MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Phill Stone

Cr Peter Borda
Cr Mark Inglis
Cr David Knox
Cr Bill Simpson
Cr Kathryn Campbell
Cr Peter Klobucar
Cr Tamy Pond
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 15 JUNE 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: 11 June 2026

AGENDA

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY 15 JUNE 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 18 May 2026 *Page 5*

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 18 May 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 1 June 2026 *Page 17*

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Monday 1 June 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 – Nil

9. PETITIONS – Nil

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Public Question Time Protocol

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

11. COUNCIL MEMBER ACTIVITIES

12. PRESENTATIONS – Nil

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Nil

14. REPORTS – COUNCIL OFFICERS

14.1 Office of the Chief Executive – Ordinary Reports

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – June 2026 Page 19

14.2 Corporate Services – Ordinary Reports

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – May 2026 Page 38
14.2.2 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget Adoption and Rate Declaration Page 51
14.2.3 Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure Page 88

14.3 City Growth – Ordinary Reports

14.3.1 Community Grant Page 99
14.3.2 Changes to the Memorials Policy Page 102

14.4 City Infrastructure – Ordinary Reports

14.4.1 Whyalla Road Safety Centre – Lease Agreement Page 109

15. INFORMATION / DECISION REPORTS

15.1 Council Members

15.1.1 Mayor P Stone – List of Engagements Page 114

15.2 Corporate Services / City Growth / City Infrastructure

15.2.1 Monthly Information Report – June 2026 Page 119

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – Nil

17. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – Nil

18. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE *Page 184*

19. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE *Page 184*

20. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 City Growth

20.1.1 Property Modifications – Youth Foyer *Page 185*

21. CLOSE

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 19 June 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 6 July 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 20 July 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 3 August 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 17 August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting

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

HELD ON MONDAY 18 MAY 2026 AT 5.45 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

PRESENT: Mayor P Stone, Deputy Mayor T Pond, Councillors P Borda, K Campbell, M Inglis, P Klobucar, D Knox, 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)*
Manager Capital Works Delivery *(Mr L Jones)*
Manager City Operations *(Mr C Sharp)*
Manager City Development *(Mr L Trevisan)*
Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor *(Mrs M Armstrong)*
Executive Co-ordinator – Corporate Services *(Ms L Symons)*

1. Acknowledgement to Country

2. Oath to Whyalla

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

3. Obituary Notices

Julie	PITTS
Jean	GREEN
Barbara	GRANT
Friederike	KOENECKE
Troy	BUNDY
Les	SOUTH
Sandra	SEELEY
Anthony	RANEBERG
Valerie	HOLTHAM
Bill	NEILL
Barry	GRINTER
Susan	ROBINSON
Linda	WEETRA
Alfred	CASSAR
Sharon	TODD

Mayor Stone acknowledged the contribution Sharon Todd had made as a Council Member through the majority of this term of Council.

4. Attendance Record

Apologies – Cr B Simpson
Leave of Absence – Nil

5. Council Member / Executive Declarations

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

6. Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 20 April 2026

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Inglis

C6084-2026

That the Minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 20 April 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 – Nil

9. Petitions – Nil

10. Public Question Time

10.1 Questions Submitted

10.1.1 Mr R Thompson – Resident

Supplementary Roll

Background

Referring to the email of 13 April, advising that "absentee ratepayers" would be notified of their eligibility to be added to Council's Supplementary Roll, with Council's advice posted with the 4th quarter rates notice mail out.

Q1. Could you please confirm what date range this advice was mailed out to all "absentee ratepayers"?

A1. Council initially planned to include a flyer with the 4th quarter rates notice, informing all ratepayers of the process to enrol on the Supplementary Voters Roll. However, after internal review, it was decided that this was likely to cause confusion, as the vast majority of those receiving this notification would be those who will be automatically enrolled to vote in the Council election, via the State Electoral Roll.

Instead, internal analysis of Council's rating data was undertaken, to identify those properties that may have eligibility to be on Council's Supplementary Voter Roll, based on mailing address. From this, a total of 705 property owners were identified as being potentially eligible. A letter will be sent directly to these property owners informing them of the process, including a copy of the forms used to apply to enrol.

The mail merge and printing were completed on Wednesday 13 May 2026, with the process of folding and placing in envelopes currently underway. The letter is dated Monday 18 May 2026, and it is expected that all letters will have been sent by Friday 22 May 2026.

Q2. *Would you please provide to me by email, a copy of the notice sent out (ratepayer details removed of course)?*

A2. A copy of the correspondence will be forwarded to Mr Thompson, for reference.

10.2 Draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget

10.2.1 Verbal Submissions from Members of the Public

Ms Melanie Westbrook
Whyalla Stuart

11. Council Members Activities

11.1 Cr Z Westerman

Cr Westerman advised of her attendance at the following:

- 20 April 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 23 April 2026 – Community Networking Event
- 24 April 2026 – HOPE Whyalla BBQ and Chat
- 25 April 2026 – ANZAC Day Service
- 1 May 2026 – Meeting with Mission Australia, re Accessible and Inclusive Clubs
- 4 May 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 5 May 2026 – Annual Business Plan and Budget Public Information Session
- 6 May 2026 – Council Members Confidential Briefing Session
- 7 May 2026 – Whyalla Services Leadership Group Meeting
- 7 May 2026 – Disability Inclusion Webinar 3: Housing, Homelessness and Community Supports
- 8 May 2026 – Whyalla Disability Inclusive Reference Group Meeting
- 12 May 2026 – Annual Business Plan and Budget FY26 – Online Community Information Session
- 13 May 2026 – Council Members Confidential Briefing

11.2 Deputy Mayor T Pond

Deputy Mayor Pond advised of her attendance at the following:

- 22 April 2026 – HOPE Collective Meeting
- 23 April 2026 – Resident, re rubbish contamination
- 23 April 2026 – Whyalla News
- 23 April 2026 – HOPE Event
- 25 April 2026 – ANZAC Day Dawn Service
- 25 April 2026 – ANZAC Day March
- 1 May 2026 – Sunrise School Building Opening
- 1 May 2026 – Resident, re rates
- 1 May 2026 – Meeting with Council CEO and Senator Karen Grogan
- 4 May 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 5 May 2026 – Annual Business Plan and Budget Public Information Session
- 6 May 2026 – Council Members Confidential Briefing Session
- 7 May 2026 – Services Meting
- 8 May 2026 – Vigil
- 9 May 2026 – Resident, re dirt roads
- 9 May 2026 – Triple Y Radio Interview
- 9 May 2026 – New Business Visit
- 13 May 2026 – Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Executive Leadership Team Monthly Catch-up
- 14 May 2026 – Housing Workshop
- 14 May 2026 – Council Members Confidential Briefing Session

12. Presentations – Nil

13. Committee Reports

13.1 Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 20 February 2026

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Campbell

C6085-2026

Council notes the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on Friday 20 February 2026.

Carried

14. Reports – Council Officers

14.1 Office of the Chief Executive Officer – Ordinary Reports

14.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – May 2026

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6086-2026

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

Carried

14.1.2 Support for EPLGA Application to Extend Audit Committee Exemption

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Inglis

C6087-2026

Council supports an application from the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) to the Minister for Local Government, for an extension of its current exemption from the requirement to establish an audit committee.

Carried

14.1.3 Updated Community Engagement Policy for Consultation

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Campbell

C6088-2026

Council endorses the draft updated version of the Community Engagement Policy to go out for community consultation.

Carried

14.1.4 ESCOSA Local Government Advice Scheme Second Cycle: Framework and Approach

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Klobucar

C6089-2026

Council endorses the draft response to ESCOSA in relation to its Second Cycle: Framework and Approach Consultation Draft April 2026, as provided at Annexure "B".

