loan Balance	**$2,500,000**	
Loan Funds Available	$16,500,000	
Weighted Interest Rate	5.57%	

Accounts Payable - August 2026

Total Value of Payments made this month	$2,891,121
Total Value of Oustanding Accounts Payable	$1,051,885

Rates - August 2026

Value of Rates Payments received this month		$5,066,376	
Overdue Rates Value		$1,883,861	$1,911,950

Age of debt	Properties	Value	Comparative
Current Year	743	$21,243	$17,549
Last Year	743	$812,071	$941,150
Two Years ago	197	$390,291	$373,749
Three Years ago	121	$229,900	$199,322
Four or more Years ago	83	$430,357	$380,179

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - August 2026

Accounts Receivable - August 2026

Value of Invoices issued this month	$359,182
Value of Payments received this month	$325,636
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Receivable	**$33,547**
Total Value of Oustanding Accounts Receivable	$398,602
Value of Doubtful Debt Provision	-$15,893
Expected value of Accounts Receivable to be received	**$382,709**

Consultants - August 2026

Total value of consultants used this month	$29,618
Total value of consultants used year to date	$41,073

High Value Operating Contracts - August 2026

Kerbside Waste Collection

Total estimated annual value of contract	$	3,144,600
Total expected spend year to date	$	262,000
Actual spend year to date	$	263,716
Variance	-$	1,716

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	$	1,010,000
Total expected spend year to date	$	105,000
Actual spend year to date	$	88,123
Variance	$	16,877

Comments

The estimated value of the contract is based on the new contract which commenced in August 2026.

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT – August 2026

Operating Income

Operating income is currently on track.

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

Operating Expenditure

Operating expenditure is currently on track.

$119,000 of budgeted relating to operating projects not completed by 30 June 2026 will be retimed to 2026/27 as part of the First Quarter Budget Review.

Capital Activities

$3.1 million of capital expenditure will need to be retimed from 2025/26 to 2026/27, based on funds unspent as at 30 June 2026. The vast majority of this relates to projects already in progress at the end of June, or that commenced in July. This is offset by the carry forward of $1.3 million of Capital Grants. Details will be included in the First Quarter Budget Review.

Loans

Council's target is for fixed loans to make up between 30% and 70% of total loan balances. Currently they are outside of this range at 100%. Due to the Federal Government's current practice of paying large amounts of the Financial Assistance Grants in advance each June, cashflow at this time of year is significantly impacted. For this reason, Council has taken a conservative approach to the value of loans to be fixed, so that large amounts of cash are not held at any point, but over the next quarter there may be times where additional cash is held.

Council's weighted interest rate is currently 5.57%, with this figure expected to remain fairly stable over this year.

Council's current available loan capacity is $16.5 million.

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT – August 2026

Rates

Overdue rates balances are currently slightly below where they sat at the same time 12 months ago, being 1% lower. This suggests that financial stress on ratepayers is similar to the same time last year.

Short term arrears are actually 13% lower than where they were at the same time last year, but the arrears for properties that are over 1 year behind are up 10%, which will continue to be monitored.

Approximately 50% of properties with arrears are one quarterly payments or less behind, with 31% owing less than $100.

Consultants

The spend on consultants for the year to date is not significant. The major spends have related to project management and development advice.

Monthly Project Update - August 2026

2026-27 Capital Program - Monthly Reporting

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Transport Renewal Program**	$ 3,833,300	$ 251,069	$ 587,426	Delivery	7%	5%	June 2027
Description:	Delivery of the sealed road, unsealed road, kerbing and footpath capital programs.		Progress:	Planning for current year programs is underway. The program will include resealing of the Whyalla Marina carpark.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Foreshore Splash & Play Plaza**	$ 7,605,800	$ 7,525	$ 6,895,455	Delivery	0%	10%	June 2027
Description:	Delivery of the first stage of the Foreshore Masterplan consisting of a plaza precinct including water play. This project has $3.1 million of external grant funding.		Progress:	A "breaking ground" event was held in early August. Site works will commence in September.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**New Foreshore Building**	$ 5,473,900	$ 47,616	$ 47,616	Tender	1%	5%	2027-28
Description:	Construction of a new multi-use facility at the Foreshore to replace the current Surf Life Saving building. This project has $5 million in external funding and will be delivered over a number of financial years.		Progress:	The tender process has closed, and the evaluation process is underway, with plans to have the successful party commence works before the end of 2026.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Recreation Centre Improvements**	$ 1,182,000	$ -	$ 476,950	Delivery	0%	10%	June 2027
Description:	Roof repairs to deal with water ingress. Retiling and painting of the toilets to bring them up to the standard of the rest of the centre. Upgrade of the fire panel which is at end of life. Improvements to the entry and kiosk areas.		Progress:	The contract for the roof works has now been let, with works to commence soon. The other projects will progress after the roof is completed.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Foreshore Café Pod Relocation**	$ 300,000	$ 5,300	$ 27,991	Delivery	2%	10%	October 2026
Description:	Relocation of the Foreshore Café Pod to the Eastern end of the precinct to allow for the demolition and reconstruction of the Surf Life Saving building.		Progress:	The relocation process will commence in the first week of September and take up to a month to complete.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

2026-27 Significant Operating Projects - Monthly Reporting

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**System Modernisation**	$ 240,000	$ -	$ -	Planning	0%	5%	2028-29
Description:	A multi-year project that will see the replacement of Council's core Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, due to the current ERP being a legacy sytem that will reach end of life in 2030.		Progress:	A report was presented to the August Audit & Risk Committee meeting to plan out next steps for this important project. A report will be presented to Council in due course.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.2 Caretaker Policy – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 20 September 2026
Author's Title: Sue King – General Manager Corporate Services **File No.:** 2-20
Directorate: Corporate Services

Attachments:
1 – Revised Caretaker policy (with 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 – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To provide a copy of the reviewed and updated Caretaker Policy in readiness for the 2027 Local Government General Elections.

SUMMARY

At its meeting on 20 April 2026, Council adopted a Caretaker Policy for the 2026 General Local Government Elections.

In June 2026, the State Government passed legislation postponing Local Government Elections from November 2026 to April 2027, following advice from the Electoral Commission regarding its capacity to effectively administer the election.

As the Caretaker Policy specified dates aligned to the 2026 election, the policy has been updated to reflect new timelines associated with the postponement.

Section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* (**the Elections Act**), requires councils to prepare and adopt a Caretaker Policy to govern the conduct of the council and its staff during the election period for a general election.

Section 91A(2) of the *Elections Act* stipulates that the Caretaker Policy must, at a minimum:

a) prohibit the making of a designated decision; and

b) prohibit the use of council resources for the advantage of a particular candidate or group of candidates, during an election period.

A revised Caretaker policy has been developed (Attachment 1), for Council's review ahead of adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

Council, subject to any feedback, note and adopt the revised Caretaker Policy.

DUE DATE

Subject to feedback and formal adoption of the Caretaker Policy	21/09/2026

14.2.2 Caretaker Policy – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Section 91A of the Elections Act requires councils to prepare and adopt a Caretaker Policy to govern the conduct of the council and its staff during the election period for a general election. Council adopted the Caretaker Policy on 20 April 2026, before the State Government announced the postponement of the November 2026 election to April 2027.

Councils Caretaker Policy was prepared to meet the minimum legislative obligations under Section 91A of the *Elections Act* and to address issues commonly raised during the election period.

The revised Caretaker requirements contained within the Caretaker Policy (Attachment 1**)**, will apply for the 2027 Local Government election period, which commences on 4 January 2026 and ends at the conclusion of the election, when the results have been declared.

DISCUSSION

The revised Caretaker Policy updates the election-period dates, following the postponement of the Local Government General Elections from November 2026 to April 2027. The review confirms that the policy continues to meet the requirements of section 91A of the *Elections Act 1999* and remains consistent with the LGA SA model policy and caretaker guidelines. Adoption will provide Council Members, candidates and employees with clear governance arrangements for decision-making and the use of council resources during the election period.

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

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Not applicable

Social Considerations – Nil

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

The revised Caretaker Policy reflects the rescheduled Local Government General Elections and satisfies Council's obligations under section 91A of the *Elections Act*. Adopting the policy will ensure clear, consistent requirements governing Council decisions, employee conduct and the use of Council resources during the election period.

Attachment 1

Whyalla City Council

Caretaker Policy	
Type	Governance
GDS Category	Governance – Public
Responsible Officer	General Manager Corporate
Policy Adopted	~~April~~ September 2026
Review Period	Pursuant to 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* the Council must, within 6 months of the commencement of this section, prepare and adopt a caretaker policy governing the conduct of the Council and its staff during the election period for a general election.
Last Reviewed	~~March 2022~~August 2026
Policy Version Number	8~~7~~
Applicable Legislation	• *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* s91A
Related Documents	• Local Government Association of South Australia Caretaker Guidelines

1. Policy statement

This policy implements the statutory caretaker period requirements under section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*.

This policy also deals with Council's approach to holding a public meeting involving candidates for a general election under Section 91B of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999.*

2. Definitions

In this Policy:

Chief Executive Officer means the appointed Chief Executive Officer or Acting Chief Executive Officer or nominee.

Council staff means any person that is employed full-time, part-time or casually by the Council who receives remuneration for their work.

Council Member means an elected member of the **Whyalla City Council**.

Election period means the period:

(a) commencing on 265 ~~August~~January 2027, being a day chosen by the Council for the purposes of the Policy, being a date earlier than the close of nominations for the general election; and

(b) expiring at the conclusion of the general election.

Designated decision means a decision:

(a) relating to the employment or remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer, other than a decision to appoint an acting Chief Executive Officer or to suspend the Chief Executive Officer for serious and wilful misconduct;

(b) to terminate the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer;

(c) to enter into a contract, arrangement or understanding (other than a contract for road construction, road maintenance or drainage works) the total value of which exceeds whichever is the greater of $100,000 or 1% of the Council's revenue from rates in the preceding financial year, except if the decision:

i. relates to the carrying out of works in response to an emergency or disaster within the meaning of the *Emergency Management Act 2004* (SA), or under section 298 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA);

ii. is an expenditure or other decision required to be taken under an agreement by which funding is provided to the Council by the Commonwealth or State Government or otherwise for the Council to be eligible for funding from the Commonwealth or State Government;

iii. relates to the employment of a particular Council employee (other than the Chief Executive Officer);

iv. is made in the conduct of negotiations relating to the employment of Council employees generally, or a class of Council employees, if provision has been made for funds relating to such negotiations in the budget of the Council for the

relevant financial year and the negotiations commenced prior to the election period; or

v. relates to a Community Wastewater Management Systems scheme that has, prior to the election period, been approved by the Council;

General election means a general election of council members held:

(a) under section 5 of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*; or

(b) pursuant to a proclamation or notice under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Minister means the Minister for Local Government or other minister of the South Australian government vested with responsibility for the Local Government (Elections) Act.

Public meeting of candidates means a meeting of the kind set out in section 91B(1) of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 (***Elections Act***).*

3. Application of this policy

3.1. This policy applies throughout the election period for a general election. For the purposes of the Local Government Elections of ~~November~~ April 2027~~6~~, the policy commences on 2~~6~~5 ~~August 2026~~January 2027 and ends at the conclusion of the election, when results have been declared.

3.2. This policy applies to:

- the council; and
- council staff

4. Prohibition on designated decisions

4.1. The Council is prohibited from making a designated decision during an election period.

4.2. A decision of the Council includes a decision of:

- a committee of Council; and
- a delegate of Council.

5. Treatment of other significant decisions

5.1. So far as is reasonably practicable, the Chief Executive Officer should avoid scheduling significant decisions (including major policy decisions) for consideration during an 'election period' and ensure that such decisions:

- are considered by Council prior to the 'election period'; or
- are scheduled for determination by the incoming Council.

5.2. A 'significant decision' is any major policy or other decision which will significantly affect the Council area or community or will bind the incoming Council.

5.3. A 'major policy' decision includes any decision (not being a designated decision):

- to spend unbudgeted monies;
- to conduct unplanned public consultation;

- to endorse a new policy;
- to dispose of Council land:
- to approve community grants;
- to progress any matter which has been identified as an election issue; and
- any other issue that is considered a major policy decision by the Chief Executive Officer.

5.4. The determination as to whether or not any decision is significant will be made by the Chief Executive Officer, after consultation with the Mayor or Chairperson (as relevant). The Chief Executive Officer must keep a record of all such determinations made by Chief Executive Officers (including by previous Chief Executive Officers) and make this list available to candidates upon request.

5.5. Where the Chief Executive Officer has determined that a decision is significant, but circumstances arise that require the decision to be made during the election period, the Chief Executive Officer will report this to the Council.

5.6. The aim of the Chief Executive Officer's report is to assist Council Members assess whether the decision should be deferred for consideration by the incoming Council.

5.7. The Chief Executive Officer's report to Council will address the following issues (where relevant):

- why the matter is considered 'significant';
- why the matter is considered urgent;
- what are the financial and other consequences of postponing the matter until after the election, both on the current Council and the incoming Council;
- whether deciding the matter will significantly limit options for the incoming Council;
- whether the matter requires the expenditure of unbudgeted funds;
- whether the matter is the completion of an activity already commenced and previously endorsed by Council;
- whether the matter requires community engagement;
- any relevant statutory obligations or timeframes; and
- whether dealing with the matter in the election period is in the best interests of the Council area and community.

5.8. Council will consider the Chief Executive Officer's report and determine whether or not to make the decision.

6. Prohibition on the use of council resources

6.1. Council resources must not be used for the advantage of a particular candidate or group of candidates.

6.2. For clarity, neither ~~the Elections~~the *Elections Act* nor this Caretaker Policy prohibits a council providing resources to all members of the public, which incidentally includes all candidates for election.

6.3. The following council resources must not be used for the advantage of a particular candidate or group of candidates and may only be used by council members, where necessary, in the performance of their ordinary duties as a council member:

- Mobile phones.
- Council vehicles.
- Council-provided landline phones, computers and other office equipment beyond that provided to members of the public (eg in a public library).
- Council-provided business cards.
- Requests to council employees to perform tasks which would confer an advantage on a candidate or group of candidates.
- The ability to issue invitations to council events.
- Council travel arrangements (eg access to council-negotiated rates for flights, accommodation or hire cars).
- Access to areas that members of the public cannot access, including areas within the property of third parties (eg exclusive access to marquees or other areas at a suburban football oval).
- Council produced promotional brochures and documents.

7. Consequence of contravening this policy

7.1. A designated decision made by Council during an election period is invalid, except where an exemption has been granted by the Minister.[1]

7.2. Any person who suffers loss or damage as a result of acting in good faith on a designated decision made by the Council in contravention of this policy is entitled to compensation from the Council for that loss or damage.[2]

8. Application for exemption

8.1. If the Council considers that it is faced with extraordinary circumstances which require the making of a designated decision during an election period, the Council may apply in writing to the Minister for an exemption to enable the making of a designated decision that would otherwise be invalid under section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* and this policy.[3]

8.2. If the Minister grants an exemption to enable the making of a designated decision that would otherwise be invalid under section 91A of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* and this policy, then the Council and Council staff will comply with any conditions or limitations that the Minister imposes on the exemption.[4]

[1] Section 91A(5) *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*
[2] Section 91A(6) *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*
[3] Section 91A(3) *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*
[4] Section 91A(4) *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*

9 Public meeting of candidates

9.1 The default position under the Elections Act is that a public meeting of candidates is to be held for each general election. If a council proposes to hold a public meeting of candidates, it is not required to include anything within its caretaker policy to this effect.

9.2 The public meeting of candidates must occur after the close of nominations, being 9~~8~~ ~~September~~ February 2027~~6~~, and before polling day for the general election. A council must hold 1 public meeting of candidates, at a minimum, but may hold additional meetings as it sees fit. All candidates in the general election must be given the opportunity to attend any public meetings of candidates held, although there is no requirement that they actually attend.

9.3 A public meeting of candidates must be presided over by the council's Chief Executive Officer, or a person appointed by the Chief Executive Officer. The person appointed by the Chief Executive Officer must not be a candidate in the general election. The person presiding is responsible for ensuring the orderly and efficient conduct of the meeting and has powers in section 18A of the *Summary Offences Act 1953* to deal with disorderly conduct at such a meeting.

9.4 The Elections Act does not prescribe any minimum requirements relating to a public meeting of candidates. Councils holding a public meeting of candidates should therefore determine the format, agenda, timing (within the required period) and location of the meeting, and ensure that opportunity is provided for the meeting to address issues in the community relevant to the election and for the public to be informed of the policies and views of candidates. Issues of equity, fairness and convenience should be taken into account when decisions of this nature are made.

9.5 A public meeting of candidates may be held remotely using audio visual technology or any other means of communication determined appropriate by the council. Candidates and members of the public are not required to be physically present at the meeting.

10. Further Information

This policy is available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's website: www.whyalla.sa.gov.au. A printed copy may be purchased on request from the Council office.

~~Certified by: [insert signature]~~

~~Principal Member~~

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.3 Entertainment and Hospitality Policy Review – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Grant Jennings
Manager Finance and Knowledge Management
File No.: 0-159
Directorate: Corporate Services

Attachments:
1 – Entertainment and Hospitality Policy (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

To review the Entertainment and Hospitality Policy.

SUMMARY

The Entertainment and Hospitality Policy is operating as expected, with only very minor changes recommended.

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopts the updated Entertainment and Hospitality Policy.

DUE DATE

Entertainment and Hospitality Policy Review – For Endorsement	21/09/2026

14.2.3 Entertainment and Hospitality Policy Review – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Entertainment and Hospitality Policy was last reviewed in July 2023 and is due for review based on its 3-year review cycle.

The updated policy was presented to the Audit & Risk Committee at their meeting held 28 August 2026 and was recommended to Council for adoption.

DISCUSSION

Refer Attachment 1 – Draft Entertainment and Hospitality Policy (with tracked changes)

The Entertainment and Hospitality Policy was first adopted in August 2021 and was based on an updated policy adopted by Burnside after they had been the subject of an investigation by the Ombudsman, which dealt with the recommendations of said review.

The policy is operating as expected. Only minor changes to the policy are suggested, to better reflect the current processes used, update minor wording errors, or in one instance to provide relevant indexation to a financial threshold.

Financial Implications

The policy makes it clear that all expenditure needs to be reasonable. The expenditure incurred under this policy is fairly immaterial compared to the size of Council's budget and is all within existing budget allocations.

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

Local Government Act 1999

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

The Ombudsman has previously made it very clear that expenditure in the area of entertainment and hospitality need to be reasonable, defendable and covered by a policy position. This policy is considered to be based on best practice.

Social Considerations– Nil

Community Engagement – Nil

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

The Entertainment and Hospitality Policy is operating as expected, with only very minor changes recommended.

Attachment 1

Entertainment and Hospitality Policy	
Type	Financial
GDS Category	Financial Management – Public
Responsible Directorate	Corporate
Policy Adopted	~~August~~ September 202~~3~~
Review Period	Three Years
Last Reviewed	August 202~~3~~1
Next Review Date	~~August~~ September 202~~6~~
Policy Version Number	~~3~~2
Applicable Legislation	• Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC) Act 2012 • Local Government Act 1999 • Financial Sustainability Papers
Related Documents	• Procurement & Contract Management Policy • Financial Internal Control Policy • Corporate Credit Card Policy • Corporate Credit Card Procedure
Public Consultation Required	No

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Entertainment and Hospitality Policy – Version 32 – ~~August~~ September 2026~~3~~
3

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the circumstances where hospitality related expenses may be incurred by Council.

2. Policy Objective

Council recognises there are occasions when it is appropriate and legitimate to provide hospitality related expenses at the Council's/ratepayer's expense.

This Policy clarifies the circumstances when Council believes that it is appropriate, reasonable, and justifiable to use Council funds for hospitality related expenses.

3. Scope

This policy encompasses Executive Management, employees and other persons who have authority to commit Council to expenditure. The Policy relates to all circumstances ~~is~~ in which staff provide hospitality and/or entertainment for meetings, events or travel.

4. Definitions

Civic Event – an event involving the Mayor and/or Elected Members which is coordinated and funded by Council such as Citizenship ceremony, Mayoral events.

Community Event – a structured community event which is authorised as part of an approved project or program, for example tourism.

Corporate Event – an event organised for employees which is authorised by the Administration of Council.

Hospitality – the activity of providing food, drinks (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) or entertainment.

5. Policy Statement

Principles

Hospitality, gifts, travel, transport, accommodation and associated expenditure must be within the approved Council budget, be approved within Council's endorsed delegations and in accordance with Council's Procurement & Contract Management Policy. Where credit cards are used as the preferred payment method, expenditure must also be in accordance with Council's Credit Card Policy and Credit Card Procedure.

Prior to expending Council funds on entertainment / hospitality type activities, employees must turn their mind towards the following:

- The benefit (real or perceived) gained by the public from the expenditure.
- The public's expectations of councils / government agencies.
- The business purpose of the expenditure is clearly necessary.
- The appropriateness of the amount of the expenditure.

- Whether the expenditure was reasonably necessary for the carrying out of the council's functions.

Staff are to ensure the cost and level of hospitality and/or entertainment is reasonable, is not excessive, not merely for social purposes and can stand up to public scrutiny.

Types of Hospitality

The following are the types of hospitality events which Council generally undertakes as part of its business activities:

1. Employee training sessions.
2. Council/Committee meetings and workshops.
3. Meetings with clients / service providers / external stakeholders with a clear business purpose attended by the CEO, Directors or Council Members
4. Advocacy and or strategic relationship building with a clear business purpose attended by the CEO, Directors or Council Members
5. Corporate events.
6. Civic events.
7. Community events.

Examples of entertainment expenditure which will not be funded from Council sources include, but are not limited to:

- Staff only meetings: regular team or 1:1 meetings, including those held in coffee shops, will not be funded by Council.
- Functions for staff over and above existing and approved organisation wide or department wide arrangements.
- Staff club memberships for social and recreational purposes will not be funded such as sporting, social or business clubs.
- Lunches, morning and afternoon teas, tea and coffee (excluding those provided in the council's staff room) for Council staff for social purposes. There are exceptions for one-off events provided by the CEO to all staff as part of a special occasion (e.g. Christmas, celebration of a significant achievement).
- Meals and/or beverages for staff and/or other stakeholders at a public establishment except;
    - where it is covered by hospitality types 3 or 4 listed above, to a maximum value per person as per Table 1 of the ATO determination on reasonable meal allowances for domestic travel in Adelaide.
- Barista made coffee will not be funded by Council except;
    - where it constitutes refreshments as part of an organisational wide event; or
    - where it is covered by hospitality types 3 or 4 listed above.
- Alcohol will not be funded by Council.

Expenditure must not provide a personal benefit to staff members or their family or friends with the exception of an organised event as outlined above.

Gifts (including flowers)

Expenditure of up to $~~87~~5 per head is acceptable on gifts for external ceremonies, gifts of commiseration or formal gifts to dignitaries.

All gifts should be appropriate for the occasion and purchased within existing budget allocations and approved by the relevant line manager.

Gifts will not include alcohol.

Travel and accommodation

Travel expenses are expenses incurred during authorised work-related travel.

They include accommodation, transport, meals, and expenses incidental to travel.

Travel expenses must be reasonable and an efficient use of public funds.

Reimbursement for meal expenses incurred while undertaking approved travel are covered by the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. This is ~~done~~ processed via reimbursement up to a defined maximum per meal, with valid tax receipts required. For travel of 3 days or greater, the amount may be advanced to the employee on request (14 days' notice to Finance required), with receipts and unexpended funds to be returned to Council as soon as practical after the travel has concluded.

If travel by taxi is required during approved travel, Cabcharge vouchers will be supplied. (14 days'-notice to Finance required).

Meal reimbursements and Cabcharge vouchers will only be issued ~~with supervisor approval~~in line with an approved travel authorisation.

Travel expenses must not include:

- any expenses for unauthorised travel, especially flights and accommodation.
- traffic or parking infringements.
- alcohol, in-room movies, minibar and other similar expenses of a private nature.
- expenses for any other person who is not a Council employee or Council Member.
- membership subscriptions for airline clubs or loyalty programs.

Travel should be as economical and efficient as is possible e.g. economy class, where time and availability allow, unless the cost differential is paid by the individual over and above the economy rate.

Authorisation by the CEO

The CEO will maintain ultimate discretion to determine where and when it is appropriate to provide an exemption from this Policy, with this to be reported to the Audit & Risk Committee and Council on a regular basis.

5. Availability of Policy

This policy will be available for inspection at Councils' Principal Office during ordinary business hours and on Councils' web-site www.whyalla.sa.gov.au.

Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Councils' Schedule of Fees and Charges.

7. Authority

Version 3 – Adopted September 2026
Version 2 – Adopted August 2023
Version 1 – Adopted August 2021

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14.3 CITY GROWTH

14.3.1 Cuttlefest 2026 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Jenny Barnes – Tourism and Events Lead **File No.:** 5-83
Directorate: City Growth

Attachments:
1 – Cuttlefest 2025 Program
2 – Cuttlefest 2026 Media, Marketing and Communications 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 Council with a post event wrap up, following the 2026 Cuttlefest.

SUMMARY

Cuttlefest 2026 was delivered under unprecedented circumstances, following significantly lower than expected Giant Australian Cuttlefish numbers and the State Government's implementation of a 90-day exclusion zone over the breeding habitat from 1 July 2026.

While the low cuttlefish numbers and subsequent closure prevented in-water tourism experiences and several planned visitor initiatives from proceeding, Council and tourism operators supported the conservation measures to protect this globally significant species and support its long-term recovery.

Despite these challenges, the land-based Cuttlefest program proceeded successfully, providing opportunities for residents and visitors to engage with Whyalla's unique marine environment through events, exhibitions, education and community activities.

Marketing and promotional activities were adapted to highlight the broader festival program and alternative visitor experiences, helping encourage visitation, support local businesses and reinforce the importance of conserving the Giant Australian Cuttlefish aggregation for future generations.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the Cuttlefest 2026 Report.

DUE DATE

Cuttlefest Report – For Noting	21/09/2026

14.3.1 Cuttlefest 2026 – For Noting

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Cuttlefest is Whyalla's annual winter festival celebrating the world-renowned Giant Australian Cuttlefish aggregation in the Upper Spencer Gulf. As the only known location globally where thousands of giant Australian cuttlefish gather to breed, the event attracts visitors from across Australia and overseas, supporting tourism, education and environmental awareness. Traditionally, the festival combines marine-based experiences such as snorkelling, diving and glass-bottom boat tours with a diverse program of land-based activities, exhibitions, markets and community events.

The 2026 season presented unprecedented challenges, with significantly lower than expected cuttlefish numbers and the subsequent introduction of a 90-day exclusion zone over the breeding habitat to protect the species and support recovery efforts.

While in-water experiences and several visitor initiatives were unable to proceed, Council and tourism operators strongly supported the conservation measures.

In response, the focus shifted to delivering a successful land-based Cuttlefest program and promoting alternative visitor experiences, ensuring the festival continued to engage the community, support local businesses and reinforce the importance of protecting this globally significant marine phenomenon for future generations.

DISCUSSION

The 2026 Giant Australian Cuttlefish season presented challenges for Whyalla's tourism industry, the wider community and the Eyre Peninsula region. Following extensive planning and preparation, all seasonal infrastructure, interpretation, signage and visitor facilities were established at the Point Lowly site ahead of the anticipated winter visitation period.

Council, tourism operators and local stakeholders entered the season optimistic about the annual breeding aggregation, however, throughout June cuttlefish numbers remained significantly below expected levels. With warmer than usual weather conditions delaying the drop in water temperature and uncertainty surrounding the effects of the Upper Spencer Gulf algal bloom, the community waited in hope for the aggregation to arrive. As the season progressed, monitoring confirmed that cuttlefish numbers were substantially lower than previous years and it became increasingly clear that the 2026 season would not eventuate as expected.

On 30 June 2026, following scientific advice from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), the State Government announced a temporary 90-day exclusion zone over the breeding habitat between Black Point and Stony Point, effective from 1 July 2026. The restriction prohibited in-water recreational activities, including swimming, snorkelling, diving and vessel anchoring, to minimise disturbance and support the protection and recovery of breeding cuttlefish, their eggs and hatchlings.

While the closure had significant implications for local tourism operators, particularly those offering glass-bottom boat tours and snorkelling experiences, Whyalla City Council strongly supported measures that prioritised the long-term conservation of this globally significant species. The absence of the aggregation also resulted in the cancellation of several planned visitor services, including the seasonal Visitor Information Centre pop-up and Cuttlefish Concierge program.

Despite these challenges, the land-based Cuttlefest 2026 program proceeded as planned and proved more important than ever in maintaining community engagement, visitation and awareness of the Giant Australian Cuttlefish. Events, exhibitions, educational activities and community initiatives provided alternative ways for residents and visitors to connect with Whyalla's unique marine environment while continuing to celebrate the significance of the annual breeding season.

Marketing, Cuttlefish Concierge and Some Program Highlights:

Marketing

With support from South Australian Tourism Commission funding, a comprehensive multi-channel marketing campaign was delivered to maximise awareness of Cuttlefest 2026 and influence visitor decision-making.

Consistent with Council's Events Strategy, Cuttlefest is recognised as a major event and key economic driver for Whyalla. As such, significant effort was directed towards reaching potential visitors early in their planning cycle, encouraging them to choose Whyalla as their destination and providing clear pathways to book accommodation, plan itineraries and attend festival events. All marketing activity directed audiences to the Cuttlefest website, ensuring access to accurate, current information as the program evolved.

A particular focus was placed on extending the campaign lead-time to support overnight visitation and regional travel planning. The festival program was significantly expanded from a single double-sided A4 flyer in 2024/25 to an 18-page A5 brochure in 2025/26 (refer Attachment 1, with printed programs distributed from early May to provide sufficient time for prospective visitors to plan their trip.

The campaign utilised a diverse mix of traditional, digital, community and visitor servicing channels to maximise reach and engagement, including:

- Distribution of approximately 2,000 festival programs, posters and door stickers featuring QR codes linking directly to the Cuttlefest website, hand-delivered to businesses within Whyalla and mailed to targeted Visitor Information Centres throughout the Eyre Peninsula and Flinders Ranges and Outback regions.
- Installation of 65 street banners along Nicolson Avenue.
- Launch of an innovative digital visitor guestbook to capture visitation insights and visitor feedback.
- Installation of ten 3m x 1m promotional banners at strategic locations throughout Whyalla.
- Radio advertising across community and commercial free-to-air stations.
- Television advertising campaign broadcast on free-to-air channels during May and June 2026.
- Cinema advertising on the Middleback Arts Centre screen during May, June and July.

- Engagement of local businesses through window stickers, banners, precinct branding and distribution of festival programs.
- Family-focused engagement initiatives including Cuttlefest colouring-in books and branded pencil tubes.
- Social media storytelling campaign.

Once the Cuttlefish site closure was announced, we rapidly pivoted our marketing and promotional activity to highlight the many other experiences available across Whyalla and the region. This adaptable approach helped encourage visitors to travel to Whyalla, supporting local businesses while reinforcing the message that protecting the breeding aggregation remains essential to the future of the species and the long-term sustainability of the cuttlefish.

Refer to Attachment 2 – Cuttlefest 2026 Media, Marketing and Communications Report

Cuttlefish Concierge



Following the success of the inaugural program in 2025, we again partnered with SANTOS to deliver the Cuttlefish Concierge program with Carlo Possagno agreeing to return to the role. Carlo's extensive local knowledge, diving experience and engaging personality made him a natural fit, and his return was met with strong community support.

Building on the previous year, the program was expanded through the development of new branded merchandise, including educational colouring books and custom pencil tubes featuring iconic Whyalla imagery. These resources were designed to enhance visitor engagement and promote awareness of both the Giant Australian Cuttlefish aggregation and Whyalla's unique attractions.

While the on-site Concierge program was unable to proceed, the initiative was successfully adapted rather than cancelled. Merchandise originally intended for distribution at Point Lowly, was redistributed through the Whyalla Visitor Centre, Whyalla Public Library, school holiday activities and local businesses.

This alternative delivery model extended the reach of the program to families, children and visitors across the community, continuing to promote Whyalla's unique marine environment and reinforcing the Cuttlefish Concierge brand as both a tourism and environmental education initiative despite the challenging season.

Salty 'Sea'esta



Salty 'Sea'esta, held on Saturday 6 June 2026 at Ada Ryan Gardens, attracted several thousand residents and visitors and provided a successful commencement to Cuttlefest 2026. Favourable weather conditions throughout the day contributed to strong attendance and participation across a diverse program of live entertainment, market stalls, food vendors, children's activities and community displays. The free community bus service was well-utilised with 73 people making use of this service.

The event showcased Whyalla's vibrant community spirit and tourism appeal, with the support of Council staff, volunteers, performers, stallholders and community organisations contributing to its success.

The positive community response and high level of engagement reinforced Salty 'Sea'esta's role as a key feature of the Cuttlefest program and an effective platform for celebrating and promoting the city's cultural and tourism offerings.

Open Air Gallery



The Open-Air Gallery was officially launched on 12 May 2026 with around 300 people turning out for a free community event at the Whyalla Jetty.

Delivered in partnership with Alligator Energy, the project engaged students from local primary schools, secondary schools and early learning centres, generating more than 550 artwork submissions.

Selected designs were reproduced as large-scale decals and installed along the jetty, creating an accessible outdoor exhibition that showcased local creativity while educating residents and visitors about Whyalla's internationally recognised cuttlefish aggregation.

The project provided a unique opportunity for young people to have their artwork publicly displayed and contributed to community pride and participation in the festival.

Digital Guestbook Welcome | GUESTPIX



The digital guestbook provided an opportunity to share photos, videos and comments, with QR code signage installed across Cuttlefest activity locations, enabling attendees to easily upload content and contribute to a collective record of the event.

The Digital Guestbook generated strong community participation, with submissions received from both local residents and visitors throughout the festival period.

The collection of images provides a valuable visual record of Cuttlefest 2026 and highlights the diverse ways people engaged with and experienced the festival.

The initiative also supported Council's objectives of encouraging community involvement, celebrating local experiences and promoting Whyalla as a vibrant event destination.

Connect with the Past - People in the Landscape



Held every Thursday in June and July, Community Activation Officer Paul Mazourek talked about the amazing story of landscape development and people's histories in the Northern Spencer Gulf. These free sessions exploring the geological and ecological history of the Spencer Gulf regions added a successful education and cultural element to the festival.

Attendees included people from Whyalla, South Australia and the United Kingdom (plus 3 dolphins!).

	2024	2025	2026
June	88	N/A CATA on A/L	35
July	35	76	9
Total	123	76	44

Cuttlefest Art Prize and Exhibition



The 2026 Cuttlefest Art Prize attracted a strong community response, with 20 artists and more than 170 students submitting entries.

More than 50 artworks were displayed at the Middleback Arts Centre, where the exhibition ran for 10 weeks from 27 May to 12 August 2026.

Supported by $3,000 in prize money, the Art Prize celebrated artistic excellence while fostering creativity, environmental awareness and community engagement.

Visitors were invited to vote for their favourite artwork throughout the exhibition, with the People's Choice Award receiving 250 public votes.

The exhibition generated approximately $1,500 in artwork sales, providing valuable exposure and economic opportunities for participating artists.

Additional highlights included an Awards Night on 2 June attended by around 100 people and a business panel discussion featuring three presenters.

Delivered in partnership with Whyalla Business and Tourism, Whyalla City Council and Country Arts SA, the Art Prize strengthened connections between arts, tourism and community development, enhancing the Cuttlefest program and further promoting Whyalla as a destination for both cultural and nature-based experiences.

Whyalla Public Library



The Whyalla Public Library held a number of activities throughout Cuttlefest with fun, engaging and educational workshops held for all ages.

Sparkle our inflatable Cuttlefish also made a special visit with story time shared inside Sparkles.

Activity	Description	Participation
Marine Munchies	Biscuit decorating – a delicious nautical adventure icing sea-themed treats.	2 sessions: 15 children and 14 adults
Cuttlefest Slime	Glow in the dark slime inspired by the bioluminescence of cuttlefish	2 sessions: 20 children and 20 adults
Cuttlefest Seek & Find	A cuttlefish-themed adventure trail through the library, ending with a themed prize	87 children in June 121 children in July

Whyalla Visitor Centre



The Whyalla Visitor Centre offered a 'Cuttlefish Chaos' activity during June and July.

Two hundred children took on a fun fact-finding challenge with every child receiving a certificate and a take-home activity pack.

Visitors also had the opportunity to experience a virtual cuttlefish encounter with VR goggles, enjoying spectacular underwater footage from the comfort of a warm, dry seat while gaining a unique insight into the cuttlefish habitat.

Our 'Cuttle Coupons' visitor incentive program was again on offer, with over 100 Cuttle Coupon booklets distributed to visitors.

The coupons offer exclusive discounts and special offers designed to encourage exploration, support local businesses, and extend visitor engagement throughout Whyalla.

The program received strong support from participating businesses, with many requesting to be involved again, demonstrating the program's value and growing industry engagement:

Cuttlefish Pool Party



On 8 June, Whyalla Recreation Centre hosted a Cuttlefish Pool Party, where staff released 250 (toy) cuttlefish into the pools.

More than 100 people attended throughout the day, swimming, diving, and playing in the pools – participants who caught a cuttlefish took it home, linking the activity to Whyalla's giant cuttlefish season and giving families a hands-on reason to visit the Centre during Cuttlefest.

Westland Shopping Centre Activation

Photography Exhibition



A Cuttlefest Photography Exhibition celebrating the underwater world was installed at Westlands Mall, showcasing twenty-five amazing images captured by five local photographers.

Photographers of all experience levels were encouraged to submit their most breathtaking images, capturing the beauty and uniqueness of the coastal region – the display attracted strong engagement, highlighting the power of photography as a catalyst for storytelling and conversation.

Cuttle Craft Corner



Two 2-hour workshops were held in the Westland Mall during school holidays. The hands on fun featured edible crafts activities, painting 3D cuttlefish, colouring in and Tim the Magician working his magic on those in attendance.

Approximately 70 children took part in this activity over two days.

Whyalla Art Group



As part of Cuttlefest 2026, the Whyalla Art Group hosted a series of 'Turtle in Watercolour' workshops.

These creative sessions were a hit with the community—all three events sold out, attracting approximately 33 participants in total.

The workshops provided a relaxed, social environment for attendees to explore marine-themed art and celebrate Whyalla's iconic cuttlefish through various artistic techniques.

Financial Implications

The 2026 Cuttlefest was covered by existing budget and with the assistance of sponsorship.

Strategic Plan

Objective 1.1 *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 1.2 *Collaborative Partnerships in our community*

Strategy 1.2.1 Collaborate with government agencies, nongovernment organisations and other stakeholders, to provide a platform for effective collaboration and connection in our community

Strategy 1.2.4 Encourage the participation of youth in our city by providing opportunities for leadership, social, community and economic and business participation

Objective 1.3 *Promote and encourage artistic and cultural endeavours in the community*

Strategy 1.3.3 Support and enhance community participation

Objective 3.2 *Deliver outcomes outlined in the Economic Development Strategy*

Strategy 3.2.2 Develop visitor experiences that take advantage of our unique characteristics

Objective 3.4 *Environment and Sustainability*

Strategy 3.4.3 Through partnerships actively promote, protect, rehabilitate and conserve our natural environment and coastal areas.

Legislation

Local Government Act 1999 (SA)
Work Health Safety Act 2012

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

The 2026 Cuttlefest season was delivered within a dynamic and evolving risk environment, requiring ongoing assessment of environmental, operational, reputational and economic risks.

Key considerations included significantly reduced Giant Australian Cuttlefish numbers, the implementation of the State Government's 90-day exclusion zone, impacts on visitor experiences and tourism operators, and the need to adapt event delivery and communications in response to changing circumstances.

Social Considerations

Despite the challenges of the 2026 season, Cuttlefest continued to bring people together through arts, education and community activities.

The land-based program provided accessible opportunities for residents and visitors to connect, learn and celebrate Whyalla’s unique marine environment.

Community Engagement

Initiatives such as the Open-Air Gallery, hallmark Salty ‘Sea’esta event, Cuttlefest Art Prize, Digital Guestbook, library activities, shopping centre activations and family-focused experiences encouraged residents, visitors, schools, community groups and local businesses to actively contribute to the festival.

Environmental Implications

The reduced cuttlefish aggregation and subsequent exclusion zone highlighted the importance of protecting this globally significant species.

Cuttlefest 2026 reinforced conservation messages and increased community awareness of the environmental challenges facing the Giant Australian Cuttlefish and the need to support long-term recovery.

Communication

The Media, Marketing and Communications Report is attached at Attachment 2.

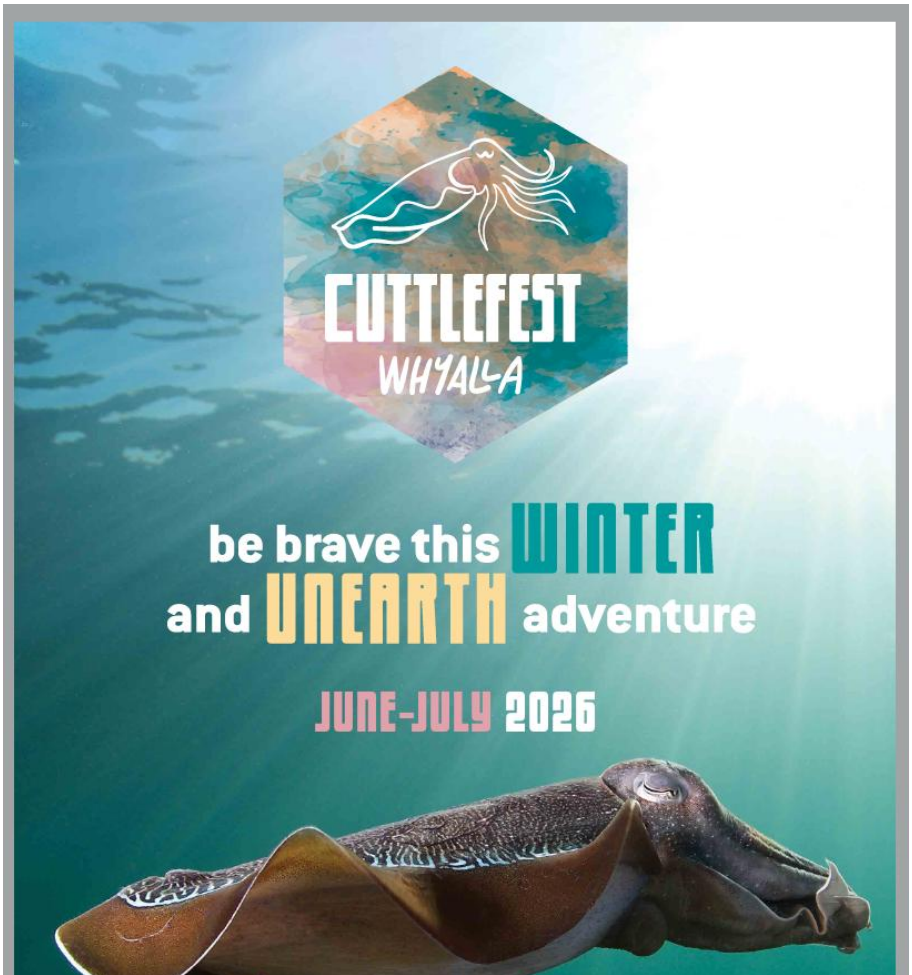
Conclusion

Despite the unprecedented challenges presented by significantly lower than expected Giant Australian Cuttlefish numbers and the implementation of a 90-day exclusion zone over the breeding habitat, Cuttlefest 2026 successfully adapted and delivered a strong land-based festival program.

Through exhibitions, educational activities, community events, visitor experiences and targeted marketing initiatives, the festival continued to engage residents and visitors, support local businesses and celebrate Whyalla's unique marine environment.

Importantly, Cuttlefest 2026 reinforced the community's commitment to protecting this globally significant species and highlighted the importance of conservation measures to support the aggregation's long-term recovery.

The festival demonstrated resilience, strong community partnerships and Council's ability to respond to changing circumstances while continuing to foster community pride, environmental stewardship and regional visitation.



CUTTLEFEST WHYALLA

PROGRAM

JUNE-JULY 2026



EXPLORE

WHYALLA.COM

WHYALLA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THE WILD SIDE EYRE STH·AUS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Government of South Australia
South Australian Tourism Commission



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge 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.

EXPLORE WHYALLA.COM FOR ALL EVENT DETAILS AND BOOKING LINKS

SCAN HERE

WELCOME TO Cuttlefest

Each winter, Whyalla hosts one of nature's most extraordinary events as tens of thousands of Australian Giant Cuttlefish gather to breed.

Cuttlefest celebrates this remarkable migration — a unique winter festival held each June and July, dedicated to showcasing these fascinating marine creatures and the environment they call home.

Visitors flock to the coastline for unforgettable encounters with the aggregation - snorkelling, diving and glass-bottom boat tours offer rare, up-close views of this natural spectacle.

On shore, the festival comes alive with markets, art, talks, workshops and family-friendly activities that celebrate marine life, creativity and community spirit.

The highlight is the Salty 'Sea'esta held on the Saturday of the June long weekend in Ada Ryan Gardens. — a high-energy celebration of music, entertainment and coastal culture, bringing people together in a shared experience of joy and discovery.

Cuttlefest is Whyalla's signature winter event — a powerful blend of nature, community and conservation, and a standout experience within the spectacular Eyre Peninsula region.

We invite visitors to experience Whyalla at its most vibrant — and to be part of something truly unique.

Cuttlefish Experiences

The Australian Giant Cuttlefish aggregation is a natural phenomenon, so although we're looking forward to a vibrant season this year, timing and numbers may vary. In addition to natural fluctuations in numbers, any potential impacts from the algal bloom also remain unknown at the time of printing. For safety and environmental reasons, commercial operators reserve the right to adjust schedules or cancel tours in response to conditions.



Cuttys

Glass Bottom Boat Tours

Some people snorkel or dive, but if you want all the thrills without getting your feet wet, our glass-bottom boat tours are for you! Come and witness the annual spectacle of tens of thousands of Giant Cuttlefish in winter at Point Lowly. Join our knowledgeable guides, fascinating stories, and captivating sights, a Cutty's glass-bottom boat tour is an unforgettable experience.

WHERE Cuttlefish Dive Site

BOOK ONLINE



Cuttys

Coffee Van and Souvenirs

Is there food and beverages available on site? Yes! The Cuttys van is onsite, ready for you to check-in for your tour and offers a small range of locally sourced food and hot drinks to cater for the season.

WHERE Cuttlefish Dive Site



Spencer Gulf Adventures

Cuttlefish Glass Bottom Boat Tour

Experience the extraordinary phenomenon of the Australian Giant Cuttlefish aggregation from the comfort of our glass-bottom boat, staying dry while enjoying spectacular underwater viewing. Tours depart from Point Lowly Marina with safe boarding and are led by local skipper Steve, who brings more than 26 years of experience on these waters. Our clean, well-maintained vessel features shaded seating and travels close to shore for a safe and comfortable journey. Warm yourself up with a complimentary coffee before boarding.

WHERE Point Lowly Marina

BOOK ONLINE

JUNE-JULY SEASONAL ONLY TOURS

Get up close & personal



Cuttlefish Concierge

Keep an eye out for Carlo Possagno, our Cuttlefish Concierge! Thanks to a collaboration between Santos and Whyalla City Council, Carlo will be stationed at the Cuttlefish Coast dive site to greet visitors, share marine knowledge and help you enjoy a safe and enriching experience. And he also has some giveaways for the kids!

WHERE Cuttlefish Dive Site



Pop Up Information Stand

Our Visitor Information team is on site daily throughout Cuttlefest, ready to provide expert advice, local insights, merchandise, and helpful resources to enhance your visit. Discover must-see attractions and experiences across Whyalla and the wider region. Don't forget to grab your Cuttlefest Coupons to unlock exclusive discounts and bonus offers at participating local businesses!

WHERE Cuttlefish Dive Site



Why Dive

Snorkel or Dive with the Giant Australian Cuttlefish

Guided snorkelling and diving experiences led by experienced local guides, each tour prioritises safety, education and minimal environmental impact. Snorkellers can enjoy relaxed surface level encounters in calm, shallow conditions suitable for all skill levels. Certified divers can descend into the heart of the action to witness remarkable colour transformations and intricate behaviours in stunning detail. Why Dive is committed to sharing this natural phenomenon responsibly, offering a deeper appreciation of the species and the unique ecosystem it depends on.

WHERE Cuttlefish Dive Site

BOOK ONLINE

Art and Soul

4 5

Immersive art experiences



Cuttlefest Art Prize Exhibition

Enjoy the Cuttlefest Art Prize, showcasing a vibrant collection of works with the popular People's Choice voting running throughout June. Artworks will be displayed in the Middleback Arts Centre Foyer throughout June and July.

WHEN June & July
During opening hours

WHERE Middleback Arts Centre



Cuttlefest Art Prize Awards Night

Celebrate creativity, community and coastal inspiration at the Cuttlefest Art Prize Opening and Awards Night. In partnership with Whyalla Business & Tourism, Whyalla City Council and Country Arts SA, the exhibition showcases artworks inspired by cuttlefish and Whyalla's marine environment. Everyone welcome to attend and enjoy an evening of art, connection and celebration.

WHEN Tue 2 June
6pm-9:30pm

WHERE Middleback Arts Centre



Open Air Gallery: Inside Edition

Discover a wave of creativity with this special Cuttlefest showcase! This display gives a sneak peek at the designs that have transformed Whyalla's circular jetty into a colourful Open-Air Gallery. Inspired by ocean life and our big bright Cuttlefish, these young artists have turned their ideas from paper into public art for the whole community to enjoy.

WHEN June & July
During opening hours

WHERE Westland Shopping Centre



Cuttlefest Photography Exhibition

Celebrating the underwater world of Whyalla and its surrounds and featuring an expanded range of photography categories, this exhibition highlights marine life alongside iconic local scenes and includes a People's Choice public voting component.

WHEN June & July
During opening hours

WHERE Westland Shopping Centre



Open Air Gallery: Whyalla Jetty Edition

See the Whyalla Jetty transformed into an Open-Air Gallery! In partnership with Alligator Energy and Whyalla City Council, this unique installation showcases artwork created by local young people, brought to life as vibrant sticker decals. The iconic circular jetty becomes an art exhibition under the open sky during Cuttlefest - wander the jetty and take in this colourful public showcase of student creativity.

WHEN June & July
24/7

WHERE Whyalla Circular Jetty



YEAR ROUND

Whyalla Art Trail

Explore Whyalla's vibrant public art scene through the Art Trail, showcasing a diverse collection of murals, sculptures and installations. Spread throughout the city, the trail reflects Whyalla's creativity, culture and sense of place. Art Trail maps are available from the Visitor Centre and the Foreshore Visitor POD.

WHERE Around Whyalla

Whyalla Art Group

Turtle in Watercolour

You will be led through a step by step process using watercolour paint, brushes, sponges & salt to create an amazing framed painting to take home.