Carried

14.2 Corporate Services – Ordinary Reports

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – April 2026

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Borda

C6090-2026

Council notes the Monthly Budget Report – April 2026.

Carried

14.2.2 Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures

Moved Deputy Mayor Pond, seconded Cr Borda

C6091-2026

Council notes and adopts the amendments to Sections 27 Voting and 29 Other Procedures made to the Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures, that apply to Council and Council Committees, as outlined within this report.

Carried

14.2.3 Order Making Policy

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Cr Campbell

C6092-2026

Council adopts the Order Making Policy for uploading to Councils website.

Carried

14.2.4 Quarterly Report – Procurement 1 January to 31 March 2026

Moved Cr Inglis, seconded Cr Campbell

C6093-2026

Council notes the Quarterly Report – Procurement for the period 1 January to 31 March 2026.

Carried

14.2.5 Draft Public Question Time Procedure

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Campbell

C6094-2026

Council, subject to any feedback, adopts the updated Public Question Time Procedure to be uploaded to Council's website.

Carried

14.2.6 Budget Review 2025/26 Quarter 3

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Borda

C6095-2026

Council:

1. adopts the Budget Review 2025/26 Quarter 3, identifying an operating deficit of $2,226,000 and an estimated cash position at end of reporting period of $293,000; and
2. approves the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan to be amended to reflect the variances.

Carried

14.2.7 Fees and Charges Register 2026/27

Moved Cr Inglis, seconded Deputy Mayor Pond

C6096-2026

Council:

1. adopts the Fees and Charges Register 2026/27; and
2. delegates the Chief Executive Officer to set and adjust the Security Screening Fee as required to recover the cost of performing security screening activities at Whyalla Airport.

Carried

14.3 City Growth – Ordinary Reports

14.3.1 Mobile Vendor Policy – May 2026 Review

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Borda

C6097-2026

Council endorses the updated Mobile Vendor Policy, as detailed within Annexure "A".

Carried

14.3.2 Café Pod Relocation

Moved Cr Inglis, seconded Cr Klobucar

C6098-2026

Council:

1. endorses the proposed location of the café pod and the reallocation of $100,000 of funds within the Long Term Financial Plan to enable the relocation process to occur prior to summer 2026; and
2. approves the $100,000 of reallocated budget to be added back to the Long Term Financial Plan, when sufficient funds are available from the identified sources.

Carried

14.4 City Infrastructure – Ordinary Reports

14.4.1 Operational Resource Capacity and Open Space Service Levels Review

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Knox

C6099-2026

Council notes the 'Operational Resource Capacity and Open Space Service Levels Review' report.

Carried

15. Information / Decision Reports

15.1 Council Members

15.1.1 Mayor P Stone – List of Engagements

Moved Cr Campbell, seconded Cr Knox

C6100-2026

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

Carried

15.2 Corporate Services / City Growth / City Infrastructure

15.2.1 Monthly Information Report – May 2026

Moved Deputy Mayor Pond, seconded Cr Inglis

C6101-2026

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. May 2026 activity reports for the following services:

    - Open Spaces
    - Civil Works
    - Waste

Carried

16. Notices of Motion – Nil

17. Questions on Notice

17.1 Cr D Knox

17.1.1 Various Matters

Q1. How many times have Council officers checked disabled car parking spaces across the city and how many infringement notices have been issued?

A1. Disabled parking areas are checked regularly when the Authorised Officer is conducting general patrols across the city. General patrols occur daily on weekdays for a variety of matters including parking, animals, litter, complaints, etc. That is, a programmed inspection of all disabled car parking spaces across the city is not performed in one patrol.

There has been one expiation notice issued during 2025/26, for parking in a disabled park without a valid permit.

Q2. The Stormwater Drainage Report is a critical document.

a) How do we ensure that appropriate new staff are familiarised with it?

A2a. Staff are introduced to strategic documents through onboarding, i.e. induction packages contain quick links to where they are held online. Council's main strategic documents are the Asset Management Strategy, Long Term Financial Plan and Strategic Plan which can be found on Council's Website at Strategic Management Plans | Whyalla City Council . Supporting plans, such as the Stormwater Plan, Disability Access and inclusion Plan etc can be found at Plans and Strategies | Whyalla City Council

b) Should it be listed as a strategic document in both the Hub and the Council website?

A2b. The document can be found on Councils website under 'Plans and Strategies' – refer link Plans and Strategies | Whyalla City Council

Q3. What is the frequency of street-sweeping each street in the city and are there any non-commercial areas that have the sweeping done more regularly?

A3. With one sweeper in operation, the city-wide street-sweeping program is divided into 40 operational zones, with a target service delivery of completing one zone per day.

Based on available operational days and allowing for RDOs, annual leave, public holidays, breakdowns and other operational interruptions, the full sweeping rotation across all zones is expected to take approximately 8–10 weeks to complete. No non-commercial areas are swept more regularly on a programmed basis.

In addition to the programmed rotation, the street-sweeper is also regularly redirected to respond to customer requests, civic events, storm activity and weather-related clean-up operations. These reactive works can impact the planned schedule and extend the overall rotation timeframe.

Q4. *What are the plans for the use of the Youth Council equipment – namely the YAC Shack, projector, screen, etc. and are there any plans to use the equipment during Cuttlefest?*

A4. The YAC shack caravan will be utilised during Cuttlefest, but not the cinema.

The caravan is deployed during the Cuttlefest season as an extension of the Visitor Information Centre presence at the Cuttlefish dive site. It functions as a multi-purpose resource – supporting visitor engagement, destination promotion, staff operations and merchandise sales, while also providing secure storage.

The inflatable cinema has previously been incorporated into the Salty Sea'esta program as the "Salty Cinema," enhancing the event experience and encouraging community participation. As this year's event will be delivered during daylight hours, the inflatable cinema will not be utilised, allowing resources to be aligned with the revised event format.

Q5. *How many infringement notices have been issued for unregistered dogs?*

A5. During 2025/26, 73 expiations have been issued year to date, for owning or keeping an unregistered dog (65 expiations during 2024/25).

18. **Questions without Notice** – Nil

19. **Motions without Notice** – Nil

20. **Consideration of Confidential Items**

20.1 **City Infrastructure**

20.1.1 *Whyalla Splash and Play Plaza Development – Confidential*

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Inglis

C6102-2026

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, Grant Jennings; Manager Finance and Knowledge Management; Les Jones; Manager Capital Works Delivery, 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 – Whyalla Splash and Play Plaza Development.

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.

Carried

Moved Cr Knox, seconded Cr Borda

C6103-2026

Council:

1.

2.

3. having considered Agenda Item 20.1.1 – Whyalla Splash and Play Plaza Development 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 the Minutes pertaining to this item, be kept confidential and not available for public inspection for a period of twelve months from the date of this Council Meeting, or until completion of the procurement, tender award and construction phases, whichever occurs first, notwithstanding that it will be reviewed annually in February of each year, on the basis that it contains information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is proposing to conduct business or to prejudice the commercial position of the Council and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Carried

Moved Cr Klobucar, seconded Cr Campbell

C6104-2026

Council returns to Ordinary Meeting procedures.