WHEN Sun 7 June & Sat 5 July
11am-2pm

WHERE Whyalla Art Gallery

BOOK ONLINE

Kid's Activities



Cuttle Craft Corner

Join us for edible crafts activities, painting 3D cuttlefish, Tim the magician and a visit from Spencer the NEW cuttlefish mascot! A fun activity to celebrate Cuttlefest during the July school holidays!

WHEN Wed 15 July 10am-12pm
Thu 16 July 10am-12pm

WHERE Westland Shopping Centre



Cuttlefish Chaos

Take on our fun fact-finding challenge! Collect your information sheet, search the museum for hidden cuttlefish, and uncover amazing facts about the Australian Giant Cuttlefish. Every child receives a certificate and a take-home activity pack. Get curious and dive into the chaos!

WHEN June & July
Everyday 10am-4pm

WHERE Whyalla Visitor Centre & Maritime Museum

BOOK ONLINE



Cuttlefest Scavenger Hunt

Collect your hunt card, find the cuttlefish posters around the centre, complete your card with the correct answers and claim your FREE 3D printed cuttlefish as your prize!

WHEN Mon 6 July until Fri 17 Jul
During opening hours

WHERE Westland Shopping Centre

Whyalla Rec Centre



Cuttlefish Pool Party

A natural phenomenon is coming! The Cuttlefish are migrating from the Spencer Gulf, heading down the Lincoln Hwy, chucking a quick "beachie", and going straight to the Whyalla Recreation Centre for one afternoon only. Swim, dive and play with the Cuttlefish as they make themselves at home in the pools. Best of all when you're done, feel free to take one home with you - there will be over 200 up for grabs.

WHEN Mon 8 June
12pm-5pm

WHERE Whyalla Recreational Centre - YMCA

BOOK ONLINE

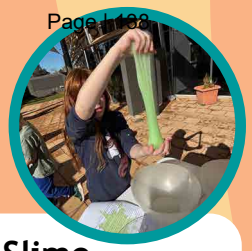


Cuttlefest Seek and Find

Who and what is hiding around the library? Dive into our Cuttlefest Seek and Find and discover all the beach and ocean-themed pictures tucked away in every corner. Search high and low as you explore the library, then swim up to the counter once you've found them all to claim your prize. A fun and engaging activity for children and families to enjoy together!
***Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

WHEN June & July
During opening hours

WHERE Whyalla Public Library



Cuttlefest Slime

Children can make their own colourful glow in the dark slime inspired by the bioluminescence of cuttlefish.
***Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

WHEN Mon 6 July
10:30am-11:30am
Tue 14 July
1:30pm-2:30pm

WHERE Whyalla Public Library

BOOK ONLINE



Marine Munchies

Join us on a delicious nautical adventure. Get creative with biscuits, icing and sweet treats to create your own sea themed treats.
***Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

WHEN Thu 9 July
10:30am-11:30am
Wed 15 July
1:30pm-2:30pm

WHERE Whyalla Public Library

BOOK ONLINE



Sparkles the Cuttlefish

Step inside Sparkles the Cuttlefish for a truly unique Story Time experience! Gather inside this magical space to enjoy a fun-filled session of stories, songs and shared moments. Perfect for young children and their caregivers, this interactive session encourages imagination, creativity, and a love of reading. Join us for a memorable adventure where stories come to life in a cosy and exciting setting
***Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

WHEN Fri 17 July
10:30am-11:30am
2:30pm-3:30pm

WHERE Whyalla Public Library

Something for Everyone



YEAR ROUND

Cuttlefish: A Virtual Encounter

Step into the world of the Australian Giant Cuttlefish through an immersive virtual reality experience. Enjoy spectacular underwater footage from the comfort of a warm, dry seat and gain a unique insight into the cuttlefish habitat.

WHEN All year
During opening hours

WHERE Whyalla Visitor Centre & Maritime Museum



YEAR ROUND

Cuttlefest Citizen Science and School Activities

Cuttlefest provides an opportunity for schools, community groups and citizens to learn about our local coast and marine environment and to get involved in on-ground conservation projects. For great ideas on how to get involved in citizen science and school activities for Cuttlefest and throughout the year use the link below.

WHEN All year
In your own time

WHERE Online Resources



YEAR ROUND

Spectacular Scenic Surprises - Whyalla coastal interpretive walking trails

You are walking on Barngarla Country. Experience fresh salty breezes along these coastal trails and experience the beauty of our region. Respect wildlife, do not remove native plants and leave no trace or rubbish.

WHEN All year
In your own time

WHERE Northern coastline and Southern coastline



Why Dive

Science in the Pub

Enjoy a relaxed, engaging evening hosted by Whyalla Dive Shop, bringing together community, science and storytelling. Hear from speakers across leading organisations with short, accessible talks on marine research, conservation and innovation. Enjoy curated short films, ocean-inspired art, and a vibrant atmosphere celebrating our coastal environments—an inspiring night to connect, learn and be inspired.

WHEN Wed 8 July

WHERE Roopena Football Club

BOOK ONLINE



Salty Seaesta

Salty 'Sea'esta brings the community together with lively market stalls, delicious food and beverage vendors, roving performers and interactive entertainment for all ages. Sparkles the Inflatable Cuttlefish adds colour and fun to the festivities. With a FREE bus service making it easy for everyone to attend, Salty 'Sea'esta is the perfect way to gather with family and friends and celebrate.

WHEN Sat 6 June
11am-4pm

WHERE Ada Ryan Gardens



Cuttle Shuffle

A dazzling, one-of-a-kind experience that brings the magic of cuttlefish season to life after dark. This silent disco invites guests to slip on their headphones and dance the night away in an immersive wonderland with glittering décor and glowing accessories. Enjoy this joyful fusion of music, marine inspiration and sparkling creativity—and celebrate Whyalla's unique natural phenomenon in true Sparkly Event style.

WHEN Sat 11 July
5:30pm-8:30pm

WHERE Whyalla Visitor Centre & Maritime Museum

BOOK ONLINE

Something for everyone



Connect with the Past People in the Landscape

People in the Landscape is a talk on Barngarla country with Maritime Museum Curator Paul Mazourek about the amazing story of the landscape development and people's histories in the Northern Spencer Gulf. Simply rock up and wait near the lighthouse. For large groups/ schools/ private bookings please contact paul.mazourek@whyalla.sa.gov.au or phone 08 8640 3444.

WHEN Every Thu 2pm-3pm
June 4, 11, 18, 25
July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

WHERE Point Lowly Lighthouse



Tanderra Craft Village

Under the Sea Market

Celebrate Cuttlefest with Under the Sea-themed markets. Explore 20 specialty shops, a bustling market hall and resident hobby groups, enjoy mini golf and a bite in the tearoom, and let the kids loose on an under-the-sea themed trail or creative making tables. There's something for everyone at Tanderra Craft Village.

WHEN Sat 27 & Sun 28 June
11am-2pm
Sat 25 & Sun 26 July
11am-2pm

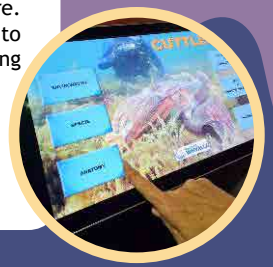
WHERE Lincoln Highway (Port Augusta Road) 300m North of Maritime Museum

All You Need to Know About Cuttlefish

Discover the incredible world of the Australian Giant Cuttlefish through our touchscreen kiosk with chapters covering habitat, life cycle, hunting skills, communication, and much more. Visit the Whyalla Maritime Museum to explore fascinating facts and surprising insights.

WHEN June & July
Everyday 10am-4pm

WHERE Whyalla Maritime Museum



Fun for the whole family!

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Celebrate the
SIMPLE PLEASURES



Cuttlefish experiences
Art and Soul
Kids Activities
Something for everyone

Events Table

JUNE	2	Cuttlefest Art Prize - Awards Night
	4	Connect with the Past
	6	Salty 'Sea'esta
	7	Turtle in Watercolour
	8	Cuttlefish Pool Party
	11	Connect with the Past
	18	Connect with the Past
	25	Connect with the Past
	27 & 28	Tanderra Craft Village Under the Sea Market
JULY	2	Connect with the Past
	5	Turtle in Watercolour
	6	Cuttlefest Slime
	6 - 17	Cuttlefest Scavenger Hunt
	8	Science in the Pub
	9	Marine Munchies Connect with the Past
	11	Cuttle Shuffle
	14	Cuttlefest Slime
	15	Marine Munchies Cuttle Craft Corner
	16	Cuttle Craft Corner Connect with the Past
	17	Sparkles the Cuttlefish
	23	Connect with the Past
	25 & 26 Jul	Tanderra Craft Village Under the Sea Market
	30	Connect with the Past

ALL SEASON EVENTS

- Cuttlefish Concierge
- Cuttys Glass Bottom Boat Tours
- Cuttys Coffee Van and Souvenirs
- Pop Up Information Stand
- Snorkel or Dive with the Giant Australian Cuttlefish
- Spencer Gulf Adventures Cuttlefish Glass Bottom Boat Tour
- Cuttlefest Art Prize - Exhibition
- Cuttlefest Photography Exhibition
- Open Air Gallery: Inside Edition
- Open Air Gallery: Whyalla Jetty Edition
- Whyalla Art Trail
- Cuttlefish Chaos
- Cuttlefest Seek and Find
- All You Need to Know About Cuttlefish
- Cuttlefish: A Virtual Encounter
- Cuttlefest Citizen Science and School Activities
- Spectacular Scenic Surprises - Whyalla coastal interpretive walking trails

UNEARTH WHYALLA

Looking for merch, maps, tour info, local knowledge? We've got you covered! Visit our friendly staff and pick up your Cuttlefish Coupons to unlock exclusive discounts and bonus offers at local businesses!



Whyalla Visitor Centre
Lincoln Highway
(northern entrance)

Find us at one of our 3 locations



Cuttlefish Dive Site
Pop Up Stand



Foreshore Pod

Whyalla Visitor Centre

1800 088 589
visitor.centre@whyalla.sa.gov.au
whyalla.com

2025 South Australian Tourism Awards WINNER

Quality Tourism Accredited Business

f #visitwhyalla

Cuttlefest Marketing Report:

Email marketing:

Overall number: March 3 – July 28, 36 emails sent to approx. 1,200 people each time. These also include the fortnightly 'City Round Up' and monthly 'From the Mayor's Desk'.

Highest reach: 483 people, 43.1% open rate: Cuttlefest 2026 Program Launches in Whyalla | Campaign Monitor

Average open rate: 34.84%

Website:

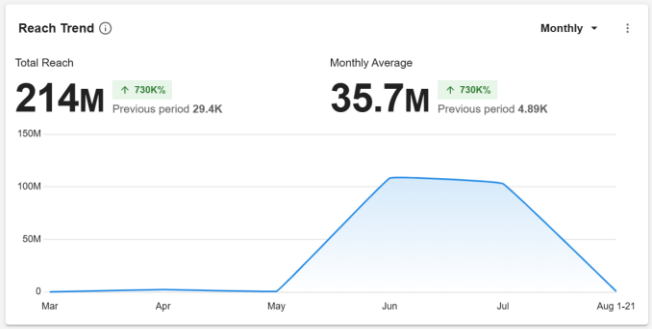
Media releases: Uploaded to the website from March 12 – August 12, a total of 17.

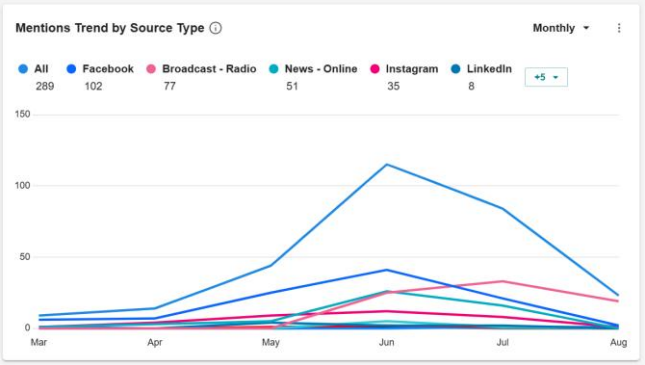
- Whyalla artists invited to enter the 2026 Cuttlefest Art Prize | Whyalla City Council
- Be part of the action this Cuttlefest | Whyalla City Council
- Cuttlefest - Salty 'Sea'esta EOI | Whyalla City Council
- From paper to public art: students to showcase work on Whyalla Jetty | Whyalla City Council
- Cuttlefest Photography Exhibition: Calling all photographers! | Whyalla City Council
- Open-Air Gallery Launch Celebrating Student Art and Cuttlefish | Whyalla City Council
- Cuttlefest 2026 Program Launches in Whyalla | Whyalla City Council
- Salty 'Sea'esta returns as part of Cuttlefest program | Whyalla City Council
- Cuttlefest Art Prize exhibition returns to Middleback Arts Centre | Whyalla City Council
- Salty 'Sea'esta returns to Ada Ryan Gardens next weekend | Whyalla City Council
- Learn more about waste management at Salty 'Sea'esta | Whyalla City Council
- Salty 'Sea'esta is tomorrow | Whyalla City Council
- Salty 'Sea'esta delivers spectacular start to Cuttlefest 2026 | Whyalla City Council
- Share your Cuttlefest with the Digital Guestbook | Whyalla City Council
- Phillied In: Mayor Stone's May-June Engagements | Whyalla City Council
- 2026 Cuttlefest Art Prize – People's Choice Award Winner Announced | Whyalla City Council
- Cuttlefest through the eyes of the community | Whyalla City Council

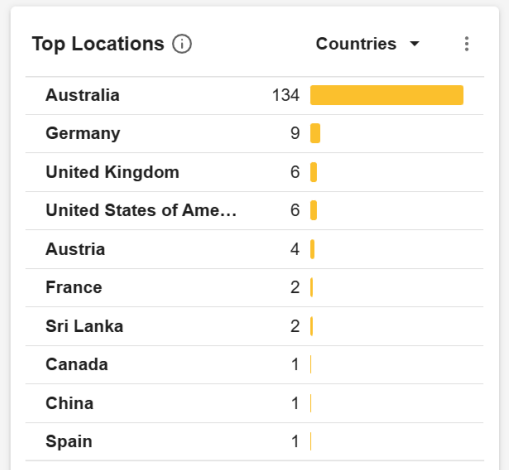
Media:

Worldwide media trends from March 1st to August 21st, 2026:









Mayor Phill Stone was interviewed by several different media outlets including ABC News breakfast about the closure of the cuttlefish dive site but focused on visitors still coming to Whyalla and the region to experience all the on land activation and the many other tourism based experiences on offer in our region.



<u>Local media:</u>

Triple Y local radio council show – a fortnightly show with council staff and Triple Y host to discuss council matters. During March – August there were a total of 13 shows where Cuttlefest was discussed and promoted to the community.



Screenshot of social media post promoting the show where council's Events Coordinator attended to promote Cuttlefest.

Whyalla News – Local newspaper promoted Cuttlefest throughout the season in their online news and printed paper. This also includes paid advertisements and monthly edition of 'From the Mayor's Desk'.



Paid advertisement in May 28 issue.



Steve Storic and Jess Scott accepting the Schools Merit Award for Whyalla Secondary College - Spencer Gulf Class.



Cuttlefest Art Prize runner-up Michelle Sarret, Mayor Phill Stone and Teresa Coles.

Cuttlefish Art Prize award

WHYALLA- The 2026 Cuttlefest Art Prize Exhibition opened on Tuesday, June 2 with the official launch, awards presentation and panel session held at the Middleback Arts Centre.

The event marked a celebration of creativity across Whyalla and the broader region, with works inspired by the Australian Giant Cuttlefish and the local coastal environment.

Leith O'Malley took out the top prize, winning Best of Show for his artwork, while Michelle Sarret was named runner up.

The full list of the winners is below:

- Best of Show – Cuttlefest Art Prize: Leith O'Malley
- Runner Up – Cuttlefest Art Prize: Michelle Sarret
- Best of Show – Environmental Awareness: Melita Newland
- Merit Award – Environmental Awareness: Deborah Dawson
- Individual Youth (Under 13): Ariah Bishop Burd
- Individual Youth (14–25) Merit Award: Natalie Vile
- Best of Show – School Group Entry: Memorial Oval Primary School
- Runner Up – Schools Merit Awards: Sunrise Christian School
- Merit Award - Schools Merit Awards: Whyalla Secondary College - Spencer Gulf Class
- Merit Award - Schools Merit Awards: Whyalla Town Primary School
- Merit Award - Schools Merit Awards: Whyalla Early Learning Centre - Kindy

Over 50 artworks remain on display throughout June and July, with more than 20 individual artists entering the Art Prize and over 170 students contributing across six Whyalla schools and childcare centres.

The exhibition is presented in partnership between Whyalla Business and Tourism, Whyalla City Council and Country Arts SA.



Teresa Coles, Cuttlefest Art Prize winner Leith O'Malley and Mayor Phill Stone. (Whyalla City Council).

Whyalla City Council and Country Arts SA arts and cultural facilitator Teresa Coles said the exhibition was a valuable opportunity to celebrate Whyalla's unique cuttlefish aggregation and showcase regional creativity.

"Events like the Cuttlefest Art Prize highlight the importance of the amazing coastal waters of Whyalla and the incredible talent we have in our community," Ms Coles said.

"The exhibition invites people to experience a wide range of artistic expression while supporting local artists and engaging with our arts community.

"Whether you are a regular gallery visitor or simply curious to see what our local creatives have been working on, we encourage everyone to come along and enjoy the exhibition.

"We also want you to vote for your favourite art piece with the People's Choice voting open until 28 June.

Sea'esta returns for 2026

By Jack O'Halloran

WHYALLA - Cuttlefest's marquee event for 2026 was held on Saturday, June 7,with hundreds of people turning out for the Salty Sea'esta at the Ada Ryan Gardens.

The free community event began at 11am and ran until late in the afternoon, bringing together live entertainment, market stalls, food vendors and family friendly activities as part of the annual Cuttlefest celebrations.

A range of local musicians and performers took to the stage throughout the day, including Jolly Long Jetty Off Quay Shanty Sea Dogs, Miss E, SUEDAN, G n G Duo, Mel n Me, Just Me and headline act THE KAVS.

Visitors were able to enjoy roving entertainment across the gardens, with appearances by Mr Oopy's bubbles, Spencer the Cuttlefish mascot, Surf Life Saver stilt walkers and seagull performers.

A variety of local market stalls were featured, including Lucee Designs, CreationsbyT, Retro Glamour, Tusque Clothing, Karen's Collection, Why Day Creations, Whimsical Crafts, SeaShell Creations & 3D Printing, Grandmum's, and Chris and Colin's crafts.

Community and information stalls will also be present, with organisations such as Alligator Energy, Northern Water, Waste Education and Boomerang Bangs providing information to attendees.

Family activities were also running throughout the day, including children's arts and crafts with D'Faces, face painting, the Rec Fish Simulator, VR Goggle Space and The Nylon Zoo, which will host storytime sessions and parades featuring Sparkles the Cuttlefish.

There was no shortage of food and beverage stalls as well, with Lions Club of Whyalla, Lions Club of Whyalla Mt Laura, Rotary Club of Whyalla, Asian Tucker, RFDS Whyalla, Heaven in a Cup, Torianas Tasty Treats and Yums ensuring that no one went hungry.

Despite being the headline event for Cuttlefest there are still a number of other events and activities on offer over the next couple of months.

Tanderra Craft Village Under the Sea Market, Science in the Pub and the Whyalla coastal interpretive walking trails are fast approaching, while guided snorkelling and diving experiences will be running throughout winter.

Carlo Possagno will be returning as Cuttlefish Concierge, offering firsthand knowledge and insight about the Cuttlefish to visitors.

Minister for Tourism Emily Bourke highlighted Cuttlefest as one of the key festivals running throughout the winter months.

"There are many unique experiences that can only be enjoyed in the cooler months, such as whale watching, fireside feasts, and longer nights allowing more time for star gazing under a dark sky," Ms Bourke said.

"Our event calendar doesn't slow down for winter with festivals like Illuminate Adelaide, Winter Reds in the Adelaide Hills, Gutsy Kangaroo Island, Cuttlefest in Eyre Peninsula, and Winter Whale Festival in the Fleurieu Peninsula, just to name a few."

To find out more about what's happening in Whyalla this winter, head to the Whyalla City Council website to view the full Cuttlefest program.



Chloe Fisher and Spencer the Cuttlefish at this year's Salty Sea'esta. (Geniene Gordon: 558614)

Skills program to return

By Theo Dimou

PORT PIRIE - Applications have opened for the next intake of Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North's (RDAYMN) Heavy Industry Multi Skills (HIMS) Program.

Based in Port Pirie, the program has supported local jobseekers since its inception in 2019, recording 292 applicants, 121 participants, 109 graduates and 89 employment outcomes.

Program manager Larissa Mackrill said the initiative was originally created to address workforce shortages across the region and better prepare local jobseekers for ca-

mand, high unemployment levels and ongoing support from industry partners.

Industry involvement includes mock interviews, guest presentations and site tours with companies including Nyrstar, McMahon's, Workforce Extensions and other major regional employers.

Ms Mackrill said this intake will also be the first to offer industry-supported scholarships, thanks to financial contributions from Hazell Bros, Zancott Recruitment and SJ Cheesman.

"These sponsorships mean eligible participants can complete the program free of charge, helping remove financial barriers

Screenshots from June 11 issue.



WHYALLA

FROM THE

MAYOR'S DESK

with Mayor Phill Stone

Where, oh where, have our cuttlefish gone?

THAT is the very question experts and enthusiasts have been asking for the past few weeks. Whyalla had a fantastic opening to the annual cuttlefish season at the Salty Sea'esta – beautiful weather, huge crowd, non-stop entertainment, magnificent atmosphere – but our special guests, the cuttlefish, were missing.

With the end of June just around the corner, "the jury is still out" as to why very few have so far arrived. There have been suggestions that the algal bloom may be responsible, although there haven't been any reports of massive cuttlefish deaths. Council has been consistently advised that the current sea water temperature of 14-16 degrees is too warm and that the cuttlefish need it to drop to 11 degrees for the aggregation to arrive and do their magic. We're finally starting to get some chilly days, so we all have our fingers crossed that it is just a late season!

Nevertheless, there is still a big program of Cuttlefest events on land. There is something for everyone - from art exhibitions and discos, to virtual encounters and an Under the Sea market. Especially for the youngsters, there's scavenger hunts, crafts, 'Cuttlefish Chaos', and their favourite - Sparkles the Cuttlefish! So plenty to do, even if the actual cuttlefish numbers remain low - simply check out Council's website / socials or Whyalla.com for all the details.

When is a library more than a

people to meet friends, sit and chat, enjoy a coffee or play a game together with no time limits and no cost.

•The Whyalla Family History Group is based at the library for community members interested in exploring their family history and discovering local stories.

•An extensive program of weekly children's activities includes Gigglepots, Story Time and Little Learners with Maths Fun for Under 5s.

Hopefully you all agree that libraries are vastly different today than "once upon a time", with the Whyalla Library leading the way for our community.

New boat ramp achieves latest milestone

ACTION has increased at the Whyalla Marina following the manufacture of the new pontoons, which are now being

Screenshot from June 25 issue.

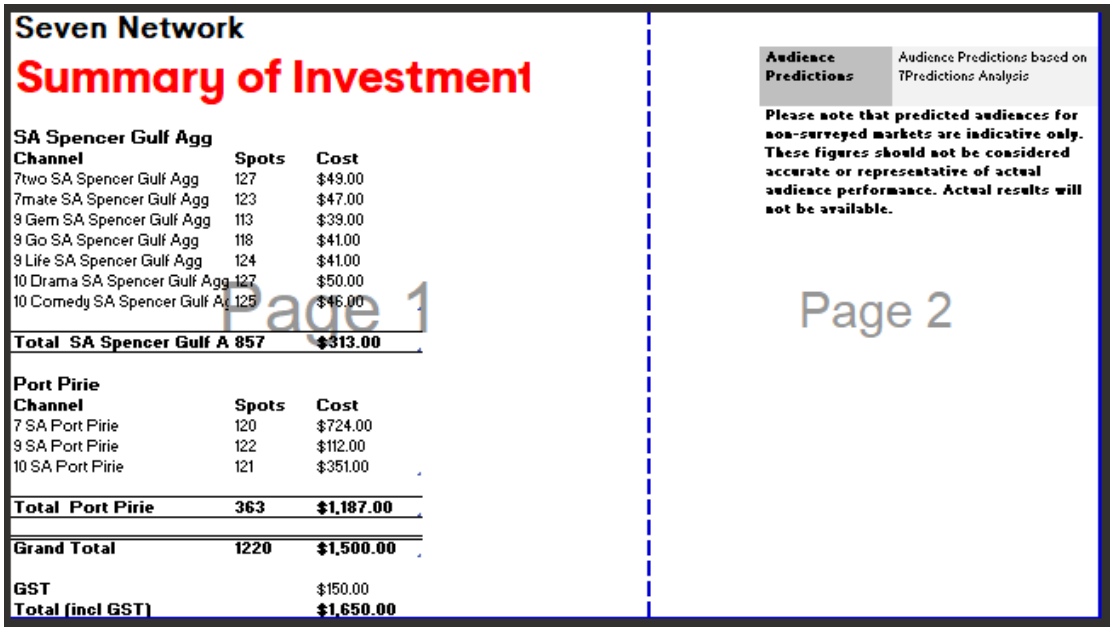
<u>Cinema advertising:</u>



The Cuttlefest cinema ad screened as part of the commercial cinema preshow program during June and July. On screen for approximately 130 screenings with an attendance of approximately 6,000 patrons.

TV advertising:

The TVC Campaign Cuttlefest.



Seven Network

Summary of Investment

SA Spencer Gulf Agg

Channel	Spots	Cost
7two SA Spencer Gulf Agg	127	$49.00
7mate SA Spencer Gulf Agg	123	$47.00
9 Gem SA Spencer Gulf Agg	113	$39.00
9 Go SA Spencer Gulf Agg	118	$41.00
9 Life SA Spencer Gulf Agg	124	$41.00
10 Drama SA Spencer Gulf Agg	127	$50.00
10 Comedy SA Spencer Gulf Ag	125	$46.00
Total SA Spencer Gulf A	**857**	**$313.00**

Page 1

Port Pirie

Channel	Spots	Cost
7 SA Port Pirie	120	$724.00
9 SA Port Pirie	122	$112.00
10 SA Port Pirie	121	$351.00
Total Port Pirie	**363**	**$1,187.00**
Grand Total	**1220**	**$1,500.00**
GST		$150.00
Total (incl GST)		**$1,650.00**

Audience Predictions	Audience Predictions based on 7Predictions Analysis

Please note that predicted audiences for non-surveyed markets are indicative only. These figures should not be considered accurate or representative of actual audience performance. Actual results will not be available.

Page 2

Radio advertisements:

Council also and advertised on Magic Fm and 105.9 radio stations with the scripts below.

Cuttlefest:

Be brave this winter and unearth adventure

Looking for a winter experience like no other? Head to Whyalla for Cuttlefest.

Witness the world-famous giant Australian cuttlefish — a natural spectacle you won't see anywhere else.

Snorkel, dive or join a glass bottom boat tour and enjoy a full calendar of events celebrating marine life, creativity and community spirit.

Make it a weekend or stay longer and explore the rugged coastlines & scenic beauty of Eyre Peninsula.

Cuttlefest – this June and July.

Check out the program and start planning at whyalla.com

Proudly supported by the South Australian Tourism Commission.

Salty sea esta:

Salty Sea'esta is back this Cuttlefest!

Join us on Saturday, June 6, from 11am to 4pm at the Ada Ryan Gardens!

There's something for everyone — market stalls, roving artists, live entertainment, and delicious food and drinks!

We've got your trip sorted, just hop on the community bus to get there and back

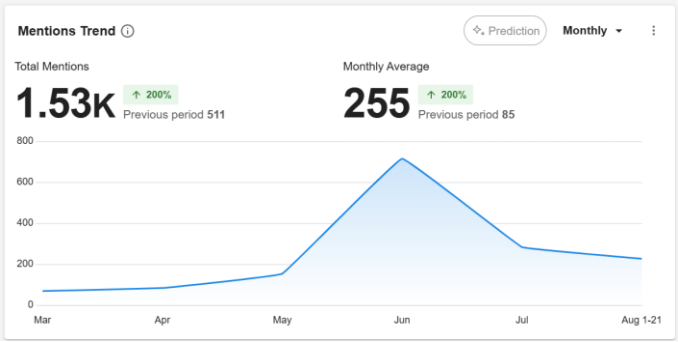
So, grab your friends, bring the family and make a day of it at Salty Sea'esta!

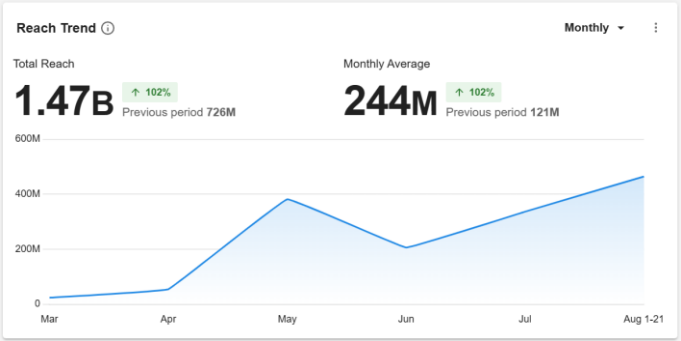
Triple Y weather announcement:

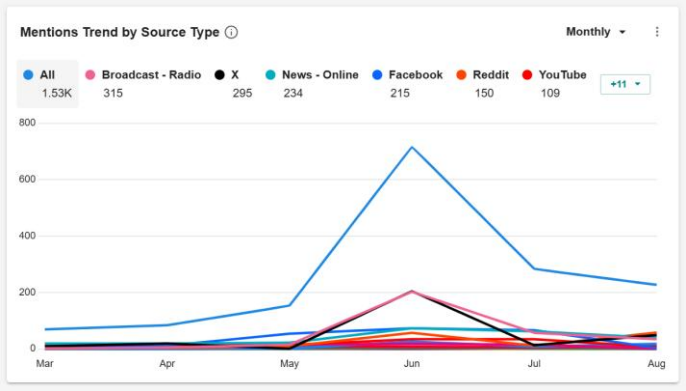
This is Triple Y's weather, proudly brought to you by Whyalla City Council. Looking for a winter experience like no other? Check out the Cuttlefest program and start planning at whyalla.com this June and July!

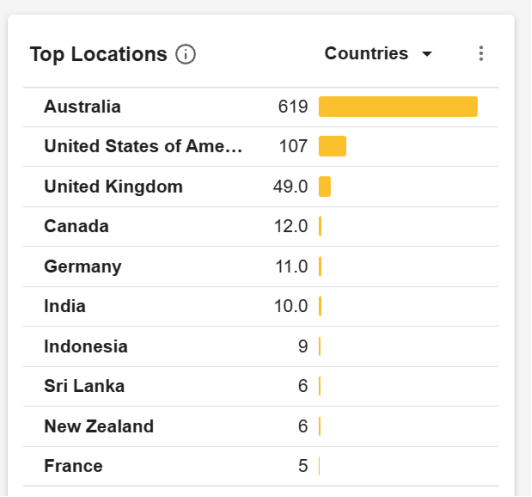
Social media:

Worldwide social media trends:





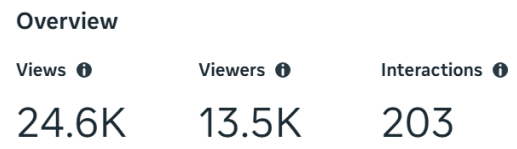




Councils' social media channels: overall there were 72 posts on Facebook and Instagram.

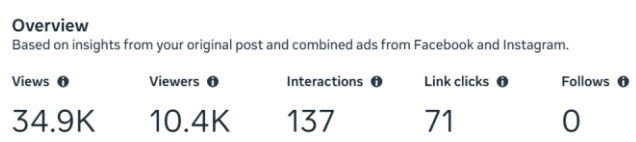
Highest organic reach: [(6) Several thousand people flocked to Ada Ryan… – Whyalla City Council | Facebook]





Highest paid reach: [(6) Salty 'Sea'esta will return to Ada Ryan… – Whyalla City Council | Facebook]





Digital Guestbook:

Council undertook a new initiative this year of a 'Digital Guestbook, where visitors and locals could upload content and comments. Council later published a media release about the initiative, and it was picked up by the Whyalla News.

Digital Guestbook link: Welcome | GUESTPIX

Council media release: Cuttlefest through the eyes of the community | Whyalla City Council

Whyalla News: August 20 issue.



WHYALLA NEWS

EXPANDED COVERAGE FROM ACROSS THE SPENCER GULF

All the fun of the Whyalla Show. Page 3

Check out who's been out and about. Pages 18-19

THURSDAY, 20 AUGUST, 2026 WhyallaNewsOnline.com.au | $3.80

TOURISM BUILDS

By Jack O'Halloran

WHYALLA – Whyalla's tourism sector is continuing to provide experiences for visitors and opportunities for young people, despite the non-arrival of the cuttlefish this season casting doubt over the viability of the local industry.

Last year's Cuttlefest resulted in an injection of almost $10 million into the local economy, driven by visitation of 8000 people across several events.

But the lack of cuttlefish arriving in Whyalla waters has been cause for concern that the economic surplus usually presented by the cephalopod could be impacted.

In spite of this, the council has remained committed to providing a unique range of events and opportunities throughout the festival.

In a first for the Cuttlefest, Whyalla City Council's Digital Guestbook has captured photos submitted by residents and visitors during the 2026 winter-long event.

Launched ahead of this year's festival, the digital guestbook provided an opportunity for people to share their favourite Cuttlefest moments through photographs.

Submissions included events and activities, as well as images of Whyalla's coastline and marine life.

Entries were received from locals and visitors, providing a snapshot of how people experienced the festival.

Mayor Stone said the initiative provided a simple way for people to share their experiences.

"Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in a photo," Mayor Stone said.

"It's been great to see the different ways people enjoyed Cuttlefest this year."

Local student Tigalillee has been gaining hands-on experience through a work experience placement at the Whyalla Visitor Information Centre and HMAS Whyalla Maritime Museum.

During her placement, she has assisted with opening and closing procedures, school holiday activities and museum operations, while also observing guided tours aboard HMAS Whyalla.

Tigalillee said the experience had provided a greater understanding of the tourism industry and workplace expectations.

"I've learned a lot about the history of the centre and the ship, as well as work ethics and employment," she said.

"I'm genuinely enjoying it and it's helped me decide that tourism is something I'd like to pursue in the future.

"I'd love to travel, learn about different countries and their histories, and potentially become a tour guide."

She encouraged other students to consider taking advantage of work experience opportunities.

"Don't be nervous and don't overthink it ... if you're stuck, just ask because people will help you," she said.

"It's a great experience that teaches you a lot of skills and gives you a better understanding of the workplace."

Visitor experience coordinator Ali Sanders said Tigalillee had been a positive addition to the team.

"Providing local students with meaningful workplace experiences is an important part of what we do," Ms Sanders said.

"Tigalillee has shown great initiative throughout her placement, and we're proud to support young people as they explore future career pathways here in Whyalla."

Together, the tourism placement and Digital Guestbook provide examples of ongoing engagement with Whyalla's visitor experiences, attractions and events during Cuttlefest 2026.

Whyalla City Council launched the first-ever digital guestbook as part of Cuttlefest 2026. (Whyalla City Council)

14.3 CITY GROWTH

14.3.2 Revocation of Dedication to Council and Community Land Status – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Lucas Trevisan – Manager City Development **File No.:** 0-216
Directorate: City Growth

Attachments:
1 – Ministerial Correspondence

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 to finalise, by resolution, the revocation of various community land parcels.

SUMMARY

The Minister for State/Local Government Relations, Hon Rhiannon Pearce, is agreeable to Council's proposal to revoke the community land designation of lands contained within Attachment 1. Council is now required to finalise the revocation by resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

Council finalises revocation of lands contained within Attachment 1 and written in full, below, from the classification of Community Land, including the consequential amendment to the relevant Community Land Management Plan:

1. **Allotments 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 173, 174, 175, 176, 178, 178, 179 in Hundred of Randell contained within Certificate of Title 5440 Folio 570, and Allotment 1597 in Hundred of Randell contained within Certificate of Title 5721 Folio 620, being the site of the Whyalla Bowling Club, located at 20 Whitehead Street, Whyalla; and**
2. **Allotment 130 in Deposited Plan 79748 contained within Certificate of Title Volume 6045 Folio 130, being the site of the Industrial Estate corridor, located at Lot 130 Lincoln Highway, Whyalla Barson.**

DUE DATE

Revocation of Dedication to Council and Community Land Status – For Endorsement	21/09/2026

14.3.2 Revocation of Dedication to Council and Community Land Status – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Council previously resolved to seek the Minister's consent to revoke numerous parcels from their current community land classification at its meeting on 16 June 2025.

DISCUSSION

Full advice has been provided to Council on this matter previously in reports to Council on 16 June 2025 and 27 January 2026. The current process of finalising the revocation is a legislative requirement as revocation cannot occur without the Minister first consenting. Consent has now been granted in September 2026 (Attachment 1).

Finalisation will also include a consequential amendment to the relevant community land management plan affecting the lands to reflect the revocations.

Financial Implications

It is unlikely that Council will generate any profit from these properties, with the exception of the Whyalla Bowling Club, although what value this might hold, has not yet been considered. The proceeds of sale from crown land parcels will go to the State Government.

There should be a small reduction in maintenance and depreciation costs if they are disposed of.

Strategic Plan

Objective 2.2 *Ensure that assets and facilities infrastructure is maintained and managed to meet the community's needs*

Strategy 2.2.2 Continue to look for opportunities to rationalise assets in line with service delivery

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

Strategy 2.3.1 Provide advocacy and support to facilitate the development of new/improved housing options

Legislation

Local Government Act
Crown Lands Management Act

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

- Reputational Risk: Managed by withdrawing Lot 1134 following the consultation error.
- Procedural Risk: Ensuring compliance with Section 194 of the *Local Government Act 1999.*

Social Considerations – Nil

Community Engagement

Consultation occurred as part of the revocation of community land process.

Environmental Implications – Nil

Conclusion

Following formal approval from the Minister for Local Government, Council has satisfied all preliminary statutory requirements under Section 194 of the *Local Government Act 1999* to revoke the community land classification for the subject parcels.

Passing the recommendation will formally finalise the revocation process pursuant to Section 194(3)(b) of the Act and update the relevant Community Land Management Plans accordingly.

OFFICIAL

Hon Rhiannon Pearce MP

Government of South Australia

26MLG0180

Mr Justin Commons
Chief Executive Officer
Whyalla City Council
PO Box 126
WHYALLA SA 5600

By email: council@whyalla.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Commons,

Thank you for the correspondence from the Whyalla City Council (Council), seeking my approval of the Council's proposal to revoke the classification as community land for the following Subject Land:

1. Allotments 160,161,162,163,164,165,173,174,175,176,178,178,179 in Hundred of Randell contained within Certificate of Title 5440 Folio 570, and Allotment 1597 in Hundred of Randell contained within Certificate of Title 5721 Folio 620, being the site of the Whyalla Bowling Club, located at 20 Whitehead Street, Whyalla; and
2. Allotment 130 in Deposited Plan 79748 contained within Certificate of Title Volume 6045 Folio 130, being the site of the industrial estate corridor, located at Lot 130 Lincoln Highway, Whyalla Barson.

After carefully considering the effect of the revocation of the Subject Land on the area and the local community, I am of the opinion that, on balance, the revocation will be more positive than not in its effect. I approve the Council's proposal to revoke the classification as community land of:

1. Allotments 160,161,162,163,164,165,173,174,175,176,178,178,179 in Hundred of Randell contained within Certificate of Title 5440 Folio 570, and Allotment 1597 in Hundred of Randell contained within Certificate of Title 5721 Folio 620, being the site of the Whyalla Bowling Club, located at 20 Whitehead Street, Whyalla; and
2. Allotment 130 in Deposited Plan 79748 contained within Certificate of Title Volume 6045 Folio 130, being the site of the industrial estate corridor, located at Lot 130 Lincoln Highway, Whyalla Barson.

Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing

PO Box 1066, Adelaide SA 5000
Tel +61 8 8406 3888 | **Email** minister.pearce@sa.gov.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

If the Council wishes to proceed with the revocation, it will need to pass a motion to revoke the community land classification pursuant to section 194(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

I trust the Council will comply with its *Disposal of Land and Assets Policy* by ensuring that the Council obtains an independent valuation no more than six months prior to the proposed disposal of the Subject Land, unless the Council resolves otherwise.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Rhiannon Pearce MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

8 / 9 / 2026

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

14.4 CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

14.4.1 Perks Property Development – Lease Fee – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Geraldine Broadbent – Facilities Co-ordinator **File No.:** 3-117
Directorate: Infrastructure

Attachments:
1 – Map

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

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a lease fee outside of Council's adopted Lease Fee Framework, payable by Perks Property Development for the lease of the Council-owned car park(s) situated on Allotments 3162 and 3163 Lacey Street, comprised in Crown Record Volume 5752 Folio 665 and Crown Record Volume 5752 Folio 666 (refer Attachment 1).

The proposed reduction recognises that the Lessee is responsible for all maintenance, repair and associated operational costs relating to the leased car park infrastructure. These obligations reduce Council's ongoing financial responsibility and support the proposed reduced annual lease fee.

SUMMARY

Perks Property Development has negotiated a new lease with Council for the continued use of the Council-owned car parks located on Lacey Street.

Under the proposed lease, the Lessee will continue to assume responsibility for all maintenance, repair and operational costs associated with the car park infrastructure, including pavement maintenance, line marking, signage and landscaping and ensuring the site remains safe and serviceable throughout the lease term.

While Council's adopted Lease Fee Framework would ordinarily require a commercial lease fee of between $6,480.00 and $7,200.00 (excluding GST), Administration considers that the transfer of these ongoing maintenance obligations provides a financial benefit to Council and supports a reduced annual lease fee of $500.00 plus GST.

The proposed reduction in annual lease revenue is expected to be off-set by the costs avoided through the transfer of maintenance responsibilities to Perks Property Development.

RECOMMENDATION

Council endorses a reduction in the annual lease fee to $500.00 plus GST, payable by Perks Property Development for the lease of the Council-owned car park(s) situated on Allotment(s) 3162 and 3163 Lacey Street, comprised in Crown Record Volume 5752 Folio 665 and Crown Record Volume 5752 Folio 666.

DUE DATE

Finalise lease terms and conditions	30/09/2026
Execution of new lease agreement	15/10/2026

14.4.1 Perks Property Development – Lease Fee – <u>For endorsement</u>

<u>REPORT</u>

BACKGROUND

Following a review of Council's lease and licence fees by Bentleys SA/NT, Council, at its meeting held on 22 September 2025**,** endorsed a Lease Fee Framework. The framework established user groups, discount categories, and minimum and maximum fee thresholds.

Under the Framework, Council has delegated authority to Administration to negotiate and determine lease fees within the approved pricing range. Any proposed lease fee that falls outside of these approved thresholds, must be referred back to Council for consideration and approval.

DISCUSSION

In March 2026, Perks Property Development acquired the business previously operated by the Perks Hotel and has subsequently entered into negotiations with Council regarding the continued use of the Council-owned car parks located on Lacey Street.

Under the previous lease arrangement, the former Lessee was responsible for the ongoing maintenance, repair and upkeep of the leased car park infrastructure in exchange for the nominal annual lease fee of $19.54 (ex GST). As part of the proposed new lease, Perks Property Development has agreed to continue these responsibilities, resulting in no change to Council's maintenance obligations for this site.

In accordance with Council's current Lease Fee Framework, the Lessee has been classified under the Commercial user category, which is eligible for a discretionary discount of up to 10%. Based on this classification, the applicable annual lease fee ranges from $6,480.00 to $7,200.00 (excluding GST).

Administration considers that, while the adopted Lease Fee Framework provides consistency across Council's leasing arrangements, it does not specifically account for circumstances where a Lessee assumes full responsibility for maintaining Council-owned infrastructure at its own expense.

In this instance, the Lessee will continue to undertake all maintenance and repair works associated with the leased car park for the duration of the lease. These responsibilities represent costs that would otherwise be incurred by Council and include both routine maintenance and future repair obligations, and they have agreed to the proposed amount of $500.

Accordingly, Administration considers the reduced lease fee represents an equitable outcome that recognises both the commercial occupation of the land and the ongoing financial benefit provided to Council.

Administration notes that this recommendation reflects the specific circumstances of this lease, where the Lessee accepts responsibility for maintaining Council-owned infrastructure at its own expense. It is not intended to establish a precedent for other commercial lease arrangements, each of which will continue to be assessed on its individual merits.

Financial Implications

Adoption of the recommendation will reduce annual lease revenue from the amount otherwise applicable under Council's Lease Fee Framework. However, Council will avoid all costs associated with maintaining, repairing and operating the leased car park infrastructure for the duration of the lease.

Administration considers the avoided maintenance, repair and operational expenditure is expected to substantially offset the reduction in lease income over the term of the lease.

Strategic Plan

Theme 2:	Our Liveability
Objective 2.2	Ensure that assets and facilities infrastructure is maintained and managed to meet community's needs
Strategy 2.2.2	*Continue to look for opportunities to rationalise assets in lined with shared service levels*
Strategy 2.2.3	*Advocate for shared modern, flexible and fit for purpose infrastructure*
Objective 2.3	Advocate for outcomes that improve the quality of life of Whyalla's residents
Strategy 2.2.3	*Provide a safe and convenient city in which to work and live*

Legislation

Section 202 *Local Government Act 1999* – Alienation of Community Land by Lease or Licence

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

The proposed lease fee is outside Council's adopted Lease Fee Framework and therefore requires Council endorsement.

Administration considers the financial risk to Council to be low as the Lessee assumes responsibility for maintaining the leased infrastructure throughout the lease term, reducing Council's future maintenance liabilities.

Social Considerations

The lease supports the continued operation of an established commercial business while ensuring the associated car park infrastructure is maintained to an appropriate standard without ongoing cost to Council.

Community Engagement – Not required

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication

Following Council approval, Administration will finalise negotiations and execute the lease agreement with Perks Property Development.

Conclusion

The proposed lease continues an existing arrangement whereby the lessee assumes responsibility for maintaining Council-owned car park infrastructure at its own cost.

While the recommended annual lease fee is below the commercial fee prescribed by Council's Lease Fee Framework, Administration considers the reduced fee is justified by the significant ongoing maintenance and repair obligations accepted by the Lessee. These obligations provide an ongoing financial benefit to Council through reduced operational expenditure and asset management responsibilities.

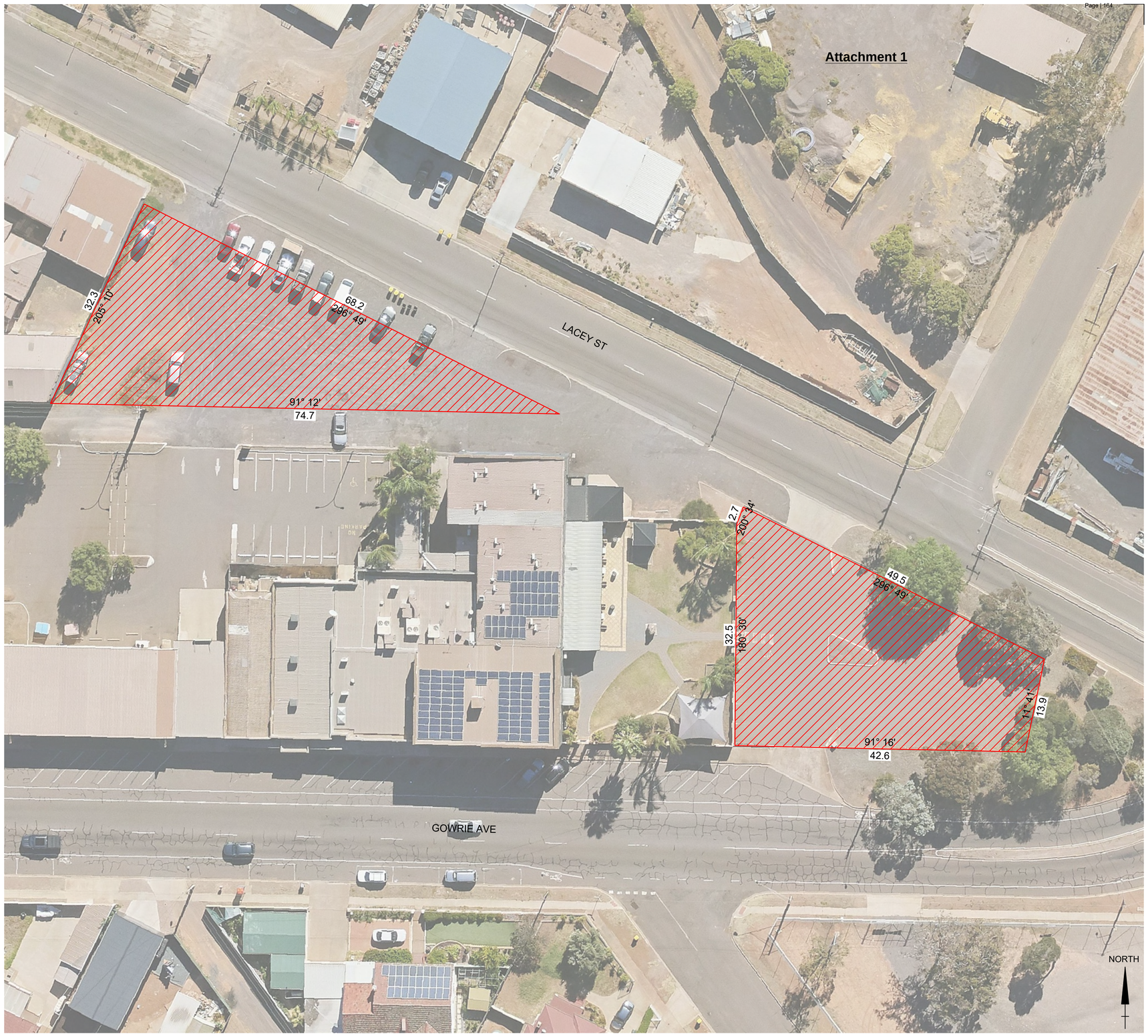
Administration therefore recommends that Council endorse the reduced annual lease fee of $500.00 plus GST and authorise execution of the lease agreement.

Attachment 1

A1



PARCEL CR5752/665 & CR5752/666
SCALE 1:1000



PERKS HOTEL LEASED AREA
SCALE 1:300



AERIAL OF SITE
SCALE 1:750

LEGEND:

	TOTAL LEASED AREA = 2,194m^2
	PARCEL/SITE

REFERENCE DRAWINGS:

DCDB 2024 CADASTRE.
2025 AEROMETERX AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY.

NOTES:

1. ALL MEASUREMENTS IN metres UNO.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS AND LOCATIONS ARE INDICATIVE ONLY AND ARE TO BE CONFIRMED ON SITE.
3. THIS DRAWING HAS BEEN DERIVED FROM REFERENCE DRAWING.
4. LEASED AREA IS APPROXIMATE.