Carried

Close – *meeting concluded at 6.45 pm*

21. Date of Next Meetings

- 20 May 2026 – Draft 2026/27 Budget – Public Information Session – Mount Laura Homestead
- 25 May 2026 – Council Members Confidential Briefing Session
- 1 June 2026 – Special Council Meeting followed by Council Members Briefing Session
- 15 June 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 6 July 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 20 July 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 25 July 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

Confirmed: ……
Presiding Member – June 2026

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

HELD ON MONDAY 1 JUNE 2026 AT 5.45 PM IN THE CIVIC RECEPTION ROOM

PRESENT: Mayor P Stone, Councillors P Borda, K Campbell, P Klobucar, Z Westerman

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer *(Mr J Commons)*
General Manager Corporate *(Ms S King)*
General Manager City Growth *(Mrs J Perone)*
General Manager Infrastructure *(Mr P Day)*
Manager Finance and Knowledge Management *(Mr G Jennings)*

1. Acknowledgement to Country

2. Attendance Record

Apologies – Deputy Mayor T Pond, Crs M Inglis, D Knox, B Simpson
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

4.1 Corporate Services

4.1.1 Submissions on Draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget

Moved Cr Borda, seconded Cr Campbell

C6105-2026

Council:

1. notes the feedback received during the public consultation on the draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget;
2. requests that the draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan document be updated for decisions of Council and other external factors which have changed since the draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget was originally considered; and
3. requests that the draft 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget to be presented at the June Council Meeting, continue to reflect a rate increase of 5.8% (being 4.9% March CPI plus 0.9%).

Carried

4.1.2 Cuttlefish Dive Site Parking Fees

Formal Motion

Moved Mayor Stone, seconded Cr Borda

C6106-2026

Item 4.1.2 *"Cuttlefish Dive Site Parking Fees"* be referred to a future Council Members Workshop.

Carried

Close – *meeting concluded at 5.58 pm*

Confirmed: ……
Presiding Member – June 2026

14.1 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Justin Commons – Chief Executive Officer **File No.:** 1-0
Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Annexures:
A – Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – June 2026
B – Committee/ Working Party/ Workshop/ Sub-committee Meetings Listing
C – Summary of Key Meetings and External Engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer

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

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

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

SUMMARY

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

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

Annexure "C" provides a summary of key meetings and external engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer during the period 18 May – 14 June 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 – June 2026.

DUE DATE

Chief Executive Officer's Action Report – June 2026 – For Noting	15/06/2026

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

REPORT

DISCUSSION

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

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

Annexure "C" provides a summary of key meetings and external engagements attended by the Chief Executive Officer during the period 18 May – 14 June 2026, inclusive.

Financial Implications – Nil

Strategic Plan

Objective 1.1 – Unearth community pride within the city

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

Legislation – Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest

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

Risk Assessment – Nil

Social Considerations – Nil

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

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

Annexure "A"

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

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 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			75%	***In progress*** *Final permissions are being lodged with State Commission Assessment Panel and we anticipate approval is imminent.* *No change – awaiting confirmation.*
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*** *Crown Lands will now consult with Government Departments on any plans for the land, after which time they can put the land to market. This will take a number of months.*
C5527-2025 17/03/25	**Defence Land at Fitzgerald Bay Lookout Boundary Realignment** Council: 1. resolves to support the boundary realignment required to create the portion of land to purchase for the formalisation of the Fitzgerald Bay Lookout from the Australian Government for the amount of $30 plus GST; and 2. provide the Chief Executive Officer with the delegations to finalise the realignment and land transaction.	GMCG				***In progress*** *Contract is back with Defence for agreement of minor amendments. Also reviewing annexed reports to ensure they are satisfactory.* *No change – awaiting confirmation.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C5533-2025 17/03/25	**GFG Ex-gratia Payment** Council: 1. requests the Chief Executive Officer to formally write to the current Administrators of the Steelworks (Korda Mentha) and the State Government, to request consideration of an increase in the ex-gratia payment amount payable by OneSteel to Council, to align with the rates that would be payable under Council's rating policy, if hypothetically, the Steelworks was on Council land; and 2. that this communication will be completed by no later than 18 April 2025.	MF				***In progress*** *Sam Crafter; State Lead – Whyalla Steelworks Industrial Transformation advised at the Council Members Briefing Session held on 29 September, that this matter was being progressed.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 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				***In progress*** *Lease signed on 19 August 2025.* *The Master Plan works require agreement from the administrators regarding the short stay accommodation proposal at Tanderra, which currently sits with Korda Mentha. Once this matter is addressed, the small committee formed to undertake the master planning of the site can meet with stakeholders and begin the process.* *Still awaiting confirmation from OneSteel Manufacturing (via Korda Mentha).* *Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March with OneSteel Manufacturing, to discuss further.* *A further meeting has been scheduled for late June, to clarify request.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 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	March 2027			***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 – June 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.	MCWD				***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.* *The project is scheduled to proceed, subject to approval of the anticipated low-cost expenditure and any planning requirements.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 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				***In progress*** *Investigations to include the lockers into the new Café/SLSC building have begun.*
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				***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.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 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			50%	***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 contamination report needs to be undertaken by Council prior to Crown Lands considering taking back control of the site, with work underway to develop a simple report that is not excessively priced.* *Permission needs to be sought from the Minister for Local Government rather than Crown Lands, in relation to the two parcels owned by Council. This has been referred and some supplementary information has been requested. Once this is provided, this should progress quickly.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 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				***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.* *Appears to be tracking well, however, Administration have heard that SAHT are not comfortable with the overlay that impacts a small number of their properties, which may hold things up.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 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				***In progress*** *A project team to be established, to address the depth of this project – in progress.* *A draft design has been presented to the Robran family and they have advised they would like a few small changes. Once changes are made and reviewed by the family, a report to Council will be prepared with costings.*
C6040-2026 16/02/26	**Animal Management** Council resolves to hold a community information event on an annual basis, focussed on education, responsible pet ownership, animal wellbeing and related topics	GMCS/ RS Co-ord	July 2026			***In progress*** *A community information day will be held at Westland Shopping Centre on 15 July, to coincide with dog and cat registration renewals.*
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			50%	***In progress*** *CRM I120089 created – 29/04/26.* *A local contractor has been engaged to provide a quote and identify a solution addressing the underlying systemic cause. The contractor has recently been unavailable but is expected to submit the quote for consideration, in the upcoming financial year.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 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				
20/04/26	**Question without Notice** **Cr Knox** Palm trees along the Sacred Rocks fenceline are not looking healthy – to be reviewed and actioned accordingly.	GMI/MO			100%	***Complete*** *CRM I120086 created – 29/04/26.* *The Depot Parks and Gardens Team has investigated the condition of the trees and undertaken initial maintenance works, including pruning and removal of dead foliage, where required. These mature trees do not have an established irrigation system and have now been placed on the water truck schedule to support their health.* *Council's arborist has completed an assessment and advised ongoing watering, as well as targeted pruning and removal of selected trees. Some specimens may be nearing end of life and will be evaluated for removal and potential replacement. as part of future works.*

Chief Executive Officer's Outstanding Actions Report – June 2026

Council Meeting Date	Outstanding Action	Actioned by	Expected Completion Date	Amended Completion Date	Percentage Complete	Comments
C6087-2026 18/05/26	**Support for EPLGA Application to Extend Audit Committee Exemption** Council supports an application from the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) to the Minister for Local Government, for an extension of its current exemption from the requirement to establish an audit committee.	CEO				***Complete*** *Copy of Council resolution sent to EPLGA – 28/05/26.*
C6088-2026 18/05/26	**Updated Community Engagement Policy for Consultation** Council endorses the draft updated version of the Community Engagement Policy to go out for community consultation.	MMC				***In progress*** *Community consultation closed – 12/06/26.*
C6089-2026 18/05/26	**ESCOSA Local Government Advice Scheme Second Cycle: Framework and Approach** Council endorses the draft response to ESCOSA in relation to its Second Cycle: Framework and Approach Consultation Draft April 2026, as provided at Annexure "B".	CEO				***Completed*** *Correspondence forwarded to ESCOSA – 19/05/26.*