FINAL ISSUE

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	DWN	CHKD
0	12/12/25	New lease plan on 2025 template	A.G	G.B

WHYALLA
WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL
PO Box 126, Whyalla SA 5600
Ph. 08 8640 3444
Fx. 08 8645 0155
Council@Whyalla.sa.gov.au
www.Whyalla.sa.gov.au

G1 - LEASE PLAN
PARCEL CR5752/665 & CR5752/666
PERKS HOTEL

Designed	Drawn	Checked	Date	DRAWING NUMBER	SHEET	REV
G.Broadbent	A.Gilbert	G.Broadbent	12/12/2025	LL0067 A	01-1	0

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WHYALLA

14.4 CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

14.4.2 Driveway Crossover Policy – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Yusuf Khan – Manager Assets and Planning **File No.:** 2-20
Directorate: Infrastructure

Attachments:
1 – Draft Driveway Crossover Policy

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 present the Draft Driveway Crossover Policy (Attachment 1) to Council for endorsement and adoption, establishing a clear framework for the approval, design, construction, maintenance, renewal and funding of driveway crossovers within the road reserve.

SUMMARY

The proposed Driveway Crossover Policy provides:

- a clear framework for assessing and approving driveway crossover applications under Section 221 of the Local Government Act 1999;
- clarifies responsibilities between property owners and Council for construction, maintenance, repair, renewal, and reinstatement of crossovers;
- consistent engineering, safety, and design requirements, including minimum clearances from street trees, utility infrastructure, stormwater assets, poles and intersections;
- a structured funding framework covering owner-funded, Council-funded and shared-cost works;
- current implementation arrangements under which eligible crossover replacement works undertaken as part of Council-led footpath renewal or infrastructure projects are funded by Council, recognising current economic conditions in Whyalla; and
- improves transparency, consistency, asset protection, and streetscape outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopts the Driveway Crossover Policy as the governance framework for the approval, design, construction, maintenance, renewal and funding of driveway crossovers within the City of Whyalla.

DUE DATE

Driveway Crossover Policy – For Endorsement	21/09/2026

14.4.2 Driveway Crossover Policy – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Council currently manages driveway crossover works through its statutory responsibilities for public roads and the City Works Permit process. A dedicated Driveway Crossover Policy has been developed to provide clear and consistent guidance to property owners, applicants and Council staff.

The policy aligns crossover approval and maintenance responsibilities with Sections 218 and 221 of the Local Government Act 1999. Section 221 requires Council authorisation before a person alters a public road to facilitate access from an adjacent property.

The policy also responds to the need for consistent engineering, safety, asset protection, streetscape and funding principles for driveway crossover works, including works undertaken in conjunction with Council footpath renewal and other infrastructure projects.

DISCUSSION

The policy establishes the following key requirements:

1. All new or modified driveway crossover works must receive Council approval under Section 221 before works commence, using Council's City Works Permit Application Form.
2. Applications are assessed having regard to crossover width, road width, allotment frontage, street trees, existing crossovers, stobie poles, utility pits and other services.
3. Property owners are responsible for ongoing maintenance of driveway crossovers between the kerb and property under Section 218 of the Local Government Act 1999.
4. Crossovers must comply with Council specifications, standard details, construction requirements, public liability insurance, contractor requirements, utility location requirements and pre-start notification requirements.
5. Minimum clearances apply, including 1 metre from stobie poles, 1 metre from side-entry pits, 0.5 metre from neighbouring stormwater outlets or pipes, 2 metres from street trees and 10 metres from non-signalised intersections.
6. Commercial properties may be subject to alternative design standards, additional conditions or restrictions where required to protect public infrastructure and maintain safe and efficient road use.

Responsibilities and Compliance

Property owners must construct approved crossover works in accordance with Council specifications and to Council's satisfaction. Where works do not comply, Council may require removal or reconstruction and, where permitted under the Local Government Act 1999, recover associated costs from the property owner.

Council is responsible for crossover approvals and inspections, and for reinstatement where Council works cause damage to an existing crossover.

Funding and Cost Allocation

The policy establishes three funding categories:

1. **Owner-funded works** – new crossovers, owner-requested widening or relocation, development-related upgrades, repairs resulting from owner-caused damage and asset relocations required for owner-requested works.
2. **Council-funded works** – crossover reconstruction required solely because of Council road, footpath, drainage or streetscape projects; reinstatement following Council works; and Council-initiated safety upgrades.
3. **Shared-cost works** – the Policy retains a 50/50 cost-sharing mechanism where an existing crossover is a community risk and not associated with a Council footpath renewal project.

Current Implementation Position

Notwithstanding the shared-cost mechanism, the policy records Council's current implementation position that property owner contributions will not presently be sought for eligible crossover replacement works undertaken in conjunction with Council footpath renewal projects. Until otherwise resolved by Council, eligible crossover replacement works required as part of Council-initiated infrastructure projects will be funded by Council.

This approach recognises current economic conditions within Whyalla while retaining a policy mechanism that provides flexibility for future Councils if circumstances change.

Consultation

Internal consultation has been undertaken with the Infrastructure Department and Assets and Operations personnel. Feedback supported clearer allocation of responsibilities, consistent design and construction standards, protection of Council assets and streetscape outcomes, and flexibility in funding arrangements for Council-led infrastructure projects.

Operational Impacts

The policy is expected to improve consistency in decision-making, reduce ambiguity regarding ownership and maintenance responsibilities, support footpath renewal and streetscape programs, and strengthen protection of Council assets and public infrastructure.

Financial Implications

Property owners remain responsible for new crossovers, owner-requested upgrades and ongoing maintenance obligations. Under the current implementation position, eligible crossover replacement works required as a consequence of Council-led footpath renewal or infrastructure projects will be funded by Council. These costs will need to be managed within relevant Council infrastructure project and renewal budgets. Improved asset management and compliance outcomes are expected to reduce future maintenance and rectification costs.

Strategic Plan

The policy supports Council's strategic objectives by protecting and managing public infrastructure, supporting safe and accessible movement, maintaining streetscape quality and applying consistent asset management and governance practices.

Legislation

Compliance with:

- Local Government Act 1999 – Section 218 (maintenance responsibilities) and Section 221 (alteration of a road/crossover authorisation)
- Road Traffic Act 1961 – vehicle definition
- SA Planning and Design Code
- Council City Works Permit Application Form and associated Standard Details

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

Overall: Low to Moderate Risk

Risk	**Mitigation**
Inconsistent application of crossover requirements	Adopt a single policy framework supported by the City Works Permit process and standard details.
Damage to Council or utility assets	Apply minimum asset clearances, service-location requirements and approval controls before works commence.
Non-compliant construction	Require Council approval, inspections and rectification/reconstruction where works do not meet specifications.
Financial pressure on affected property owners	Maintain the current implementation position of Council funding eligible replacement works arising from Council-led infrastructure projects.

Social Considerations

Positive Impacts

1. Clearer and more consistent requirements for residents, businesses and developers.
2. Improved public safety and protection of footpaths, verges, roadways, street trees and utility assets.
3. Current Council funding of eligible crossover replacement associated with Council-led projects reduces additional financial pressure on affected property owners.
4. Improved streetscape consistency and accessibility outcomes.

Community Engagement

- The draft policy identifies that public consultation is not required. Internal consultation has been undertaken with the Infrastructure Department and Assets and Operations personnel.
- The City Works Permit process will continue to provide the operational interface for property owners and applicants seeking approval for new or modified driveway crossovers.

Environmental Implications

No significant direct environmental impacts are anticipated. The policy supports protection of street trees, stormwater assets and the road reserve by establishing minimum clearances and requiring approval before existing assets are removed or relocated.

Communication

Following Council adoption, the policy will be implemented through Council's existing City Works Permit process and made available through Council's controlled policy framework.

Relevant staff will be advised of the adopted requirements to support consistent assessment, approvals, inspections and communication with applicants.

Implementation:

Council adoption of the Driveway Crossover Policy. Update internal guidance and City Works Permit administration as required. Communicate adopted requirements to relevant Council staff. Apply the policy to new and modified crossover applications and Council-led infrastructure works. Monitor implementation and review the policy within three years or earlier if required by legislation.

Conclusion

The Driveway Crossover Policy provides a clear and practical governance framework for driveway crossover approvals, construction, maintenance, renewal and funding. It strengthens legislative compliance, clarifies Council and property owner responsibilities, improves consistency in engineering and asset protection requirements, and provides a transparent funding approach. Council adoption will support consistent administration of crossover works while recognising current economic conditions within the Whyalla community.

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

Driveway Crossover Policy	
Type	Governance
GDS Category	Governance – Public
Responsible Officer	General Manager City Infrastructure
Policy Adopted	September 2026
Review Period	3 years
Last Reviewed	
Next Review Date	September 2029
Policy Version Number	
Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999
Related Documents	• xxxx
Public Consultation Required	NO
File reference	[Insert file path where control document is saved]

POLICY OBJECTIVE

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The Driveway Crossover Policy (The 'Policy') regulates the design, construction, and maintenance of a vehicle access point between private property and the public road,

1.2. The purpose of the policy is to ensure public safety, protect public infrastructure, maintain streetscape character while ensuring technical compliance of elements within the public road reserve, such as footpaths, verges, and roadways, and

1.3. This Policy is subject to all relevant legislation and defines the responsibilities for the construction, maintenance, removal, and repair of crossovers.

2. SCOPE

2.1. The Policy applies:

2.1.1 Where one (1) or more vehicle crossovers are to be constructed to gain or modify access from a road carriageway to the property boundary of an allotment,

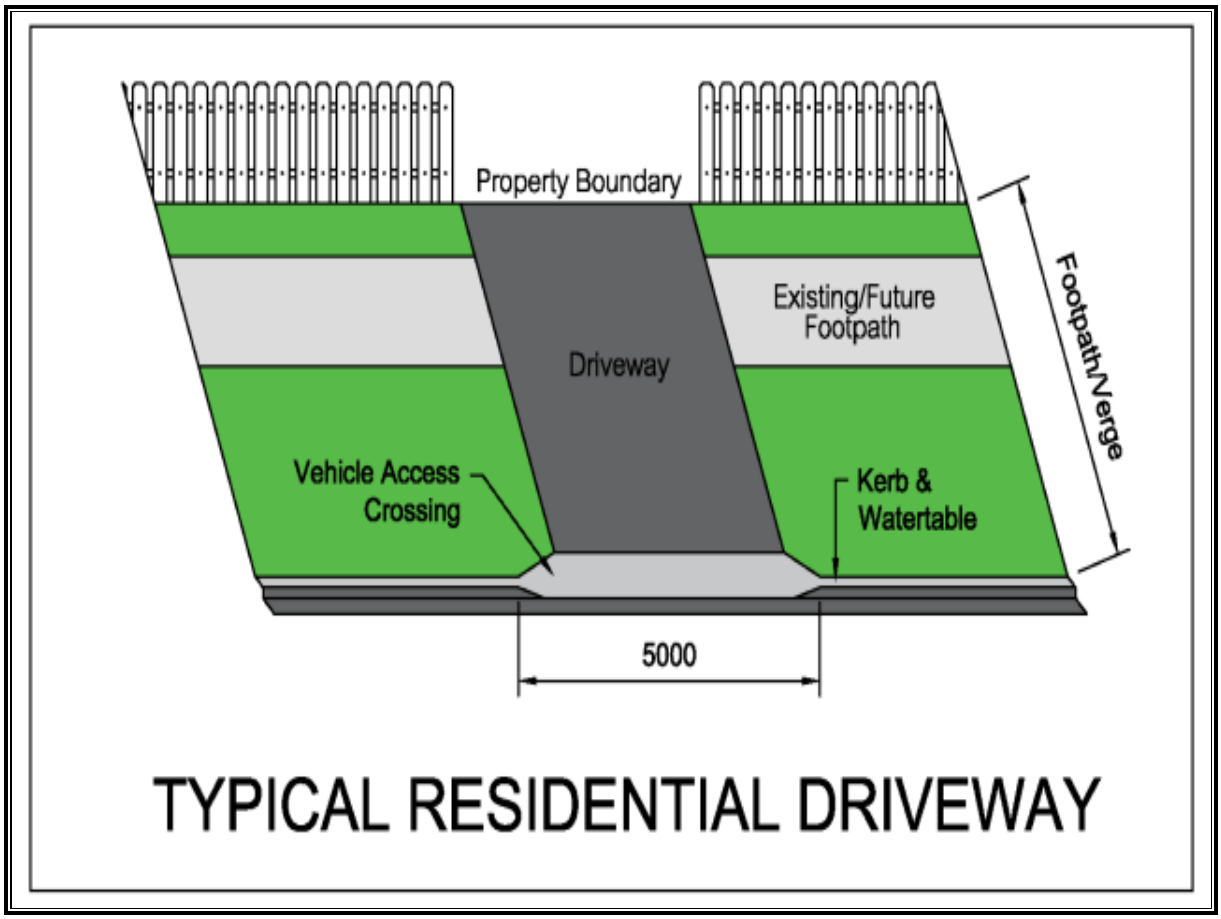
2.1.2 For obtaining Council approval to modify the construction of an existing approved access point, or to apply for a new crossover, and

2.1.3 To the ongoing maintenance and responsibilities of property owners associated with existing crossovers.

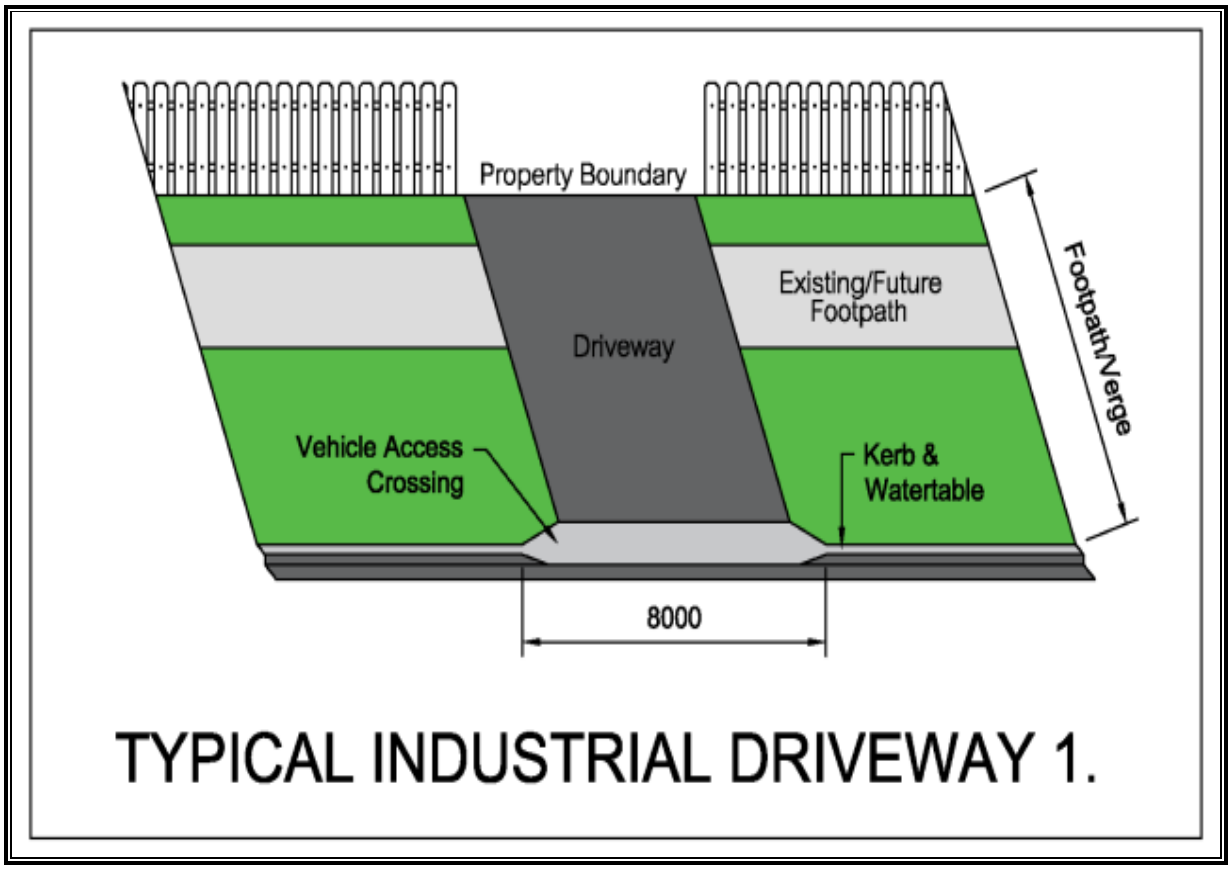
3. DEFINITIONS

Applicant	The owner of the property where the crossover is intended.
Crossover or Driveway	Crossover shall mean the area of road reserve that acts as the point of vehicular access for a property between the road carriageway and the property boundary.
Council	City of Whyalla.
Property owner	The owner of the property that utilises the crossover to access the adjoining road carriageway.
Public Road	Public Road shall have the same definition as the Local Government Act 1999.
Vehicle	Vehicle shall have the same definition as the Road Traffic Act 1961.

Standard Residential Driveway



Standard Industrial Driveway



4. POLICY

4.1. The Driveway Crossover Policy is to be read and implemented in conjunction with Council's other relevant policies, strategies and documents, including:

4.1.1 *Local Government Act 1999 – Section 221 Alteration of a Road*

(1) A person (other than the council or a person acting under some other statutory authority) must not make an alteration to a public road unless authorised to do so by the Council. Maximum penalty: $5000

(2) A person makes an alteration to a public road if the person –

(a) Alters the construction or arrangement of the road to permit or facilitate access from an adjacent property.

(3) An authorisation is not required under this section an alteration to a road if –

(a) The person who proposes to make the alteration has some other statutory authorisation to make the alteration.

4.1.2 SA Planning and Design Code, and

4.1.3 Strategic Plan 2025-2034

5. APPLICATION OF POLICY

5.1. All crossover works must be approved prior to commencement by Council under Section 221 (s221) of the Local Government Act 1999. Applications are to be made in writing by the property owner using Council's City Works Permit Application Form and must include all information required by Council,

5.2 All s221 applications for the provision and approval of crossovers will be considered taking into account crossover width, road width, allotment frontage/s, proximity to existing street trees, proximity to other crossovers, and proximity to other services such as stobie poles and utility pits,

5.3 Property owners are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of driveway crossovers between the kerb and property under *Section 218 of the Local Government Act, 1999,*

5.4 The City Works Permit Application Form sets out detailed operational conditions for crossover works, including (without limitation) the requirement to obtain Council approval prior to undertaking the proposed works:

5.7.1 Construction standards and materials;

5.7.2 Public Liability Insurance (minimum $20,000,000);

5.7.3 Contractor qualifications and any pre-approval by Council;

5.7.5 Before You Dig Australia/utility location and coordination responsibilities; and

5.7.6 Pre-start notification and minimum notice periods before works commence.

5.5 Crossovers contribute visually to the quality and character of streetscapes and should be consistent in materials which are complimentary to the footpath,

5.6 Council may amend the City Works Permit Application Form and associated Standard Details from time to time to reflect updates to legislation without requiring amendment of this Policy,

5.7 Where a crossover is approved as part of a Development Approval, the applicant must still obtain appropriate s221 authorisation and comply with the City Works Permit Application Form and this Policy. In any conflict between a condition of development approval and this Policy, the City Works Form and the s221 conditions will take precedence,

5.8 Crossovers must be designed to provide the following minimum clearances specified below. Any removal and/or relocation of existing assets shall only be permitted where prior written approval has been obtained from all relevant authorities. Where such approval is granted, all associated works shall be undertaken at the applicant's cost and concurrently with the driveway crossover works:

5.8.1 1 metre from stobie poles,

5.8.2 1 metre from side entry pits,

5.8.3 0.5 metre from neighbouring stormwater outlet or pipes,

5.8.4 2 metres from the side of an existing street tree, and

5.8.5 10 metres from non-signalised intersections.

5.9 Commercial properties may be subject to different crossover requirements than residential properties due to the increased operational demands associated with commercial land uses. Council reserves the right to apply alternative design standards, impose additional conditions, or restrict the number and width of commercial property crossovers where necessary to protect public infrastructure and ensure safe and efficient road use.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Property Owner Responsibilities:

6.1.1 The property owner is required to carry out approved crossover works in accordance with Council Specifications and Standard Details and be to Council's satisfaction.

a. Failure to comply with Council specifications may result in Council exercising powers to request removal and/or reconstruction of the crossover, at the property owner's cost,

b. Failure to comply with 6.1.1 may result in Council, in accordance with Section 213(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, carrying out the works to remove and/or reconstruct a crossover and recover the cost, as a debt, from the property owner, and

c. All new crossover works for newly constructed dwellings shall be completed within six months of the date of occupation.

6.2 Council Responsibilities:

6.2.1 Approvals and inspections, and

6.2.2 Reinstatement where Council causes damage.

7. FUNDING AND COST ALLOCATION

7.1 Owner-funded Works

7.1.1 New crossovers associated with a development,

7.1.2 Widening or relocation requested by the owner,

7.1.3 Upgrades associated with development,

7.1.4 Repairs resulting from owner-caused damage, and

7.1.5 Asset relocations required for owner-requested works.

7.2 Council-funded Works

7.2.1 Crossover reconstruction required solely because of Council road, footpath, drainage, or streetscape projects,

7.2.2 Reinstatement following Council works, and

7.2.3 Safety upgrades initiated by Council where the crossover would not otherwise require replacement.

7.3 Shared-cost Works

7.3.1 Where Council determines an existing crossover is a community risk and not aligned with a Council footpath renewal project,

7.3.2 Council will contribute 50% of the replacement cost,

7.3.3 The balance is payable by the property owner, and

7.3.4 Payment arrangements may be approved.

Important Note - Current Implementation Statement

Notwithstanding the shared-cost provisions of this Policy at 7.3, Council has determined that, in recognition of current economic conditions within Whyalla, property owner contributions will not presently be sought for crossover replacement works undertaken in conjunction with Council footpath renewal projects. Until otherwise resolved by Council, eligible crossover replacement works required as part of Council-initiated infrastructure projects will be funded by Council.

8. REVIEW

The Policy will be reviewed every 3 years or as required by legislation.

9. RESPONSIBLE PERSON

General Manager City Infrastructure

10. AUTHORITY

This policy was adopted by Council at its meeting held on Monday 21 September 2026.

15.1 COUNCIL MEMBERS

15.1.1 Mayor Phill Stone – List of Engagements – For Noting

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Michelle Armstrong, Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor **File No.:** 0-97

Attachments – Nil

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 and/or activities undertaken by Mayor Phill Stone for the period 17 August – 20 September 2026, inclusive.

SUMMARY

A list of engagements attended and/or activities undertaken 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	21/09/2026

15.1.1 Mayor Phill Stone – List of Engagements – For Noting

REPORT

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

Monday 20 July 2026

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

Tuesday 18 August 2026

- Vietnam Veterans Day: Placed a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of Council and the City and delivered a Requiem.
- Mayoral Reception: Sunrise Christian School – Hydrogen Grand Prix (H2GP) World Finals
- Adelaide Uni: Future Minds: Creativity and Ethics in the Age of AI Lecture

Wednesday 19 August 2026

- Council Media: Triple Y Council Radio Show

Monday 24 August 2026

- Weekly Briefing with Mayor and Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor

Tuesday 25 August 2026

- EMT, Mayor, Deputy Mayor Monthly Catch-up
- Eyre Peninsula Mayors – Informal Catch-up

Monday 14 September 2026

- Meeting with State Government and Korda Mentha, re Whyalla Steelworks
- Council Media, re Whyalla Steelworks:

    - ❖ Premier's Press Conference: Attended and addressed the group, at the invitation of the Premier
    - ❖ ABC National TV program "Afternoon Briefing" with Patricia Kavales
    - ❖ The Advertiser interview and photo
    - ❖ InDaily radio news interview
    - ❖ ABC Regional Statewide program with Narelle Graham
    - ❖ ABC 891 Adelaide Drive program with Nikolai Beilharz

- Council Members Confidential Briefing Session

Tuesday 15 September 2026

- Council Media, re Whyalla Steelworks:

  - ABC National TV live from Hummock Hill (6.45am)with Nate Byrne
  - ABC radio North and West with Tom Mann
  - 5AU radio with Jordan Curtis
  - Magic FM with Steve Murphy
  - 5AA with Will and Stacey
  - ABC National Radio with Rhiannon
  - TV interviews with Adelaide Channels 9, 10 and SBS

- Eyre Peninsula Mayors – Informal Catch-up

Wednesday 16 September 2026

- Council Media re Whyalla Steelworks: with Tim Webser Breakfast, Radio 2SM, Sydney
- Meeting with Tom Venning; MP – Federal Member for Grey
- Meeting with Ms Christine Scholithe; Music SA – Chief Executive Officer

Thursday 17 September 2026

- Meet the LGA Presidential Candidates – online session
- Whyalla Combined Primary Schools' Festival of Music

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

15.2 CORPORATE SERVICES/CITY GROWTH/EXECUTIVE

15.2.1 Monthly Information Report – September 2026 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026

Author's Title: Colin Sharp – Manager Operations
Craig Inglis – Civil Coordinator
Charuka Sanduni – Waste Officer
Sam Bourne – Project Manager Landscape
Tanvir Sadeque – Airport Operations Lead
Lauren Green – People and Culture Business Partner

File No.: 0-1

Directorate: Infrastructure, Corporate

Attachments:

A – Information Reporting Calendar
B – Indicative Schedule of Upcoming Items
C – Staffing Update
D – Open Space
E – Civil Works
F – Waste
G – Environment/Climate
H – Airport (carried over from August)

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

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 Attachment 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, Chief Executive Review Panel meetings and Council Member Briefings, over a rolling four-month period.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes:

1. **the 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. **September 2026 activity reports for the following services:**

    - **Open Space**
    - **Civil Works**
    - **Waste**
    - **Environment/Climate**
    - **Airport**

DUE DATE

Monthly Information Report – September 2026 – For Noting	21/09/2026

Attachment 1

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.
- Quarterly update: delivery of 4-year Delivery Plan.
- 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

Attachment 2

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION
for the period August 2026 – November 2026

Monday **21 September 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report • Quarterly Procurement Report
Tuesday **6 October 2026**	**COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION**
Friday **9 October 2026**	**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING** • Develop Work Program for Next 12 Months • Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report to Council • Review ABP&B Parameters and Process for Following Year • Review Annual Financial Statements • Review Quarterly Budget Reports • Review Budget vs Actual • Quarterly Procurement Report • Receive End of Year Audit Completion Report • Review Risk Management Policy, Framework, Appetite Statements, Strategic Risk Profile • Review and Monitor the Program of Service Reviews • External Stakeholder Relationship Management • Receive and Consider Performance Assessment Report including any Professional Development Needs • Review the Committee's Terms of Reference • Organisational Leadership and Performance • People and Culture Metrics • Review CEO's Annual Report on the Effectiveness of the Organisation's Culture
Monday **19 October 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report • Quarterly Procurement Report
Monday **2 November 2026**	**COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION**
Monday **16 November 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report

Attachment 3

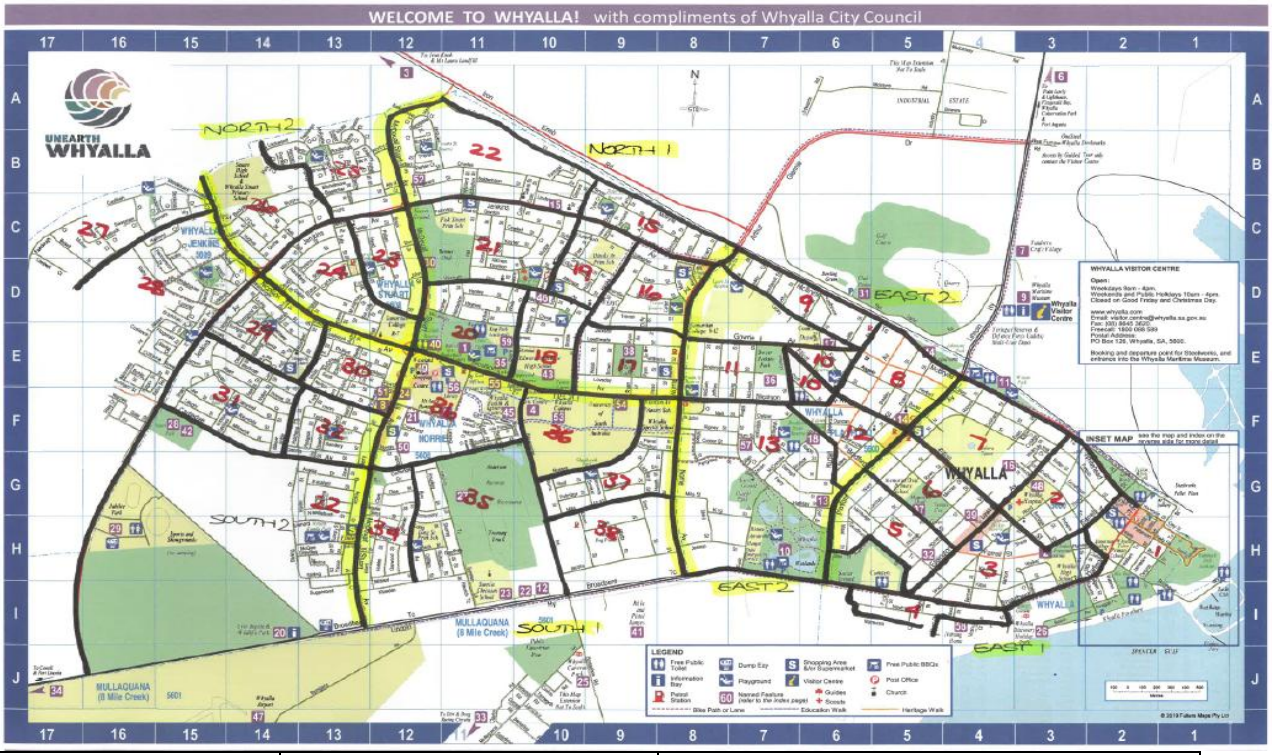
Staffing Update August 2026

	Employee Name	Position Title
Staff Leaving	Norma McQuarrie	Payroll Officer
Staff Leaving	Suzi MacKinlay	Casual Library Officer
Staff Leaving	Grant Jennings	Manager Finance and Knowledge Management
Staff Commencement	Sameer Gautam	Asset Audit Officer – Fixed Term Contract
Staff Commencement	Wenona Waugh	People and Culture Support Officer - Fixed Term Contract

OPEN SPACES

Quarterly Overview- Median, Verge, and Open Space Maintenance

Council's mowing and open space maintenance program continues to deliver structured and efficient resource management of public spaces across the city. The city is divided into 40 maintenance zones, managed by three dedicated teams—North, South, and East—each comprising three staff members. This zoned approach ensures consistent coverage and supports effective workforce allocation.



CREW	ZONES COMPLETED 18.05 – 31.07.2026	OTHER AREAS COMPLETED
North Mowing Crew	Zone 15 Zone 16 x2 Zone 17 x2 Zone 18 Zone 20 Zone 23 Zone 24 Zone 25 Zone 26	• Including all parks and reserves in the North area • Civic Park • Dog Park • Various small shopping precincts (Crews have been running with 1 staff member on Sick leave for the duration of this period)
East Mowing Crew	Zone 2 Zone 7 Zone 8 Zone 9 Zone 10 Zone 11 Zone 13 Zone 37 Zone 38	• Including all small parks and reserves • Wilson Park, • Jessop White Park, • Barson St Triangle, • Sharp St playground • The Wetlands • Visitors Centre Gardens
South Mowing Crew	Zone 27 Zone 30	• Including all small parks and reserves

	Zone31 Zone 33 Zone 34 Zone 35	• Childcare Centre, • Library Gardens • Ocean Eyre, • McGee St Playground • Jubilee Park including show preparations

Landscaping

The major Council, and Department of Transport and Infrastructure collaboration upgrade works at the Playford Avenue and McBryde Terrace intersection are now complete. The Depot has finished laying the remaining turf and commissioned the automatic irrigation system to support establishment of the new grassed areas.

The area is currently being regularly watered and maintained while the turf establishes and beds down. Once fully established, the landscaping is expected to provide an attractive and welcoming entrance statement, improving the overall presentation and amenity of the city.







Weed Control

The Weed Control team maintained service delivery throughout the quarter despite equipment availability challenges, competing operational demands and an exceptionally wet winter, which significantly limited suitable conditions for chemical spraying. Operational capacity was further impacted by the team supporting critical works at the Cemetery and Airport, reducing available resources for routine weed control activities.

Despite these constraints, approximately 70% of the annual laneway spraying program has been completed, with the East Zone remaining to be completed.

The team is also undertaking targeted clover spraying across Council-operated reserves, ovals and sporting club playing surfaces, where work orders have been submitted in accordance with Council policy and procedures. Current works include the Croatia Soccer Club and Lions Soccer Club playing surfaces, supporting safe play, turf health and the longevity of these important community assets.

In parallel, regular garden maintenance has continued across high-profile locations including the library precinct, Ada Ryan Gardens and Flinders Lookout. Targeted pest plant management is also underway at these sites, with biological control methods being utilised where appropriate to support sustainable, environmentally responsible weed management outcomes.

SPRAY CREW	ACTIVITY 18.05 – 31.07.2026
Customer requests	• Remove caltrop • put down ant powder • spray lanes
Library	• tidied garden beds • weeded • removed spent flowers and weeded rose garden • removed dead shrubs, • remove rubbish left by homeless
City Plaza	• weeded and tidied garden beds • pruned shrubs and trees • hand sprayed as needed
Wilson Park	• mowed • brush cut • weeded • hand sprayed
Essington Lewis Ave	• hand weeded and tidied up
Small Reserves	• Brush cut edges ready for mowers
Nicolson Ave Primary School	• Sprayed along front of school ready for mulch being put down
Jubilee Park	• Sprayed ready for Whyalla Show • Removed illegal dumping from in the park
Hummock Hill	• Sprayed after brush cutting
Croquet Club	• Sprayed around outside of club
Cuttlefish Drive	• Brush cut
Depot	• Spray and weed as required
Laneways	• North and South zones complete

Tree Maintenance

Contractor update

Council continues to implement its long-term tree risk management program through an agreement with a local contractor for the staged removal of approximately 700 high-risk trees over a five-year period. This program forms an important part of Council's proactive risk mitigation strategy, supporting public safety while allowing tree removals to be managed in a planned and sustainable manner. Clear communication protocols remain in place to notify nearby residents where proposed tree removals may have a visual, environmental or amenity impact. During the 2025–26 financial year, See Us Maintenance successfully completed the removal of its allocated 96 high-risk trees. Following completion of this program, 604 high-risk tree removals remain under the broader five-year program. See Us Maintenance has now commenced the 2026–27 tree removal program, continuing Council's staged approach to reducing identified tree-related risks across the city.

Council Tree Team

Internally, a revised tree crew work schedule has been implemented to systematically address the substantial backlog of customer service requests while transitioning the team toward a more proactive tree maintenance model. A key focus of the revised program is the progressive lifting of tree canopies across Council's road medians, parks and reserves and support for community events. This proactive approach will improve sightlines, access and general presentation while supporting safer and more usable public spaces.

The program is also assisting Council in addressing several antisocial issues experienced within high-use areas, particularly the Civic Park precinct, by improving visibility, accessibility and the overall amenity of the surrounding environment. This planned maintenance approach will help reduce reactive requests and provide a more consistent and sustainable level of tree management across the city.

Tree Maintenance Activity Snapshot

Maintenance activities, including.

- 84 stump grinding-removals works (internal crews and contractors combined)
- 48 trees removed as part of targeted risk management completed by council arbour team
- 130 pruning works completed across multiple locations
- 2516 trees watered to support establishment and tree health
- 308 trees audited to inform ongoing maintenance and risk prioritisation

These combined efforts demonstrate a strong focus on public safety, asset sustainability, and improved customer outcomes through structured planning and data-driven maintenance delivery

Irrigation & Water Management

The team continued its scheduled fortnightly and monthly maintenance program across Council's irrigation network, servicing reserves, road medians and sporting ovals to ensure system reliability and efficient water use. This proactive maintenance program supports the longevity of irrigation assets, maintains consistent turf and landscape quality, and reduces the likelihood of system failures and costly reactive repairs. The continued servicing program is particularly important as Council prepares for the warmer months and increased irrigation demand.

Premier Sporting Ovals & Jubilee Park

Council's premier sporting ovals at Bennett Oval, Memorial Oval, and Jubilee Park continue to receive high-standard turf management in line with specialised maintenance programs to support year-round sporting and recreational use.

During the reporting period, the ovals were mowed weekly to maintain optimal playing surfaces and aesthetics. Monthly fertilisation and nutrient application were conducted in accordance with the external turf management program, complemented by regular aeration to enhance soil health, water penetration, and turf resilience. Continued maintenance has been undertaken across Memorial, Bennett and Jubilee Ovals, with additional technical support provided by a Living Turf consultant to assist the team in maintaining and improving playing surfaces.

Green by Nature has been engaged to undertake cricket pitch preparation for the upcoming season, with works at Memorial Oval scheduled for Wednesday, 23 September, following the completion of the current men's football season. Council has also raised purchase orders for a grass scarifier, fertiliser sprayer and cricket pitch clay spreader. This equipment will enable Council to progressively bring cricket pitch preparation works in-house, reducing reliance on out-of-town contractors while building internal capability. The first in-house pitch preparation works are scheduled to commence at Bennett Oval from 7 December, coordinated around the women's football season.

As part of Council's commitment to developing internal expertise, Grounds Keeper Gordan will attend Adelaide Oval on 7 September to undertake Level 1 Accredited Cricket Pitch Curator training. This investment in staff training, equipment and technical support demonstrates Council's commitment to delivering cost efficient high-quality, safe and playable sports surfaces for the community and local sporting clubs.

Cemetery

The Cemetery Curator and operational team have continued to deliver a high standard of maintenance and grounds management across the cemetery precinct. Despite staffing challenges, the team is actively seeking suitable candidates to train as relief operators to support continuity in this critical service and ensure the cemetery remains well maintained and presented for the community. Routine mowing, turf care, and general maintenance have been consistently undertaken to ensure the site is maintained to the highest standards, reflecting respect and dignity for the community, visitors, and the families of those interred.

Customer Requests

Staff continue to manage a sustained high volume of incoming customer requests throughout 2026.

Customer Request Comparison:

Current Reporting Period	Previous Reporting Period
13 April to 16 August 2026 (18 weeks)	1 January to 12 April 2026 (15 weeks)
Total CRs received: 829	Total CRs received: 876
Total CRs closed: 662	Total CRs closed: 584
Closure rate: 79.9%	Closure rate: 66.7%
Current backlog: 369 outstanding CRs	Current backlog: 385 outstanding CRs

Key Takeaways

• Significant improvement in closure performance: The closure rate increased from 66.7% to 79.9%, a 13.2 percentage-point improvement.

• More CRs were closed despite fewer being received: Closures increased by 78 CRs (13.4%), while incoming CRs decreased by 47 (5.4%).

• Backlog reduced: Outstanding CRs fell from 385 to 369, a reduction of 16 CRs (4.2%).

• Lower incoming workload: Average weekly CRs received dropped from 58.4 to 46.1, meaning the team faced around 12 fewer CRs per week in the second period.

• Weekly closure output was broadly stable: Average closures were 38.9/week versus 36.8/week. Given the longer second period, the headline increase of 13.4% in total closures is partly due to having three additional weeks.

Overall

The second reporting period shows a clear improvement in the team's capacity to meet customer demand. The team closed substantially more Customer Requests (CRs) than in the previous period, achieved a significantly higher closure rate, and reduced the overall backlog. While the backlog remains significant at 369 outstanding CRs, the positive trend demonstrates improved operational capacity.

Key Insight

The team is maintaining a consistent and improved closure rate, which is pleasing. The increase in closed customer requests can be attributed to a combination of reduced customer request volumes from the community, improved staffing levels, and stronger coordination across the Open Spaces teams.

The effective use of a labour hire employee, who can move between departments as operational requirements change, has also helped mitigate workforce gaps. This flexibility has provided greater coverage, increased workforce capacity, and enabled the team to respond to and close customer requests more effectively while continuing to meet established service standards.

Overall, the improved coordination, workforce flexibility and increased staffing capacity are contributing positively to the team's ability to manage customer requests and better achievement of service delivery expectations.

Customer Correspondence

The Depot team continues to receive positive feedback from the community, reflecting the professionalism, responsiveness, and dedication of Council staff across a range of operational areas. Recent correspondence highlights both individual and team achievements in maintaining public spaces, resolving issues, and enhancing community amenity. This correspondence underscores the importance of staff dedication, attention to detail, and community engagement in delivering high-quality services. Positive community feedback not only reinforces operational success but also strengthens public confidence in Council's capacity to maintain safe, attractive, and accessible public spaces.

To Whom It May Concern,
On behalf of Nicolson Avenue Primary School, I would like to formally extend our appreciation to the Whyalla City Council, with particular thanks to Damien Allen and his team. Their prompt response of the works completed at the front of our school along Nicolson Avenue were very much appreciated.
The improvements and cleaning undertaken in this area have significantly enhanced the visibility and overall appearance of our school frontage. It now presents a much more inviting and welcoming environment for our families and the wider community.
Once again, thank you for your support and commitment to our school.
Kind regards
Phil Datson

On behalf of Tanderra Craft Village Board we would like to thank you for the work done on the Potholes at Tanderra, we very much appreciate your help in this matter and congratulate the workers for their excellent work, Thank you , Ellen Zukowski

Gary Creber has asked for a message to be given to the Grader driver that attended the laneway he complained about last week, he wanted to tell him thank you very much for a fantastic job can this be passed on please.

The elderly lady that lives at [Redacted] Avenue came in today to say how grateful she was for her nature strip being done, she was one happy camper 😊

Playgrounds

Since receiving the 2025 playground audit report, where there was a total of 247 risks identified, staff have managed to reduce this closing out 111 risks in total leaving 146 remaining see table below for reference

Risk	Audit 11/25	Closed	Outstanding	Comment
Very High	0	0	0	
High	7	6	1	
Medium	137	80	57	
Low	105	17	88	
Very Low	0	0	0	
Total	**249**	**103**	**146**	**17/08/2026**

Since the last report, our playground team has successfully rectified the last four remaining high-risk items identified during the 25-26 Playground audit. All required works have now been completed at the Wetland's nature play, allowing the area to be reopened for the public to safely enjoy. Photos of the completed works are attached for reference. The one remaining high-risk stays, as we can't modify the playground per Australian standards and LGRS guidelines the risk has been addressed and is safe for the public to enjoy.

As part of Council's playground audit process, each identified item is assessed according to its level of risk. A Low-risk rating indicates that the identified issue does not require corrective works at the time of

inspection. This does not necessarily mean that there is no risk present; rather, the risk is considered sufficiently low that no immediate action or rectification is required.

Low-risk items can include potential or unforeseen risks that may only occur under particular circumstances. For example, playground equipment may become hot when exposed to prolonged sunlight, creating the potential for a young child to burn their skin. While this is recognised as a potential risk, it does not generally require specific rectification works and is therefore appropriately classified as Low Risk.

The completion of the four outstanding high-risk items represents a positive outcome from the audit process and demonstrates Council's commitment to addressing identified safety risks in a timely manner. Our playground inspector will continue to monitor all playground through its routine inspection and maintenance programs, with any emerging issues assessed and prioritised according to the established risk-rating framework.

We have just gone out to market for the 26-27 annual playgrounds audit; we eagerly await their submissions and are looking forwards to the audits being undertaken in mid-October with the reports lodged to council mid-November





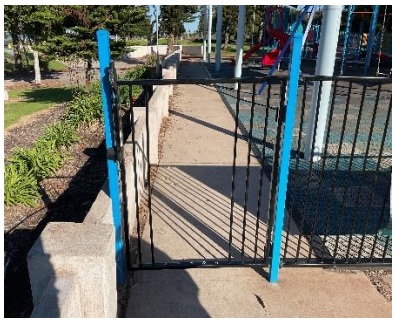
<u>Vandalism Impact</u>

Vandalism continues to have a direct impact on Council's operational resources, with damage to public infrastructure, facilities, signage and community assets resulting in additional reactive maintenance, repair costs and staff time. These incidents can also reduce the availability and presentation of public spaces while repairs are undertaken. Council staff continue to respond to vandalism incidents as they are identified, prioritising public safety and restoring affected assets as quickly as practicable. Where possible, damaged items are repaired rather than replaced to minimise costs and extend asset life. Ongoing vandalism places additional pressure on existing maintenance programs and resources, requiring teams to divert from scheduled works to address unplanned repairs. Council will continue to monitor vandalism trends, assess opportunities to improve asset resilience and work with relevant stakeholders and the community to reduce the frequency and impact of these incidents.

Quarter cost to budget $6,558.00

26-27 cost to budget $21,338.60




Community Events Support

The Depot continues to provide strong operational support to the Events Team in delivering Whyalla's regionally significant community activities. These events showcase Whyalla's many positive attractions while contributing to community spirit, tourism and the city's regional profile. Support has included the Cuttlefish Season activities at Point Lowly and associated festival events, including the Salty Sea Feast, the highly popular Whyalla Show and National Tree Day.

It is pleasing to see Team Whyalla working collaboratively across Council to support these events and ensure they are delivered successfully for the community. The continued cooperation and willingness of teams to work together demonstrates Council's commitment to delivering high-quality community events and promoting Whyalla as a vibrant, welcoming and connected regional city.





national
tree day
WHYALLA





CIVIL WORKS

The fourth quarter of the 2025–26 financial year has been a notably busy and productive period for the Civil Team. Operational efforts have remained strongly focused on delivering essential maintenance services across the city, while maintaining careful oversight of budget allocations to ensure financial sustainability.

Throughout the quarter, the team has continued to deliver core service functions, including patrol grading, street sweeping, road patching operations, rubbish collection and event support These activities have been undertaken in alignment with established service standards, with a continued emphasis on maintaining asset condition and supporting community expectations.

However, the quarter has also presented several workforce challenges. The departure of experienced staff has resulted in reduced capacity and gaps in critical skill sets, placing additional pressure on remaining team members. Despite these constraints, the team has demonstrated resilience and adaptability, prioritising key service areas to maintain service delivery. Overall, while resourcing pressures have impacted operational flexibility, the Civil Team has continued to perform effectively, balancing service demands with budget considerations and maintaining a consistent level of service across essential operations.

Road Sweeper Summary

Across all Quarter Analysis – 2025–26 Financial Year

Metric	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	End fy Total
Total Tonnes	365.29	264.39	113.34	199	**942.02**
Total Zones	59	52	27	49	**187.00**
Customer Req	5	1	4	1	**11**

Total Tonnes

The first quarter recorded the highest volume of profiling at 365.29 tonnes, before decreasing to 264.39 tonnes in Q2, representing a 27.6% reduction. Tonnes processed then reduced significantly in Q3 to 113.34 tonnes, a further 57.1% decrease from Q2. Activity increased in Q4 to 199 tonnes, representing a 75.6% increase on Q3, indicating a recovery in activity towards the end of the financial year. Across the full financial year, 942.02 tonnes were recorded, with Q1 accounting for approximately 38.8% of the annual total and Q4 contributing 21.1%.

Total Zones

The number of zones serviced decreased from 59 in Q1 to 52 in Q2, a reduction of 11.9%. This reduced further to 27 zones in Q3, before recovering to 49 zones in Q4. The Q4 result represents an 81.5% increase compared with Q3 and demonstrates a significant return towards the service levels achieved earlier in the year. A total of 187 zone services were recorded across the four quarters.

Customer Requests

Customer requests remained relatively low throughout the year, with 5 requests in Q1, reducing substantially to 1 in Q2. Requests increased to 4 in Q3 before reducing again to just 1 request in Q4. A total of 11 customer requests were received for the financial year, indicating that the majority of works were delivered through the planned maintenance program rather than reactive customer requests.

End-of-Financial-Year Summary

Overall, the data shows variable quarterly activity, with the highest level of service delivery occurring in Q1, a reduction through Q2 and Q3, followed by a noticeable recovery during Q4. The increase in both tonnes and zones serviced during Q4 demonstrates improved activity levels towards the end of the financial year.

The 942.02 tonnes processed and 187 zone services recorded across the year represent a significant level of ongoing maintenance activity. The consistently low number of customer requests, totalling only 11 for the year, also indicates that the service was predominantly driven by planned and proactive maintenance rather than reactive demand.

Pave-liner Road Patcher

Metric	Q1 25–26	Q2 25–26	Q3 25–26	Q4 25–26	FY Total
Total Aggregate kg	57,531	22,825	14,921	39,021	**134,298**
Total Emulsion litres	12,454	3,875	2,308	5,098	**23,735**
Coordinator Requests	16	26	27	26	**95**
Zones Completed	47	18	47	163	**275**

Quarter-on-Quarter Performance

Total-Aggregate

Aggregate usage was highest in Q1 at 57,531, before reducing significantly to 22,825 in Q2, a decrease of 60.3%. Usage continued to decline in Q3 to 14,921, a further 34.6% reduction. Q4 saw a substantial recovery to 39,021, representing a 161.5% increase on Q3. Despite the strong recovery in Q4, the annual result of 134,298 remained below what would have been achieved if Q1 activity levels had been sustained throughout the year. The results indicate a significant reduction in material usage through the middle of the financial year, followed by increased activity during Q4.

Total-Emulsion

Emulsion followed a similar pattern, falling from 12,454 in Q1 to 3,875 in Q2, a reduction of 68.9%, and then further declining to 2,308 in Q3. Q4 recorded a significant increase to 5,098, representing a 120.8% increase on Q3. The annual total was 23,735, with the Q4 increase indicating a strong return to higher levels of road maintenance activity towards the end of the financial year.

Coordinator-Requests

Coordinator requests remained relatively consistent after the initial increase in Q2. Requests increased from 16 in Q1 to 26 in Q2, followed by a further increase to 27 in Q3. Q4 recorded 26 requests, only one fewer than Q3.

A total of 95 coordinator requests were received during the financial year. The relatively stable demand during Q2–Q4 indicates that the need for road maintenance services remained consistent despite fluctuations in material usage.

Zones-Completed

Zones completed showed the most significant improvement across the financial year. Q1 recorded 47 zones, falling sharply to 18 in Q2, before recovering to 47 in Q3. Q4 then recorded a substantial 163 zones completed, representing a 246.8% increase on Q3. The annual total of 275 completed zones demonstrates a significant increase in delivery during the final quarter and indicates a strong focus on completing programmed works before the end of the financial year.

End-of-Year Summary

Overall, 2025–26 demonstrated a strong recovery in operational output during Q4. While aggregate and emulsion usage reduced considerably during Q2 and Q3, both measures increased substantially in Q4 as road maintenance activity accelerated. The most notable result was the increase in zones completed, rising from 47 in Q3 to 163 in Q4. This represents a significant improvement in productivity and demonstrates the team's ability to increase delivery when conditions, resources and programming allow.