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

Meetings held: 18 May – 14 June 2026

Meeting Date	*Name of Meeting*	*Quorum*
18 May	Ordinary Council Meeting	Y
20 May	Draft 2026/27 Budget – Public Information Session – Mount Laura Homestead	N/A
25 May	Council Members Confidential Briefing Session	–
1 June	Special Council Meeting followed by Council Members Briefing Session	Y

Future meetings: June – Aug 2026

Meeting Date	*Name of Meeting*
15 June	Ordinary Council Meeting
19 June	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
6 July	Council Members Briefing Session
20 July	Ordinary Council Meeting
3 August	Council Members Briefing Session
17 August	Ordinary Council Meeting

Annexure "C"

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

Monday 18 May 2026

- Spencer Gulf Cities – CEOs pre-Housing Meeting discussion
- Weekly Briefing with Mayor and Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor
- Upper Spencer Gulf Housing Advisory Group Meeting
- Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 19 May 2026

- National Volunteers Week – Morning Tea Celebration
- Lunch meeting with M Resources
  (also in attendance, Mayor Stone and General Manager City Growth)

Wednesday 20 May 2026

- General catch-up with Depot Indigenous staff
- Reconciliation Action Plan Meeting
- Regular Meeting between Northern Water and Whyalla City Council
- Meeting with Mr M Waller, re Cuttlefish dive site licence agreement
- Annual Business Plan and Budget – Public Information Session

Thursday 21 May 2026

- Kelledy Jones CEO Forum – Mount Barker
- Monthly Executive Meeting with Whyalla Steelworks Transformation Unit
  (also in attendance, General Manager(s) City Growth, Corporate Services and Infrastructure and Manager Media and Communications)

Friday 22 May 2026

- Meeting with Ms Maree Wauchope; Executive Director, Property Services – SAHT, re housing
- Upper Spencer Gulf Intergovernmental Group Meeting with Minister Koutsantonis – Adelaide
  (also in attendance, Mayor Stone)
- Local Government Professionals 25th Annual Leadership Awards Gala Dinner – Adelaide



Monday 25 May 2026

- Sharon Todd's Funeral (former Councillor)
- Whyalla City Council, RDA Eyre Peninsula and Adelaide University – PVC College of Engineering and IT – Whyalla visit
- Council Members Confidential Briefing Session

Tuesday 26 May 2026

- Open Community Workshop – So you want to become a Councillor?
- Meeting with Mr D Latina; Commissioner for Anti-dumping
- So you want to become a Councillor? – Online Community Session

Wednesday 27 May 2026

- Australia's Biggest Morning Tea – hosted by Council staff
- LGA Mutual – Quarterly CEO Scheme Briefing – online

Thursday 28 May 2026

- EPLGA CEOs Meeting – online
- Northern Water SRG Meeting – online
- LGA Conference – Mayor and CEO Workshop – Adelaide
  (also in attendance, Mayor Stone)

Friday 29 May 2026

- Executive Leaders Breakfast: LGA Conference and Ordinary General Meeting – Adelaide
- LGA Conference and Ordinary General Meeting – Adelaide
  (also in attendance, Mayor Stone)

Monday 1 June 2026

- Meeting with Windlab, re project briefing
- Weekly Briefing with Mayor and Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor
- Special Council Meeting
- Future of Community Buildings and Facilities Meeting, re information and consultation session

Tuesday 2 June 2026

- Local Area Plans Online Information Session – Eyre and Western
- Spencer Gulf Cities – Board Meeting

Wednesday 3 June 2026

- Adelaide University – Student Acknowledgement Evening



Thursday 4 June 2026

- Whyalla Services Leadership Group Meeting
- Council Members Confidential Briefing Session, re Northern Water

Friday 5 June 2026

- Regular catch-up with Department of Energy and Mining – online
  (also in attendance, General Manager City Growth)

Tuesday 9 June 2026

- Alligator Energy – Field Recovery Trial – Site Visit
  (also in attendance, Mayor, Council Members and Executive Leadership Team)
- Meeting with Eddie Hughes; Member for Giles, re solar, storage and Agritech project



Thursday 11 June 2026

- EPLGA Board Workshop / Tour – Ceduna
- Meeting between Whyalla City Council and SAFECOM, re Surf Life Saving Building – online
- EPLGA Board Dinner

Friday 12 June 2026

- EPLGA Board Meeting – Ceduna

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – May 2026 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Grant Jennings, Manager Finance and Knowledge Management **File No.:** 0-216
Directorate: Corporate Services

Annexures:
A – Monthly Budget Report – May 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 May 2026 and includes year to date income and expenditure figures for the 2025/26 financial year as at that date.

Only a small number of new variances are identified in this report, with none of these expected to have an overall impact on Council's financial position.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes the Monthly Budget Report – May 2026.

DUE DATE

Monthly Budget Report – May 2026 – For Noting	15/06/2026

14.2.1 Monthly Budget Report – May 2026 – <u>For Noting</u>

<u>REPORT</u>

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

Refer **Annexure "A"** – Monthly Budget Report – May 2026

The report provides Council's financial position at the end of May 2026 and includes year to date income and expenditure figures for the 2025/26 financial year, as at that date. High level analysis of transaction data has been undertaken and any identified budget variances not already reported through a Budget Review are listed for information.

Council's budget remains tight, with little capacity to absorb unexpected increases. It is expected that Council's final position will be close to the updated budget, but there is always a risk that the final position will be worse. Early payment of the Financial Assistance Grant will distort Council's overall position, but the adjusted operating result will remove this distortion. Loan borrowings at 30 June 2026 will also be much lower than projected because of this early grant payment.

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 projects.

Annexure "A"

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - May 2026

UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCES	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000	% Budget
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Income				**85%**
Rates	27,968	28,103	25,758	92%
Statutory Charges	476	454	466	103%
User Charges	5,794	5,890	5,129	87%
Grants, subsidies and contributions - capital	617	912	912	100%
Grants, subsidies and contributions - operating	7,069	7,813	4,426	57%
Investment Income	12	62	63	102%
Reimbursements	9	9	12	133%
Other Income	1,143	1,306	1,262	97%
Expenses				**90%**
Employee Costs	(15,917)	(15,677)	(14,368)	92%
Materials, contracts & other expenses	(19,116)	(20,872)	(18,340)	88%
Depreciation, amortisation & impairments	(9,588)	(9,940)	(9,100)	92%
Finance Costs	(541)	(286)	(272)	95%
Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	**(2,074)**	**(2,226)**	**(4,052)**	
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES				
Net Outlays on Existing Assets				
Capital Expense on Renewal and Replacement of Existing Assets	(10,537)	(8,942)	(6,108)	68%
add back Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	9,588	9,940	9,100	92%
add back Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	85	176	174	99%
Net Outlays on Existing Assets	**(864)**	**1,174**	**3,166**	
Net Outlay on New and Upgraded Assets				
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets	(10,492)	(8,138)	(5,598)	69%
add back Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Asse	7,985	8,159	5,332	65%
add back Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets	-	-	-	
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets	**(2,507)**	**21**	**(266)**	
Net Lending/ (Borrowing) for Financial Year	**(5,445)**	**(1,031)**	**(1,152)**	
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
New Borrowings	1,400	4,000	3,200	
Repayment of Principal	-	-	-	
(Increase)/Decrease in Cash and Investments	(30)	7,806	7,842	
Net Balance Sheet Funding (Debtors & Creditors etc)	4,075	(10,775)	(9,890)	
Total Financing Transactions	**5,445**	**1,031**	**1,152**	