Coordinator requests remained relatively stable throughout the second half of the year, finishing at 26 in Q4 and 95 for the financial year. This suggests that the underlying demand for road maintenance remained consistent, while the level of material consumption varied according to the type, scale and timing of works undertaken.

In summary, the financial year finished strongly, with Q4 recording substantial increases in aggregate usage, emulsion usage and, most notably, zones completed. This indicates improved delivery capacity and a strong close to the 2025–26 road maintenance program.

Concrete Summary

Quarter-on-Quarter Performance

The 2025/26 financial year demonstrates a variable but ultimately strong level of concrete delivery. While activity reduced noticeably during Q2, the program recovered strongly in Q3 and maintained a solid level of delivery through Q4. The quarterly fluctuations are largely reflective of changing operational priorities, including the delivery of community asset improvements, rather than a reduction in Council's capacity to undertake its core footpath, kerb and driveway maintenance responsibilities.

Measure	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	End FY Total
Replacement / Repairs	30	14	28	28	100
Footpath Length (m)	225.9	176.2	268.5	207	877.6
Kerb Replacement / Repairs	1	2	1	2	6
Kerb Length (m)	14	16.3	14	11	55.3
Driveway Works (Count)	16.3	0	1	3	6
Driveway Length (m)	33	0	12	29	74
Other Requirements (Count)	13	2	2	4	21
Other Requirements (Value)	73	59.4	10	22.2	164.6
Concrete Usage (m^3)	56.6	39	35.5	10.4	141.5

Quarter-on-Quarter Performance

The quarterly results show a clear dip in activity during Q2, followed by a significant recovery in Q3 and sustained delivery through Q4. Footpath activity provides the clearest indication of this trend. Footpath replacement and repair reduced from 30 jobs in Q1 to 14 jobs in Q2, before recovering to 28 jobs in both Q3 and Q4. Physical delivery followed a similar pattern, reducing from 225.9 metres in Q1 to 176.2 metres in Q2, before increasing substantially to 268.5 metres in Q3, the highest quarterly result of the year.
The Q2 reduction should therefore not be viewed in isolation as a decline in service delivery. During this period, the team was also supporting and delivering major community asset improvements, including bus stop installations and flagpole works at Wilson Park. These activities required resources to be redirected

from routine footpath works and demonstrate the team's flexibility in responding to broader Council priorities.
Q3 represents the peak delivery quarter for footpath renewal, with 268.5 metres completed. This was an increase of approximately 52% compared with Q2 and demonstrates strong delivery capacity when programmed footpath works were prioritised.
The Q4 result of 207 metres remained above the Q2 level, indicating that the recovery was sustained rather than being a one-off increase in activity

Footpath works
Q1: 225.9 m
Q2: 176.2 m
Q3: 268.5 m
Q4: 207.0 m
Annual total: 877.6 m

Across the full financial year,
The Concrete team completed 100 footpath replacement or repair jobs, averaging 25 jobs and approximately 219 metres per quarter. The number of individual footpath jobs reinforces the same operational pattern:
Q1: 30 jobs
Q2: 14 jobs
Q3: 28 jobs
Q4: 28 job

Kerb replacement and repair activity remained relatively consistent throughout the year:
Q1 – 1 job / 14 m
Q2 – 2 jobs / 16.3 m
Q3 – 1 job / 14 m
Q4 – 2 jobs / 11 m
A total of 6 kerb repair or replacement jobs covering 55.3 metres were completed during 2025/26. The minimal variation in both job numbers and physical length suggests that kerb works are generally targeted and condition-based rather than high-volume programmed works. There is no evidence of a structural change in demand for kerb repairs across the financial year.

Driveway replacement and repair activity was considerably more variable:
Q1 – 2 jobs / 33 m
Q2 – 0 jobs
Q3 – 1 job / 12 m
Q4 – 3 jobs / 29 m
The annual result was 6 driveway works covering 74 metres. The fluctuations are consistent with the nature of driveway works, which are generally trigger-based and undertaken in response to identified damage, condition issues or customer requests. The absence of works in Q2 should therefore not be interpreted as a performance issue, as demand for this type of work is inherently variable and is not generally controlled through a consistent quarterly program.

Other requirements and requests
21 jobs covering 164.6 metres. The highest number of other requirements occurred in Q1, with 13 requests, before reducing significantly in Q2 and Q3. Q4 recorded a modest increase to four requests. This again reflects the responsive nature of these works and the changing mix of operational priorities throughout the year.

Concrete usage reduced progressively across the financial year:

Q1 – 56.6 m³
Q2 – 39.0 m³
Q3 – 35.5 m³
Q4 – 10.4 m³
Annual total – 141.5 m³

The higher Q1 consumption corresponds with the greater volume of physical works undertaken during that quarter. The continued reduction through Q3 and particularly Q4 suggests that the mix of completed works shifted toward projects requiring less concrete, despite footpath repair activity remaining relatively strong.

End-of-Year Assessment

Overall, the 2025/26 results demonstrate a strong concrete maintenance program. The temporary reduction in Q2 was influenced by the diversion of resources toward community asset improvements, particularly bus stop installations and Wilson Park flagpole work, rather than representing a sustained decline in core service delivery. The strong recovery in Q3, including the year's highest footpath output of 268.5 metres, demonstrates the team's capacity to increase delivery when programmed works are prioritised. Maintaining 28 footpath jobs in both Q3 and Q4 further confirms that the recovery was sustained through the second half of the financial year. In total, the program delivered 100 footpath replacement and repair jobs covering 877.6 metres, together with 55.3 metres of kerb works, 74 metres of driveway works and 164.6 metres of other civil requirements. The overall trend for 2025/26 is therefore considered positive, with fluctuations in quarterly activity primarily reflecting changing operational priorities and demand-driven works rather than any reduction in the team's ability to deliver core civil maintenance services.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

National Tree Day

National Tree Day 2026 was a huge success, with a total of 800 plants given away as part of the event, ranging in size from groundcovers to large shrubs.

In the lead-up to the event, Council distributed 20 boxes of mystery shrub packs, with each box containing 10 plants, to local schools, kindergartens and childcare centres.

The National Tree Day community event was held on 25 July 2026 at Ada Ryan Gardens. A small number of leftover plants were subsequently planted around the Hummock Hill area.













Waste Education

- The ‘Take the Pledge’ program was successfully continued throughout the 2025/26 financial year. Since the program commenced, more than 2,750 residents have engaged directly with waste education activities.

- More than 1,000 residents participated in Council and KESAB community and school waste education activities during 2025/26. Six registered households were also selected as winners as part of the program.

- KESAB and a Triple Y radio presenter pre-recorded four interviews to be aired during the fortnightly Community Talks segment. Each episode focused on what goes in each bin, including commonly found contaminants, why they cause problems, and the potential risks they pose within the respective waste processing pathways.

- A waste education stall was held at the Sea’Esta event, engaging approximately 150 residents with waste education and recycling information.



School Waste education

Waste education sessions were conducted at Long Street Primary School, engaging approximately 139 students.



Online waste education

Waste education is promoted through Council's social media as part of the **Enjoy Whyalla** program.



The recycling bin is designed for clean paper and cardboard; glass bottles and jars; aluminium and steel cans; and hard plastic containers. If you put these in your recycling, you help reduce the amount of precious natural materials being consumed / extra energy being used to produce new items from scratch. Take aluminium foil – recycling it saves more than 90% of the energy required to produce it from raw materials!

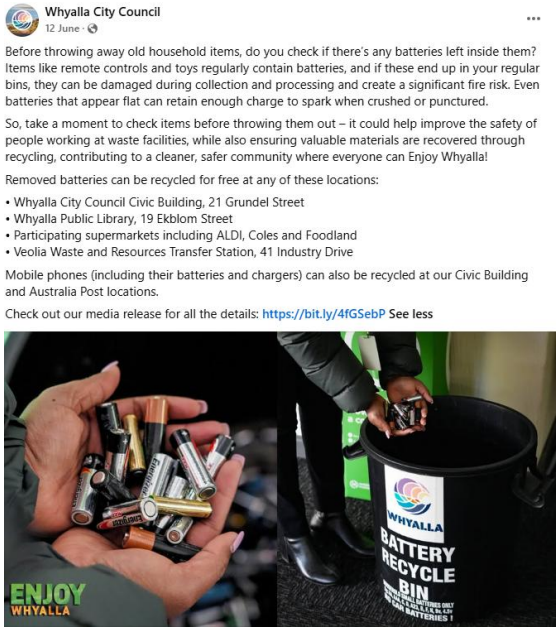
Here's some simple recycling tips you can follow:

✅ Aluminium foil can be recycled by scrunching it up into a ball the size of a tennis ball
✅ If your foil ball is smaller than this, keep adding to it or put it in an aluminium can
✅ Aluminium trays and pie plates can go into your recycling bin loose – just make sure they're fairly clean
✅ Empty and rinse containers before they go in the bin
✅ Metal / aluminium lids from cans and jars (and bottles with screw-tops) can be placed inside a metal can – just squeeze the top of it shut so the lids don't fall out
❌ Never place recyclable items in a bag – they should go in loose

If you're ever unsure about what can and can't go in your yellow recycling bin, visit whichbin.sa.gov.au, which has a host of other handy recycling hints. If you've got other materials that don't go in any of your bins and you want to minimise costs to dispose of them, be sure to check out our list of free waste options here: https://whycc.au/3Rc4HKM

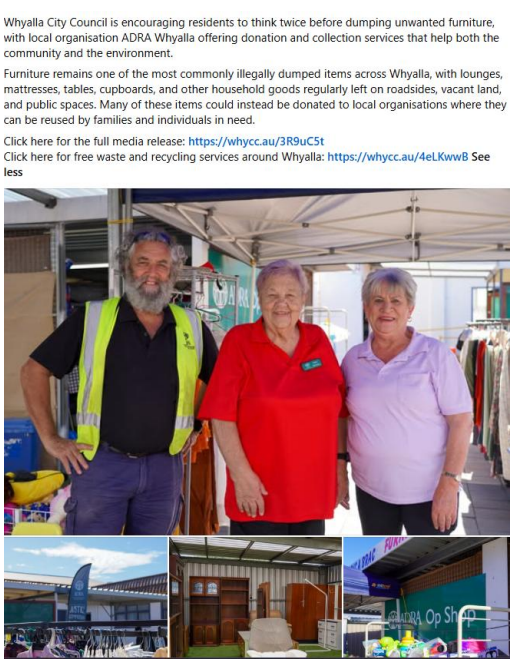
Click here to read the full media release: https://whycc.au/4vGq1H8 See less

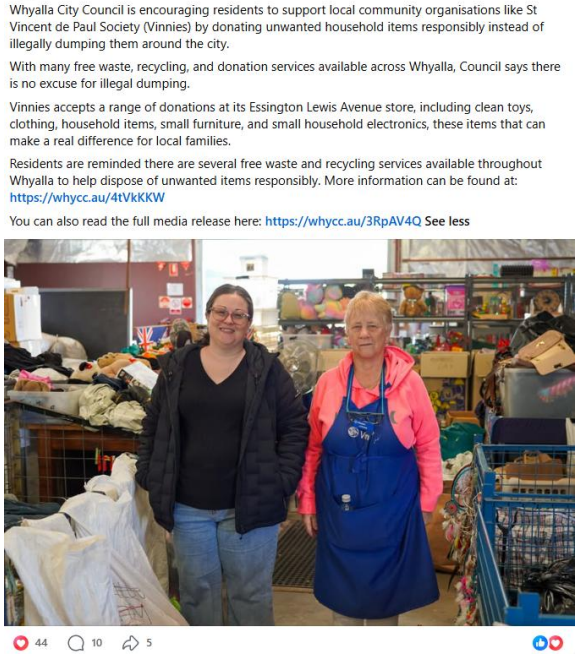




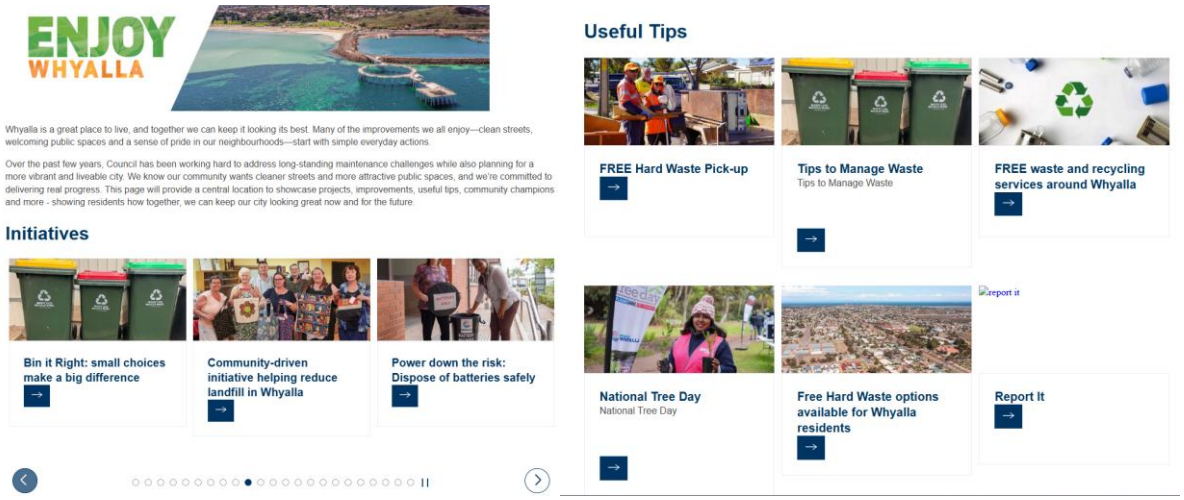


- Reuse options are being promoted through Council's Facebook page, particularly through community groups and organisations such as Vinnies and ADRA.





- Fridge magnets featuring a QR code were distributed to residential properties across Whyalla. The QR code directs residents to the Enjoy Whyalla webpage, where they can access waste-related tips, information and details about free waste drop-off options. This initiative resulted in a significant increase in webpage engagement. Approximately 10,000 fridge magnets were distributed through a local direct-mail service. This local service was selected as a cost-effective option while also providing an opportunity to support a local business.



Other

- Regional transport funding application was successful, and Council will receive an estimated amount $78,746 for transporting recyclable materials to Adelaide.

- Ongoing collaboration with the EP Regional Waste Strategic Team continued and the Upper Spencer Gulf Regional Waste Strategic Review was completed with feedback provided by Whyalla City Council.

- Council's kerbside collection contract with Veolia has been extended for another 12 months.

- Planning for the **"Set Your Clothes Free"** event is underway in collaboration with GISA. GISA will provide funding for the project. The event will be held on 31st October.

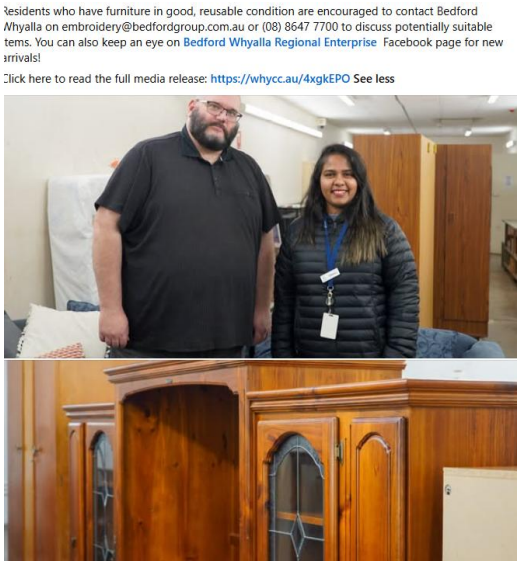
- Planning for the Garage Sale Trail event is underway. From this financial year, GISA will provide funding for the event, which was previously funded by Council.

- Council has applied GISA funding to establish an embedded battery collection drop-off point and to support hazardous waste collection.

- Council has collaborated with TechCollect on a free e-waste drop-off initiative. Residents will soon be able to drop off electrical and electronic items for free at the Transfer Station. The collection of electrical items will be Council-funded, while the collection of electronic items will be covered under the national scheme.

- Hard waste data – 1208 hard waste collections for 25/26 year.
  Council has collaborated with Bedford on a furniture reuse initiative alongside Whyalla City Council's Hard Waste Collection service. The initiative is helping divert usable household items from landfill while supporting local households and creating employment and training opportunities for people with disability. During the first month, approximately 955 kilograms of reusable furniture was recovered through the hard waste service and other donations.





ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

Whyalla Foreshore Sand Replenishment Program – May 2026 Project.

Council completed a sand replenishment project along the Whyalla Foreshore between the Caravan Park and Whyalla Waves Café in May 2026, in partnership with the Coast Protection Board.

Approximately 3,500m³ of sand and beach-cast seagrass wrack was strategically relocated to form a sacrificial foredune in front of the emerging vegetated foredune. The project was undertaken in preparation for the high tides expected in late May and early June, with the sacrificial foredune designed to absorb the impact of the tides and wave action and protect the newly establishing foreshore vegetation and beach-side assets from erosion and damage.

The project was completed by local contractor Whyalla Earthworks between 11 and 15 May 2026. Public safety was a key consideration throughout the works, with the beach temporarily closed to public access and spotters positioned along the boardwalk to maintain communication with machinery operators and safely manage pedestrian movements.

The works successfully improved the beach profile and provided an additional protective buffer for the emerging foredune and adjacent foreshore assets during the subsequent high-tide period.

The project area is pictured below.





Picture taken 26 May 2026 showing the sacrificial bund of sand still working to protect the vegetated foredune behind it from the actions of the recent high tides

Airport Report (March – October 26)

Overview

The Airport Operations Team has been actively supporting contractors undertaking three major infrastructure projects, providing the necessary access, coordination and logistical support while ensuring that airside operations remained uninterrupted throughout the reporting period.

The team continued to ensure that all applicable regulatory obligations were met, including the review of relevant documentation and the submission of the Annual Technical Inspection documentation to CASA for review.

To support airport stakeholders, including General Aviation (GA) operators, and further promote a strong safety culture, Whyalla Airport organised a stakeholder engagement session in collaboration with CASA's Stakeholder Engagement Division. The session covered various aspects of aerodrome safety culture and operational safety requirements.

The session was well received, with participants particularly valuing the opportunity to engage directly with a CASA representative who attended the session in person.

Whyalla Airport management intends to conduct similar stakeholder engagement sessions annually to facilitate knowledge sharing, promote continuous improvement and provide stakeholders with an opportunity to learn about emerging practices and approaches being adopted internationally to enhance the safety and efficiency of airport operations.

During the reporting period, the Airport Operations Team also successfully completed the installation of the new airside perimeter fence and the replacement of the outdated distribution board project. The new solution was delivered with the assistance of Whyalla City Council's Project Team.

Compliance

During the reporting period, the Department of Home Affairs conducted a systems test to assess the airport's security measures and undertook an audit of the newly installed perimeter fence to support approval of the new airside security boundary.

The Airport Operations Team provided all required documentation, records and supporting evidence to demonstrate compliance with the regulatory obligations applicable to Whyalla Airport in its capacity as the Aerodrome Operator.

Internal security controls continued to be implemented in accordance with established schedules. These activities included regular security inspections, monitoring of security arrangements and verification of ASICs held by aerodrome users.

The team also progressed preparations for the new security screening services contract in collaboration with the Finance Team to facilitate the tender process. Following completion of the procurement process, MSS Security Pty Ltd was appointed as the new security screening service provider.

The transition to the new security screening provider was completed successfully and without any disruption to RPT operations.

Current Projects

The following infrastructure and operational projects are currently underway:

- **Replacement of Airport Water Mains:** Construction is currently underway to replace the ageing airport water mains. The project is being funded through federal and state funding allocated as part of the broader runway upgrade project.
- **Installation of Security Cameras Along the Airside Fence:** Installation of CCTV cameras along Whyalla Airport's new airside perimeter fence is currently underway. The cameras will provide an additional layer of security and monitoring in accordance with guidance provided by the Department of Home Affairs. The project is expected to be completed by mid-October 2026.
- **Emergency Maintenance of Hangar:** A new project has commenced to undertake urgent maintenance and repairs to the hangar doors and associated infrastructure. A mandatory site inspection has been scheduled for mid-September 2026 as part of the procurement and project delivery process.

Leases/Licenses

- The leasing process for the airport hangar facility been completed.
- Negotiation with a new rental car operator regarding the establishment of services at Whyalla Airport is at the final stage. The company is aiming to start operations in the last quarter of 2026.

Routine maintenance

Routine maintenance and operational activities undertaken during the reporting period included:

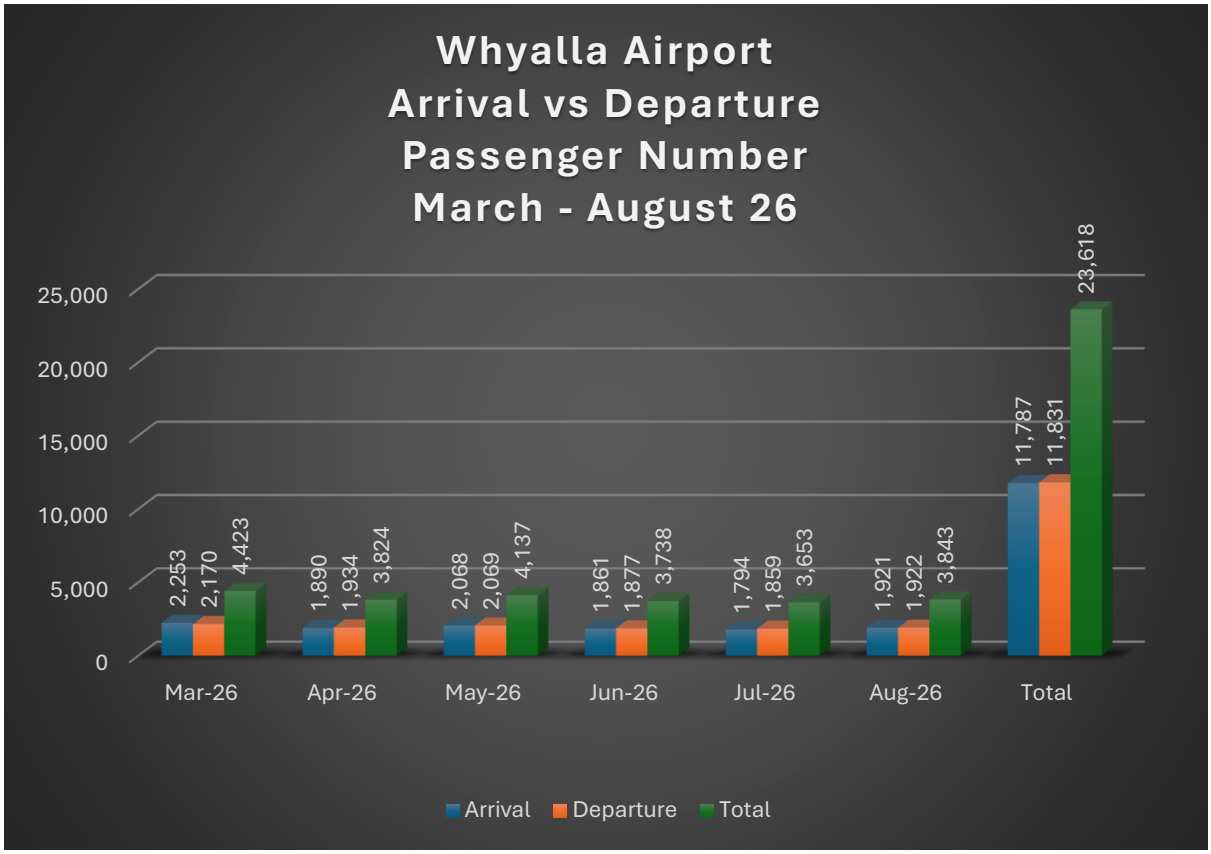
- Scheduled servicing and maintenance of the baggage belt system.
- Investigation of multiple issues affecting the airport parking system. The parking payment system has experienced frequent network outages, affecting its reliability. The IT Team is currently investigating the issue and working towards identifying a permanent solution.