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - May 2026

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
INCOME			
Rates	27,968	28,103	25,758
Statutory Charges	476	454	466
User Charges	5,794	5,890	5,129
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Capital	617	912	912
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Operating	7,069	7,813	4,426
Investment Income	12	62	63
Reimbursements	9	9	12
Other Income	1,143	1,306	1,262
TOTAL INCOME	**43,088**	**44,549**	**38,028**
EXPENSES			
Employee Costs	15,917	15,677	14,368
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	19,116	20,872	18,340
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairments	9,588	9,940	9,100
Finance Costs	541	286	272
TOTAL EXPENSES	**45,162**	**46,775**	**42,080**
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**(2,074)**	**(2,226)**	**(4,052)**
Amounts Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets	7,985	8,159	5,332
Net Gain (Loss)	-	-	107
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**5,911**	**5,933**	**1,387**
Other Comprehensive Income	6,143	6,143	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	**12,054**	**12,076**	**1,387**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - May 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	8,129	293	257
Trade & Other Receivables	3,790	7,140	3,654
Inventories	2,548	2,548	2,606
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**14,467**	**9,981**	**6,517**
Non-current Assets			
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	429,786	429,394	418,826
Other Non-Current Assets	2,264	2,264	2,364
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**432,050**	**431,658**	**421,190**
Total Assets	**446,517**	**441,639**	**427,707**
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	11,995	4,495	1,854
Short Term Borrowings	500	-	-
Short Term Provisions	2,503	2,503	2,806
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**14,998**	**6,998**	**4,660**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Long Term Borrowings	5,400	8,500	7,700
Long Term Provisions	1,219	1,219	1,114
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**6,619**	**9,719**	**8,814**
Total Liabilities	**21,617**	**16,717**	**13,474**
NET ASSETS	**424,900**	**424,922**	**414,233**
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus	71,211	71,233	70,008
Asset Revaluation Reserve	350,135	350,135	343,992
Reserves	3,554	3,554	232
TOTAL EQUITY	**424,900**	**424,922**	**414,232**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
Accumulated Surplus			
Balance at Beginning of Period	65,300	65,300	68,621
Change in Financial Position Resulting from Operations	5,911	5,933	1,387
Transfers from Other Reserves	-	-	-
Transfers to Other Reserves	-	-	-
Balance at End of Period	**71,211**	**71,233**	**70,008**
Asset Revaluation Reserve			
Balance at Beginning of Period	343,992	343,992	343,992
Revaluation Increment	6,143	6,143	-
Balance at End of Period	**350,135**	**350,135**	**343,992**
Other Reserves			
Balance at Beginning of Period	3,554	3,554	232
Transfers to Accumulated Surplus	-	-	-
Transfers from Accumulated Surplus	-	-	-
Balance at End of Period	**3,554**	**3,554**	**232**
TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD	**424,900**	**424,922**	**414,232**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - May 2026

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	Original Budget $000	Current Budget $000	YTD Actual $000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Rates	27,968	24,603	25,758
Statutory Charges	476	454	466
User Charges	5,794	5,890	5,265
Grants, Subsidies and Contributions - Operating	7,069	4,463	4,426
Investment Income	12	62	63
Reimbursements	9	9	12
Other Income	1,143	1,306	1,262
Payments			
Employee Costs	(15,917)	(15,677)	(14,368)
Materials, Contracts & Other Expenses	(19,041)	(24,797)	(28,366)
Finance Costs	(541)	(286)	(272)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	**6,972**	**(3,973)**	**(5,754)**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets	7,985	8,159	5,332
Grants Utilised for Capital Purposes	617	912	912
Sale of Replaced Assets	85	176	174
Sale of surplus assets	-	-	-
Payments			
Purchase of Renewal/Replacement Assets	(8,537)	(8,942)	(6,108)
Purchase of New/Expansion Assets	(8,492)	(8,138)	(5,598)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities	**(8,342)**	**(7,833)**	**(5,288)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Proceeds from Borrowings - Council	1,400	4,000	3,200
Payments			
Repayment of Borrowings	-	-	-
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities	**1,400**	**4,000**	**3,200**
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	**30**	**(7,806)**	**(7,842)**
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	8,099	8,099	8,099
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	**8,129**	**293**	**257**

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - May 2026

Loans - May 2026

Fixed Loans

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

Variable Loans

Loan	Total Facility Value	Drawn Down Value	Interest Rate	Expiry
139	$11,500,000	$5,200,000	5.85%	15/07/2030
140	$5,000,000	$0	5.85%	15/12/2031
141	$7,000,000	$0	5.85%	15/01/2028
	$23,500,000	**$5,200,000**		

Loan Summary

Fixed Loan Balance	$2,500,000	32%
Variable Loan Balance	$5,200,000	68%
Total Loan Balance	**$7,700,000**	
Loan Funds Available	$18,300,000	
Weighted Interest Rate	5.77%	

Accounts Payable - May 2026

Total Value of Payments made this month	$2,408,335
Total Value of Oustanding Accounts Payable	$402,512

Rates - May 2026

Value of Rates Payments received this month		$2,904,525	
Overdue Rates Value		$1,920,372	$1,824,704
Age of debt	**Properties**	**Value**	**Comparative**
Current Year	952	$750,353	$801,065
Last Year	231	$450,287	$415,472
Two Years ago	141	$256,299	$210,319
Three Years ago	87	$152,464	$138,182
Four or more Years ago	68	$310,968	$259,667

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT - May 2026

Accounts Receivable - May 2026

Value of Invoices issued this month	$1,399,063
Value of Payments received this month	$431,205
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Receivable	**$967,858**
Total Value of Oustanding Accounts Receivable	$1,407,745
Value of Doubtful Debt Provision	-$32,192
Expected value of Accounts Receivable to be received	**$1,375,553**

Consultants - May 2026

Total value of consultants used this month	$48,873
Total value of consultants used year to date	$590,961

High Value Operating Contracts - May 2026

Kerbside Waste Collection

Total estimated annual value of contract	$	3,025,700
Total expected spend year to date	$	2,521,400
Actual spend year to date	$	2,498,447
Variance	$	22,953

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	$	1,260,000
Total expected spend year to date	$	1,050,000
Actual spend year to date	$	1,025,758
Variance	$	24,242

Comments

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

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT – May 2026

Operating Income

The majority of operating income is on track.

Statutory income is above budget, because of some large development applications that have been lodged in the last month or so.

Grant income looks low, because currently a large portion of FA Grants are paid in late June. The Federal Government recently announced that three quarters of the 2026-27 grant will be brought forward, rather than the two quarters seen I the last couple of years, so grant income will actually be much higher than projected. The adjusted operating result will remove this timing distortion.

Operating Expenditure

The majority of operating expenditure is on track.

Loan borrowings were higher than expected in April and May due to short term cashflow requirements, so interest expenses may be around $20,000 above the current budget projection.

Capital Activities

Approximately 70% of the updated capital program budget has been spent to date. Expenditure on the Whyalla Boat Ramp over the next couple of months will boost this spend significantly. In addition, work on the additional Airport projects is occurring. However, the total tendered price of these three projects is significantly lower than the budget, meaning there that there will be an underspend, which will mean that some grant funding won't be claimed. Some further project spend will need to be deferred to 2026/27.

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT – May 2026

Loans

Council's target is for fixed loans to make up between 30% and 70% of total loan balances. Currently they are just inside of this range at 32%. The decision was taken not to fix additional loans in July, when a previous portion expired, due to the fact that loan balances are much lower than they have been over previous years, a result of the strategic land sale in June 2025. Council may operate outside of its target range over the next month because of this. Fixed loans will be reviewed in July, with a view to staying within the target range moving forward.

Council's weighted interest rate is currently 5.77%. Council's current available loan capacity is $18.3 million.

Rates

Overdue rates balances are currently above where they sat at the same time 12 months ago, being 5% higher. This could partly be attributed to financial stress on ratepayers however, it also aligns closely with the overall increase in the rate base from the 2025/26 rate increase, so is in line with expectations.

Short term arrears are actually slightly lower than where they were at the same time last year, but the arrears for properties that are between 9 months and 2 years behind are up approximately 8%, which will continue to be monitored.

Approximately 55% of properties with arrears are one quarterly payments or less behind, with 40% owing less than $100.

Consultants

The majority of consultant expenditure to date has related to:

- Employee Recruitment
- Cultural and Leadership Development
- IT Migration project
- Asset Management
- Planning and Building Assessment
- Major Events

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

Monthly Project Update - May 2026

2025-26 Capital Program - Monthly Reporting

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**Transport Renewal Program**	$ 1,699,000	$ 1,351,569	$ 2,799,691	Delivery	80%	90%	June 2026
Description:	After the large program undertaken over the previous three years to address a large number of end of life assets, this new three year program returns to a more "normal" annual budget level. This program will renew kerb, footpath and road assets prioritised using extensive Council data.		Progress:	The road sealing, kerb and footpath program contracts are now executed. Works on the sealed road program has been completed, focusing on spray sealing works on the Fitzgerald Bay Road. Footpath works have commenced with work on Jones Street in progress. Kerbing works commenced on 4th May with all works targeted for completion by the end of June 2026. Maintenance line marking works are in progress. Unsealed works on the False Bay Road have been delayed but will be progressed after the cuttlefish season. Some budget has been deferred to the				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Airport Runway Upgrade**	$ 4,212,000	$ 4,158,789	$ 4,158,789	Completed	99%	100%	Complete
Description:	Urgent works required to the main runway to allow for Q400 flights to service the airport on an ongoing basis. The project is over 90% grant funded jointly by the State and Federal Governments.		Progress:	This project was completed on time and under budget.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Airport Upgrades**	$ 2,330,000	$ 125,181	$ 262,490	Delivery	5%	40%	2026-27
Description:	Works to complete a new airside fence, upgrade the water main and replace the terminal switchboard.		Progress:	The State and Federal Governments recently provided permission to use the underspend from the runway on a number of other airport projects, however they set a deadline of 30 June 2026. All contracts have now been let and work is well progressed. Due to some delays with PVC products, the State and Federal Governments have provided an extension until 31 August for the water main project.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Foreshore Plaza**	$ 233,000	$ 97,894	$ 331,317	Delivery	42%	10%	2026-27
Description:	Delivery of the first stage of the Foreshore Masterplan consisting of a plaza precinct including water play. This project is 50% externally funded.		Progress:	A report was recently presented to Council to secure the final budget required to progress this project. Final negotiations are underway on the contract and then on site works are expected to commence in July.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Marina Renewal**	$ 2,517,000	$ 1,463,506	$ 2,484,017	Delivery	58%	80%	June 2026
Description:	Based on urgent need, these funds will focus on renewal of the boat ramp and pontoons in the Whyalla Marina, while also decommissioning the Point Lowly wharf which is at end of life.		Progress:	Site establishment for works at Whyalla Marina commenced on 10 Nov 2025, with work progressing well and now expected to be completed in early July. The demolition of the Pt Lowly Wharf has been completed. Some additional works on the Pt Lowly Boat Ramp have also been completed to ensure this asset can continue to be used.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

		Budget	Actual Costs	Total Committed	Stage	% Spent	% Complete	Expected Completion
Project	**New Foreshore Building**	$ 100,000	$ 101,272	$ 101,272	Detailed Design	101%	10%	2026-27
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:	Development approval is currently being sought, which included public notification of the design. Planning has commenced for the relocation of the Foreshore Café Pod, which needs to occur for this project to proceed. The tender process is expected to commence in the coming months.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Recreation Centre Improvements**	$ 47,000	$ -	$ -	Planning	0%	5%	2026-27
Description:	Installation of a significant solar array, with roof repairs to allow this to occur. Retiling and painting of the toilets to bring them up to the standard of the rest of the centre. Upgrade of the fire panel which is at end of life.		Progress:	The solar panel project has been deferred to 2026/27. Planning has commenced on other components, however delivery of these have also move to 2026/27 based on current project timelines.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

Project	**Civic Park Upgrades**	$ 841,000	$ 837,840	$ 843,197	Completed	100%	100%	Complete
Description:	Replacement of playground equipment at Civic Park, including improvements to the surroundings.		Progress:	The Civic Park playground replacement has been completed as part of the Stimulus Project. Construction of the new toilet has also now been completed, with this being funded from the toilet upgrade project.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

2025-26 Significant Operating Projects - Monthly Reporting

Project	**Marina Dredging**	$ 1,045,000	$ 1,047,283	$ 1,047,283	Completed	100%	100%	Complete
Description:	Dredging of both the Whyalla and Pt Lowly Marinas.		Progress:	Dredging of both marinas has now been completed, with the work ensuring that the channel at each site is much more navigable at low side, particularly at Pt Lowly. Some additional costs were incurred due to the amount of material needing to be removed. This can only be estimated before the work commences. Final costs from the engineer are still to be invoiced.				
				On Time		**On Budget**		

14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.2 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget Adoption and Rate Declaration – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Grant Jennings — **File No:** 0-216
Manager Finance and Knowledge Management
Directorate: Corporate Services

Annexures:

A – Annual Business Plan and Budget for the 2026/27 Financial Year – under separate cover
B – Updated Rating Policy
C – Updated Asset Management Strategy renewal projections
D – Content for Summary ABP Flyer
E – Summary ABP Flyer 2025/26

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

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

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

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To consider the Annual Business Plan and Budget Adoption and Rate Declaration for the 2026/27 financial year, ending 30 June 2027.

SUMMARY

Council's 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget (**ABP&B**) sets out Council's services, programs and projects for the year ahead and how they will be funded. It is Council's key management document, reflecting the work that Council needs to undertake to meet the community's goals and objectives, as set out in the Strategic Plan and within the parameters of a Long Term Financial Plan (**LTFP**).

Council commenced its public consultation process on Thursday 30 April 2026, with submissions closing on Monday 25 May 2026. Council was presented with all feedback received during public consultation at a Special Meeting held on Monday 1 June 2026.

Council consulted with the community on two rate increase options, being 5.3% and 6.3%. Both models proposed additional resources for city amenity, but under the 5.3% model, these resources would only be deployed once short-term fuel prices returned to where they were in February 2026. When the draft was developed, CPI was projected to be 3.5%. However, March CPI was released at the beginning of the consultation period and was higher than projected, at 4.9%.

Feedback on the proposed rate increase was mixed, but a key theme was that the figure should be as close to CPI as possible. Work has been undertaken on adjusting the budget, with an alternative proposal of an increase of 5.8%. While this is higher than the lower option consulted on, it is actually 0.9% closer to the final CPI figure (when comparing the lower option to the projected CPI). Additionally, it allows for some of the extra resources for city amenity to be deployed immediately, something that was originally only included with a 6.3% rate increase. This model is considered to best reflect the variety of feedback received.

Council resolved that Administration should update the ABP in line with decisions of Council and external factors that have changed since the draft was considered and to present a budget containing a rate increase of 5.8% to this meeting.