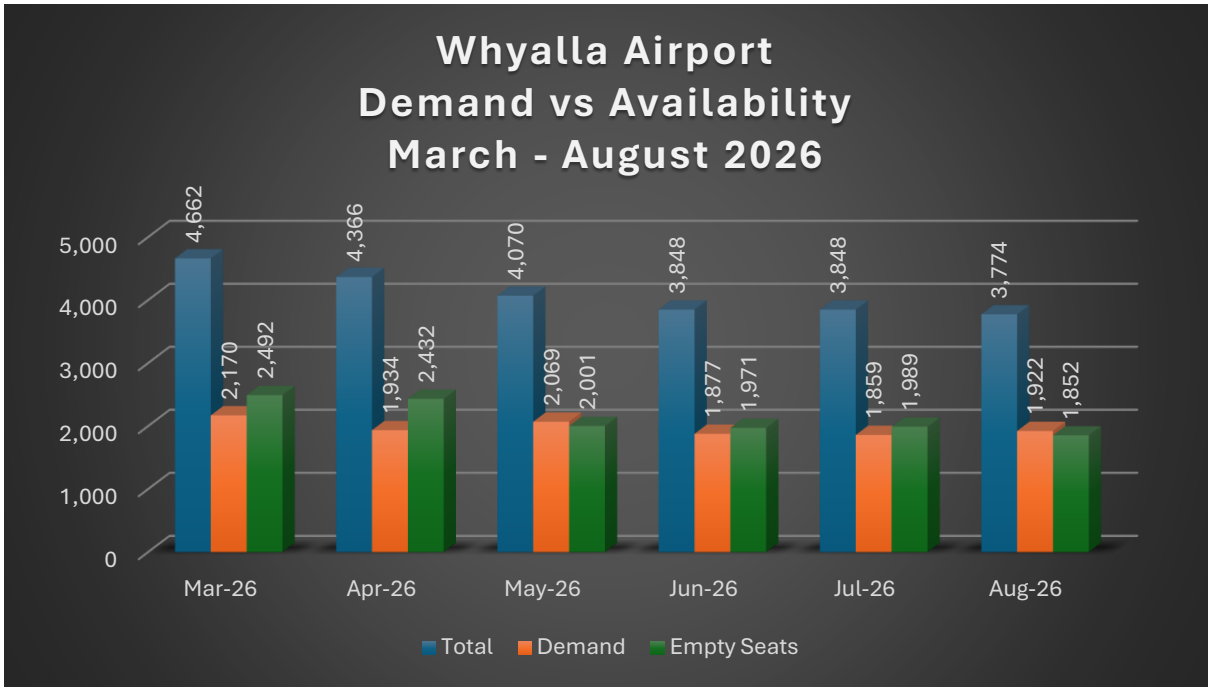
Passenger Numbers

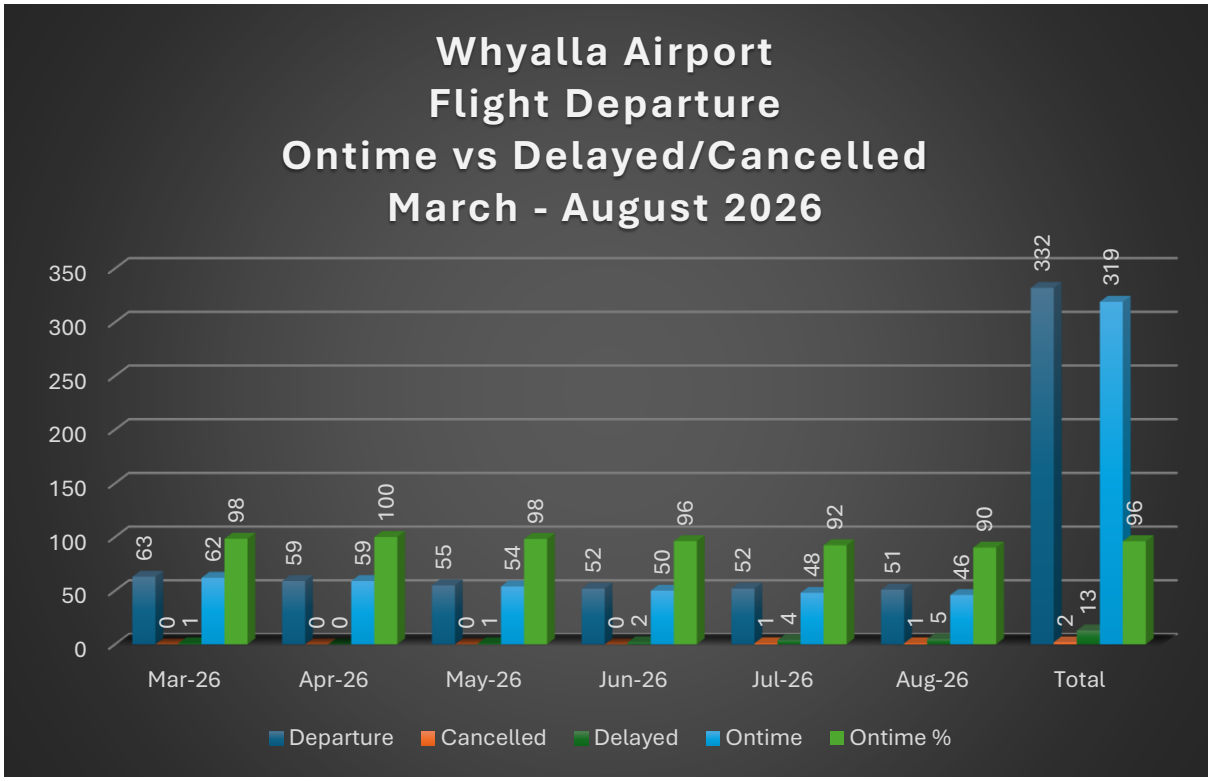
Average passenger traffic during March to August 2026 reporting period increased by approximately **8%** compared with the November 2025 to February 2026 period.

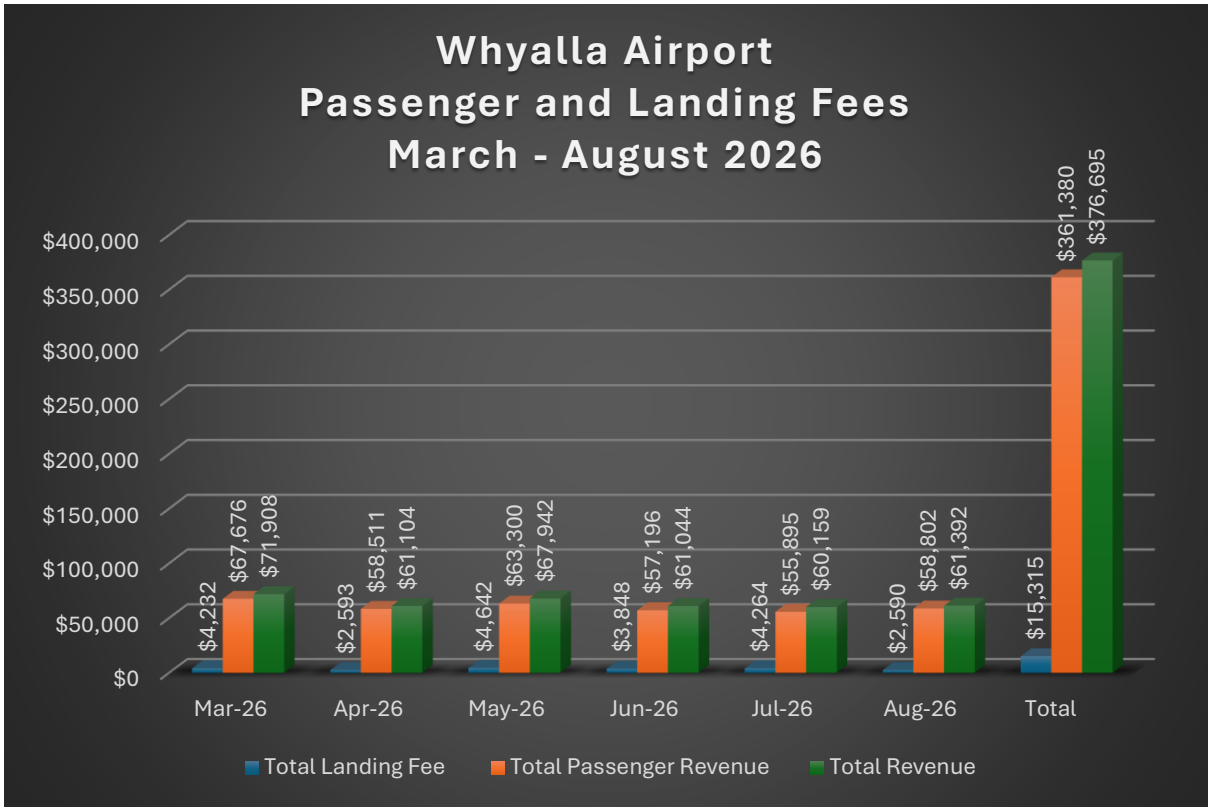
Despite the overall increase, passenger numbers have been affected by a number of external factors, including recent global geopolitical unrest, flight suspensions by major airlines due to operational constraints, and elevated aviation fuel prices.

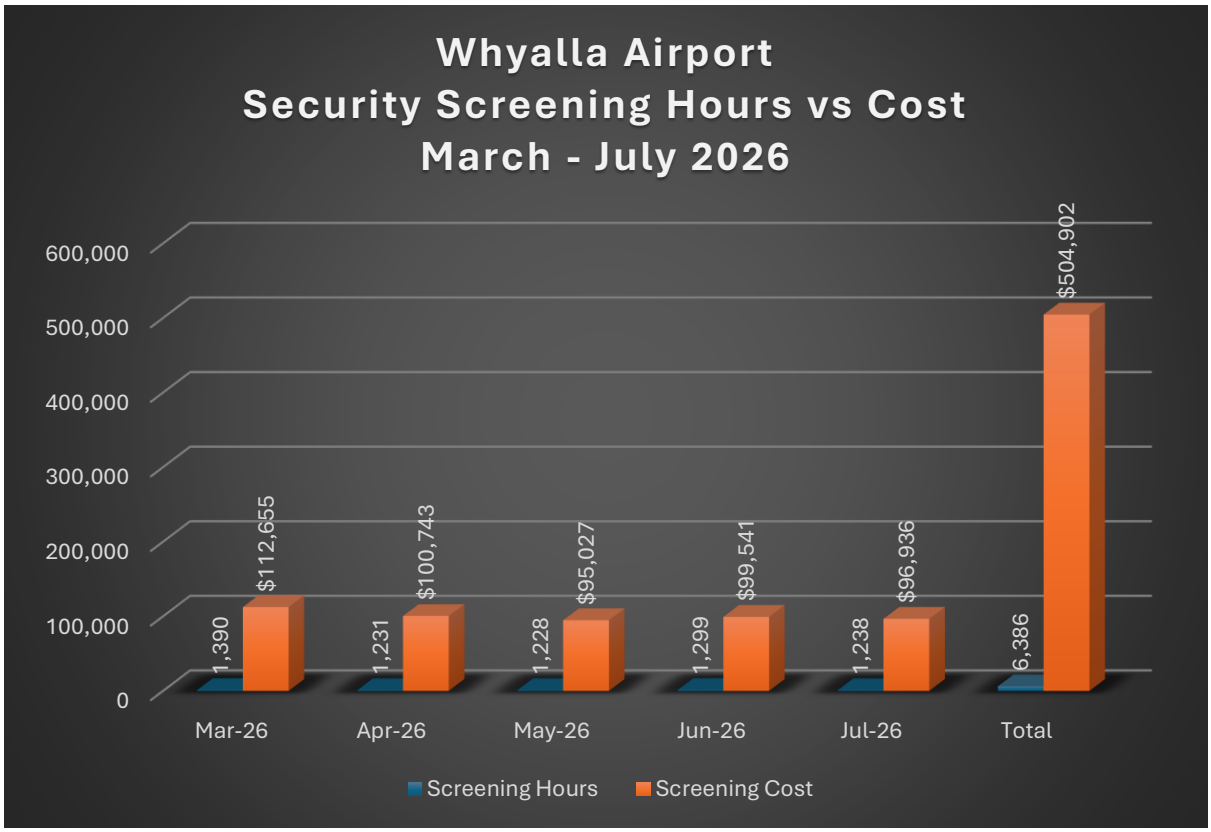
The Airport Operations Team will continue to monitor passenger trends and operational factors affecting RPT services and will work closely with relevant stakeholders to support the continued reliability and accessibility of air services to and from Whyalla.



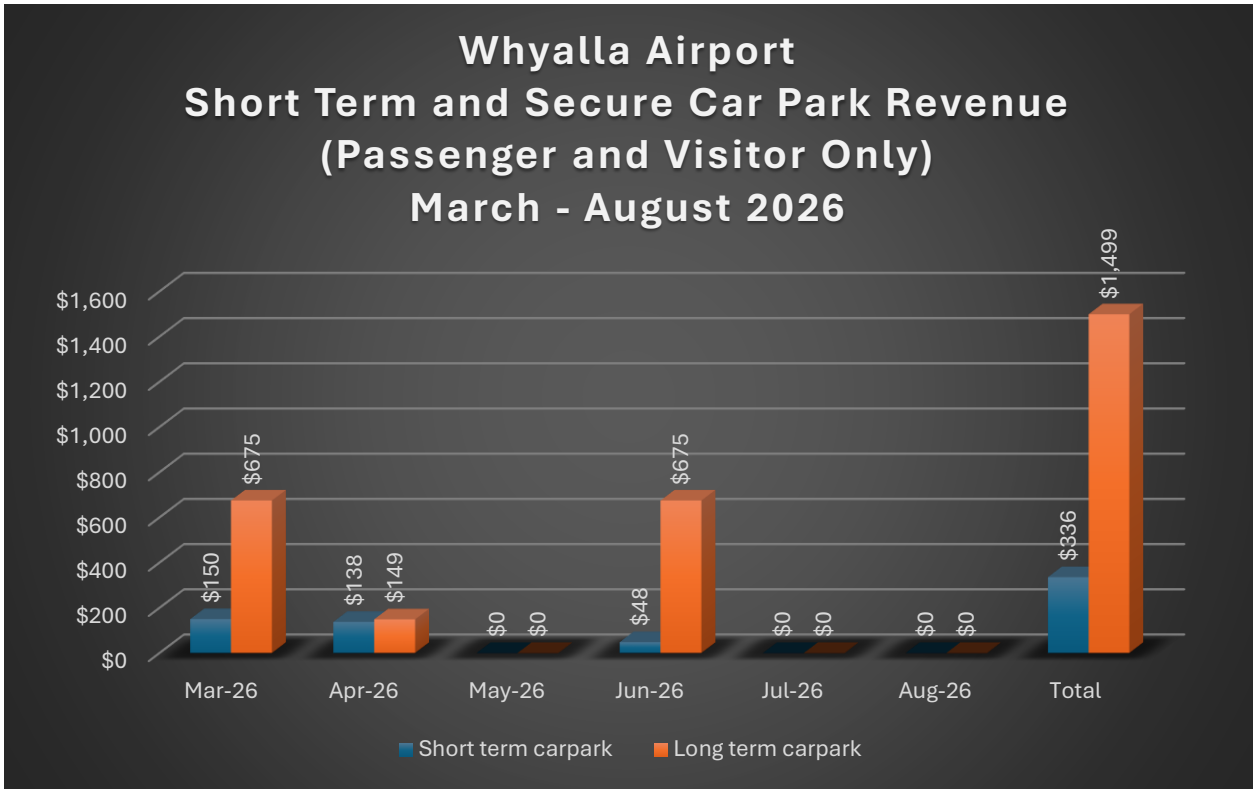

Whyalla Airport
Demand vs Availability
March - August 2026
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
4,662
2,170
2,492
4,366
1,934
2,432
4,070
2,069
2,001
3,848
1,877
1,971
3,848
1,859
1,989
3,774
1,922
1,852
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26
Jul-26
Aug-26
Total
Demand
Empty Seats

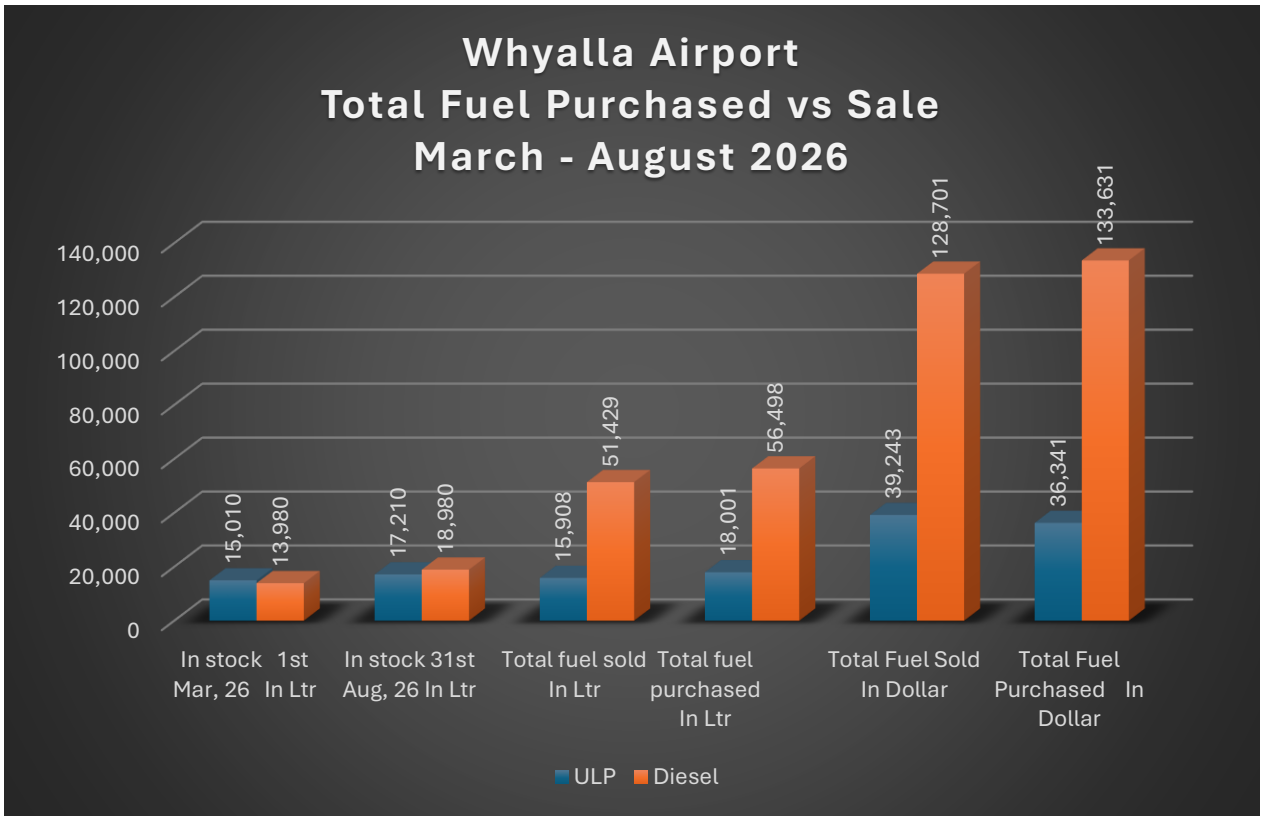

Whyalla Airport
Flight Departure
Ontime vs Delayed/Cancelled
March - August 2026
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
63
0
1
62
98
59
0
0
59
100
55
0
1
54
98
52
0
2
50
96
52
1
4
48
92
51
1
5
46
90
332
2
13
319
96
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26
Jul-26
Aug-26
Total
Departure
Cancelled
Delayed
Ontime
Ontime %





*** Security screening contractor was replaced on the 24th August 2026 and Whyalla Council is yet to receive the final invoice.


Whyalla Airport
Short Term and Secure Car Park Revenue
(Passenger and Visitor Only)
March - August 2026
$1,600
$1,400
$1,200
$1,000
$800
$600
$400
$200
$0
$150
$675
$138
$149
$0
$0
$48
$675
$0
$0
$0
$0
$336
$1,499
Mar-26
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26
Jul-26
Aug-26
Total
Short term carpark
Long term carpark


Whyalla Airport
Total Fuel Purchased vs Sale
March - August 2026
140,000
120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
15,010
13,980
17,210
18,980
15,908
51,429
18,001
56,498
39,243
128,701
36,341
133,631
In stock Mar, 26 1st In Ltr
In stock 31st Aug, 26 In Ltr
Total fuel sold In Ltr
Total fuel purchased In Ltr
Total Fuel Sold In Dollar
Total Fuel Purchased In Dollar
ULP
Diesel

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

16.1 Deputy Mayor Tamy Pond

16.1.1 Waste Vouchers

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Questions submitted by: Deputy Mayor Tamy Pond **File No.:** 2-20

Council Member / 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

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council:

1. **distribute a voucher for each resident (1 per household), to be used at the Veolia Waste Transfer Station over a 12-month period;**
2. **the voucher is for a standard 4x6 trailer (or equivalent) of household rubbish;**
3. **vouchers will be sent out with the next rate notice and those who are renting will be passed on the voucher through their housing provider; and**
4. **this will be evaluated after the 12 months to see if it has had in impact on city pride, illegal dumping and also the cost to Council and residents.**

ADMINISTRATION

The following information is supplied by Council Administration regarding this matter.

- The cost for a 6x4 tailer load is **$181** (incl GST).
- Assuming 25% of properties (2,500) use the vouchers, the estimated cost to Council would be **$452,500**, based on the current financial year's transfer station gate fees.

Separate to the proposed voucher system, Council already provides one free hard waste collection service per property (via Bedford). During the 2025/26 financial year, this cost Council approximately (incl GST):

- Collection – approximately **$140,000**
- Disposal – approximately **$142,000**
- **TOTAL – approximately $282,000**

Further, cost for illegal dumping (this includes both illegal dumping and laneway clean-up):

- Collection – approximately **$163,000**
- Disposal – approximately **$33,000**
- **TOTAL – approximately $196,000**

Total Hard waste and Illegal Dumping Costs = $478,000

Previous Voucher Trial

Council Administration previously trialled free waste vouchers for Campbell and Wittwer Street(s), where illegal dumping is significantly higher than in other streets. Every household was provided a voucher, however, only three residents used their vouchers.

Feedback from the survey indicated that the majority of residents did not want to use the vouchers, even though some accumulated rubbish in front of their properties or on the kerb. Lack of transport was also identified as another barrier to using the vouchers.

Bedford Collections

Bedford completed 1,208 collections during 2025/26, averaging around 100 collections per month.

The data below shows the number of collections over the years. There has been a significant increase in hard waste bookings since 2024, due to Council promotions.

Year	No. of Collections
2018	373
2019	443
2020	547
2021	550
2022	605
2023	906
2024	1,207
2025	1,257

Should Council support this Motion on Notice, Council will need to make a decision regarding what changes are made to this year's Annual Business Plan and Budget to fund this initiative.

17. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

17.1 Cr David Knox

17.1.1 Various Matters

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Questions submitted by: Cr D Knox **File No.:** 2-20

Council Member / 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

Trees

Q1. How many trees have been removed from streets and parks over the past 6 months?

A1. A total of 150 trees have been removed from streets and parks during the past six months.

Q2. How many trees have been planted in the past 6 months?

A2. A total of 90 trees have been planted during the same period.

Q3. Going forward, is it intended that more trees will be planted than are removed?

A3. In the short term, no.

Council's current priority is to bring the existing tree population to an acceptable and sustainable level of safety and maintenance. Once this has been achieved, Council will be in a better position to increase planting programs and work towards replacing and ultimately increasing the overall tree canopy. The timeframe for this transition will depend on available resources, funding and the progress of the current tree management program.

Recruitment – Employee Qualifications

Q1. Has Council conducted a skills audit of its employees?

A1. Council recognises that employees bring a broad range of skills, knowledge, experience and capability to their roles. These are considered through Council's merit-based recruitment, performance and development processes. Council does not undertake a formal workforce-wide skills audit for the purpose of cataloguing employees by their highest qualification.

Q2. If so, how many employees have achieved a maximum qualification of (a) Certificate, (b) Diploma and (c) a Degree or higher?

A2. Council does not maintain employee qualification data in a way that enables this breakdown. Where roles operate within regulated environments, certain qualifications, licences or certifications are mandatory, and Council ensures employees hold the required credentials to perform those roles and meet legislative and compliance requirements, as demonstrated through Council's mandatory training profile.

Q3. How many have no qualifications other than school?

A3. Council does not maintain data that identifies employees on this basis. Formal qualifications and educational attainment are considered in the context of the requirements of each position and are not, in isolation, a measure of an employee's skills, knowledge, experience or capability.

In summary, Council considers capability more broadly than formal educational attainment, recognising the value of skills, knowledge and experience, alongside qualifications.

17. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

17.2 Cr Bill Simpson

17.2.1 Unsightly Properties

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Questions submitted by: Cr B Simpson **File No.:** 2-20

Council Member / 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

Q1. What criteria do our compliance staff work to, to assess whether a property is unsightly?

A1. Section 17 (Schedule 1), Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act?

Q2. Of the 56 complaints received, how many were actually assessed as unsightly according to the set criteria by our compliance team?

A2. Approximately 5%.

Q3. How many were judged as down to vexatious complaints by neighbours and how many failed to meet the unsightly criteria?

A3. Not necessarily vexatious complaints, although many of them are neighbour disputes of some kind, they are just untidy properties (e.g. weeds, items in the front yard, excess vehicles, etc.).

The majority of complaints do not meet the threshold of unsightly conditions when assessed by an Authorised Officer, regardless of whether they are vexatious or not.

Q4. Of the properties found to be unsightly, what action has been taken to rectify this issue and do we monitor these properties to avoid repeat offending?

A4. Officers work with the owners of properties to clean-up and Abatement Notices can be issued to properties, to order an owner to take certain action to remedy an unsightly condition. Properties are not usually monitored. The property is assessed again under the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act, if a new complaint is received

18. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

19. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

20. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 CITY GROWTH

20.1.1 BRM Business Review – For Endorsement – Confidential

Council Meeting: 21 September 2026
Author's Title: Jodie Perone – General Manager City Growth **File No.:** 0-159
Directorate: City Growth

Attachments:
1 – BRM Business Unit Review – Confidential

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 – Commercial in confidence

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to Section 90(2) and (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council orders that all persons present, with the exception of Justin Commons; Chief Executive Officer, Sue King; General Manager Corporate Services, Jodie Perone; General Manager City Growth, Paul Day; General Manager Infrastructure, Sean Kelly; Manager Media and Communications, Michelle Armstrong; Executive Co-ordinator CEO and Mayor and Lisette Symons; Executive Co-ordinator – Corporate for Agenda Item 20.1.1 – BRM Business Review.

The Council is satisfied that pursuant to Sections 90(3)(b) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item:

a) 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 Council; and

b) contains information provided on a confidential basis provided by another public authority.

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because on balance it would be contrary to the public interest as commercial information is to be discussed and disclosed.

21. CLOSE

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 6 October 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 8 October 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Workshop
- 9 October 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 19 October 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 2 November 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 16 November 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 7 December 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session