From a financial perspective, Council's 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget proposes an operating deficit of $1,313,000, an adjusted operating deficit ratio of (3)%, a net financial liabilities ratio of 24% and additional loan borrowings of $1.6 million.

In accordance with Section 167(3)(a)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1999,* Council must adopt the most recent valuations available when declaring rates. As an updated report on valuations is issued each Friday until the end of the financial year, there is a small chance that the valuations included in Recommendation 3 may need to be updated prior to adoption. If this occurs, depending on the size of the changes, some or all of the rates in the dollar included in Recommendation 4 may also need to be updated prior to adoption. For this reason, these items have been highlighted in yellow.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Refer **Annexure "A"** – Financial Statements

2026/27 Annual Business Plan Adoption

Council, in exercise of the power contained in Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999 and Regulation 6 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, having considered all submissions in accordance with Section 123(6) of the Local Government Act 1999 and in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2027, adopt the Annual Business Plan for the 2026/27 financial year, as detailed and laid before the Council at this meeting and which;

a) supports the achievement of the City of Whyalla's Strategic Direction;
b) maintains predictability and stability in rating increases, in line with the LTFP;
c) seeks to fully fund required renewal; and
d) is considered to be financial responsible, taking into account the current opportunities and challenges the city is facing.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Refer **Annexure "A"** – Financial Statements (Appendix A)

2026/27 Budget Adoption

Council, in exercise of the power contained in Section 123(7) of the Local Government Act 1999 and Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, having considered the Budget in conjunction with and determined it to be consistent with the Council's Annual Business Plan, adopt the Budget for the 2026/27 financial year with an operating deficit of $1,313,000, as detailed and laid before the Council at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Adoption of Valuations of Land for the Purpose of Rating

Council, pursuant to Section 167(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1999, adopt the valuations as at 12 June 2026 of capital value made by the Valuer-General for rating purposes for the year ending 30 June 2027, which aggregate $3,773,582,200, of which $3,562,353,800 is the valuation of rateable land.

RECOMMENDATION 4

Declaration of General Rates

Council, having taken into account the general principles of rating contained in Section 150 of the Local Government Act 1999 and the requirements of Section 153(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, and pursuant to Sections 153(1)(b) and 156(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 1999, declares that:

The differential general rates shall vary according to the locality of the land in various zones defined in the Planning and Design Code, established pursuant to the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, and according to the use of the land, pursuant to Regulation 14(1) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2013, and the rate applies as follows:

(a) LOCALITY AND USE AS DIFFERENTIATING FACTORS:

(i) In respect of all rateable land situated in the Rural Living, Rural Shack Settlement and Rural Settlement zones and so recorded in the assessment records of the Council, a differential general rate of 0.2182 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of the land, excluding any land categorised as Commercial-Shop, Commercial-Office, Commercial-Other, Industry-Light and Industry-Other, and for which the general differential rate is declared in paragraph (b) hereunder;

(ii) **In respect of all rateable land situated in the Significant Industry zone, and so recorded in the assessment records of the Council, a differential general rate of 6.8635 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of the land, excluding any land categorised as Commercial-Other, Primary Production and Vacant Land, and for which the general differential rate is declared in paragraph (b) hereunder;**

(iii) **In respect of all rateable land situated in the Visitor Experience zone and so recorded in the assessment records of the Council, a differential general rate of 6.8635 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of the land, excluding any land categorised as Commercial-Other, Vacant Land and Other, and for which the general differential rate is declared in paragraph (b) hereunder;**

(iv) **In respect of all rateable land situated in the Strategic Employment zone and so recorded in the assessment records of the Council, a differential general rate of 6.8635 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of the land, excluding any land categorised as as Commercial-Other, Industry-Light, Industry-Other and Vacant Land, and for which the general differential rate is declared in paragraph (b) hereunder;**

(b) **LAND USE AS A DIFFERENTIATING FACTOR in respect of all land not otherwise falling within paragraph (a) above, as follows:**

(i) **Residential – a differential general rate of 0.3116 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land;**

(ii) **Commercial-Shop – a differential general rate of 0.8882 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land;**

(iii) **Commercial-Office – a differential general rate of 0.8882 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land;**

(iv) **Commercial-Other – a differential general rate of 0.8882 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land;**

(v) **Industry-Light – a differential general rate of 1.1687 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land;**

(vi) **Industry-Other – a differential general rate of 1.1687 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land;**

(vii) **Primary Production – a differential general rate of 0.0312 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land;**

(viii) **Vacant Land – a differential general rate of 1.1687 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land;**

(ix) **Other – a differential general rate of 0.8882 cents in the dollar on the assessed capital value of such land.**

RECOMMENDATION 5

Fixed Charge

Council, pursuant to Section 152(1)(c)(ii) of the Local Government Act 1999, impose a fixed charge amount of $873.00, payable by way of General Rates, on rateable land within the area of the Council for the year ending 30 June 2027.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Rate Cap for Primary Residence

Council, pursuant to Section 153(3) of the Local Government Act 1999, determine that for the year ending 30 June 2027, it will not fix a maximum increase in the General Rate to be charged on rateable land that constitutes the principal place of residence of a principal ratepayer because the Council is providing relief in the nature of a rate cap pursuant to Section 166(1)(l) of the Act.

RECOMMENDATION 7

Declaration of Separate Rates – Regional Landscape Levy

Council, pursuant to Section 69 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, Section 154 of the Local Government Act 1999 and Regulation 12 of the Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020, declares for the year ending 30 June 2027 a separate rate based on a fixed charge and differentiated according to land use, on all rateable land within its area and within the area of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board for the purpose of the Regional Landscape Levy.

Residential	**$96.78**
Commercial	**$145.17**
Industrial	**$145.17**
Primary Producer	**$193.55**
Other/Vacant	**$96.78**

Note: *The Regional Landscape Levy is collected on behalf of, and funds the operations of, the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.*

RECOMMENDATION 8

Declaration of Service Charges

Council, pursuant to Section 155(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, impose for the year ending 30 June 2027, an annual service charge of $440.00 on rateable land within its area for the provision of the service of collection, treatment and disposal of hard waste where such a service is provided.

RECOMMENDATION 9

Refer **Annexure "B"**

Rating Policy

Council adopt the Rating Policy dated June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION 10

Rate Rebates

Council, pursuant to Section 44 of the Local Government Act 1999, delegate its power to the Chief Executive Officer or their nominee, to determine applications and to grant a discretionary rebate of rates in accordance with Section 166 of the Local Government Act 1999, which includes any rebates provided under section 166(l) consistent with any other resolution of Council.

RECOMMENDATION 11

Rate Cap

Council, pursuant to and in accordance with Section 166(1)(l)(i) of the Local Government Act 1999, to provide relief against what would otherwise amount to a substantial change in rates payable by a ratepayer due to a redistribution of the rates burden within the community arising from a change to the basis or structure of the council's rates:

a) grant a rebate of General Rates automatically for the financial year ending 30 June 2027 to the principal ratepayer in respect of any land categorised as Residential, Primary Production or Coastal and Rural Living, where such a rebate was provided for the year ending 30 June 2026 and where the amount of increase in respect of that land between the amount of General Rates imposed for the financial year ending 30 June 2027 and the amount of General Rates payable for the financial year ending 30 June 2026, is greater than 17%; or

b) grant a rebate of General Rates automatically for the financial year ending 30 June 2027 to the principal ratepayer in respect of any land categorised as Commercial, Industrial, Vacant or Other, where such a rebate was provided for the year ending 30 June 2026 and where the amount of increase in respect of that land between the amount of General Rates imposed for the financial year ending 30 June 2027 and the amount of General Rates payable for the financial year ending 30 June 2026:

   i. is greater than 35.8% and the property is used for community use, private use or to operate a small business; or

   ii. is greater than 65.8%, with Council reserving the right to make the final judgment on the application of this rebate, based on available information.

RECOMMENDATION 12

Waste Management Remission of Service Charges

Council has a discretion to partially or wholly remit service charges, and being of the opinion that it is desirable to do so for the year ending 30 June 2027 for the purpose of providing relief to pensioners, the following remission of $180.00 for annual service charges shall be given for the principal place of residence provided the:

a) applicant is a pensioner as at 4 September 2026 and has a current Aged, Carers or Disability Support Pensioner Concession Card (AGE, CAR, DSP); or Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Gold Card (TPI, EDA, WW);

b) applicant must own and occupy the land as his/her principal place of residence for which the refuse charge remission is provided on or before the 4 September 2026;

c) remission is applicable to the first garbage collection service only at the land – no remission is applicable to additional services;

d) if the applicant becomes ineligible for a refuse charge remission, he/she must advise Council immediately; and

e) if a refuse charge remission is approved, it will be included on the next quarter rate notice.

RECOMMENDATION 13

Payment of Rates

Council, pursuant to Section 181(2) of the Local Government Act 1999, declares that all rates for the year ending 30 June 2027 are payable by quarterly instalment on the 4 September 2026, 4 December 2026, 5 March 2027 and 4 June 2027.

RECOMMENDATION 14

Loan Borrowings

Council, pursuant to Section 123(7a) of the Local Government Act 1999, approves total loan borrowings for the financial year ending 30 June 2027 up to a value of $19.0 million in line with Council's currently approved loan facilities, held with the Local Government Finance Authority.

RECOMMENDATION 15

Refer **Annexure "A"** – Long Term Financial Plan Tables (Appendix B) and **Annexure "C"**

Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Strategy

Council updates the Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Strategy consistent with the 2026/27 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION 16

Refer **Annexure "D"** and **Annexure "E"**

Summary 2026/27 Annual Business Plan

Council endorses the content for the Summary 2026/27 Annual Business Plan, to be presented in a format consistent with the 2025/26 document.

DUE DATE

Publish ABP and LTFP on Council's website	18/06/2026
Publish notice of rates declaration in Whyalla News	25/06/2026
Publish notice of rates declaration in Government Gazette	25/06/2026
Raise Rates	10/07/2026

14.2.2 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget Adoption and Rate Declaration – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Annual Business Plan is Council's statement of its intended programs and outcomes for the ensuing year. It links the Council's longer term planning as set out in its Strategic Management Plans, with the allocation of resources in its budget. It also establishes the basis for review of Council's performance over the year included in its Annual Report.

Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1999 provides the principles that must be observed by Council when preparing an annual business plan and budget which includes: outlining objectives, measuring performance, management of assets, financial sustainability and the levying of rates. This section also outlines that a draft version of the plan must be made available for public consultation prior to adoption.

The Annual Business Plan includes the following elements:

- a summary of the Council's longer term objectives, as set out in its Strategic Management Plans;
- the list of indicators against which Council's performance will be measured;
- the activities (initiatives and projects) that the Council intends to undertake to achieve its objectives;
- a high level summary of Council's service delivery mix; and
- a summary of the proposed sources of revenue for the year, including the proposed approach to rating and what it means for ratepayers.

Another key area is the suite of parameters that form the framework for the development of the 2026/27 ABP&B, based on a holistic review of all relevant information. This ensures that the budget is developed in a logical manner that is clear to all stakeholders. The parameters are as follows.

The ABP&B will:

1. Support the achievement of the City of Whyalla's Strategic Direction.
2. Address issues arising, and opportunities identified, from organisational effectiveness assessments/reviews.
3. Maintain a break-even operating position in the Long-Term Financial Plan, for Council excluding Airport.
4. Reach an operating deficit position for Council including the Airport equal to less than 50% of airport depreciation by 2028/29 or earlier.

5. Continue to improve the whole of life focus on assets in accordance with Council's Asset Management Strategy, with a priority on:
   - maintenance to ensure assets reach end of life; and
   - 100% funding of renewal at end of life except where a service level change has been specified, or where renewal would be inconsistent with an adopted Council plan or resolution.
6. Review existing services and assets to ensure they meet prioritised community needs, using internal resources.
7. Council only approve New/Upgrade Capital Projects where it has identified:
   - borrowing capacity to fund upfront cost; and
   - operating capacity to fund ongoing costs.
8. Maintain predictability and stability in rating increases, in line with the LTFP.

An initial budget workshop was held with Council Members on 9 December 2025 to discuss the overall budget process, focusing on the following key areas:

- The process and timetable for the development and adoption of the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget (ABP&B).
- The key underlying assumptions, and whether they were appropriate.
- The key underlying budget parameters.
- Discussion of strategies to increase the likelihood that Council will operate within the adopted budget, particularly over the first 3 years of the LTFP.

The workshop also focused on adjustments that Council could make to its Long Term Financial Plan, to ensure that the budget parameter relating to a return to a modified breakeven position by 2028/29 can be met. It is a modified breakeven, as it is calculated by removing 50% of airport depreciation.

This was achieved by:

- recognising additional income from rates equivalency income from the State Government;
- building in an assumption of rates growth of 0.2% being achieved in each of the next 3 years;
- increasing the required rate increase by 0.1% for each of the next 3 years; and
- Reducing the budget available for service reviews.

Achieving this modified breakeven position, will be the primary basis of Council's financial decision-making over the coming two years and will ensure that Council is operating in a financially sustainable manner. A new table has been added to Appendix B of the ABP to clearly show the modified operating ratio, to allow this result to be easily tracked.

Three additional workshops were held with Council Members on 23 February 2026, 2 March 2026 and 23 March 2026, to develop the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Council commenced its public consultation process on Thursday 30 April 2026, with submissions closing on Monday 25 May 2026. Council was presented with all feedback received during public consultation at a Special Meeting held on Monday 1 June 2026.

Council consulted with the community on two rate increase options, being 5.3% and 6.3%. Both models proposed additional resources for city amenity, but under the 5.3% model, these resources would only be deployed once short-term fuel prices returned to where they were in February 2026. When the draft was developed, CPI was projected to be 3.5%. However, March CPI was released at the beginning of the consultation period and was higher than projected, at 4.9%.

Feedback on the proposed rate increase was mixed, but a key theme was that the figure should be as close to CPI as possible. Work has been undertaken on adjusting the budget, with an alternative proposal of an increase of 5.8%. While this is higher than the lower option consulted on, it is actually 0.9% closer to the final CPI figure (when comparing the lower option to the projected CPI). Additionally, it allows for some of the extra resources for city amenity to be deployed immediately, something that was originally only included with a 6.3% rate increase. This model is considered to best reflect the variety of feedback received.

Council resolved that Administration should update the ABP in line with decisions of Council and external factors that have changed since the draft was considered and to present a budget containing a rate increase of 5.8% to this meeting.

DISCUSSION

Development of the ABP&B

The 2026/27 ABP&B has been developed based on the following key assumptions:

- CPI – 4.9% (March 2025);
- weighted interest rate on borrowings – 5.5% (estimated);
- labour costs increasing by 5.0% (estimated);
- a rate increase for existing ratepayers of 5.8%, being 5.7% for residential properties; and
- fees and charges increasing by 5.0%.

The majority of Council's contracts have provision for CPI increases each year and so most of Council's contracting and material budgets are increased by this factor.

The proposed capital program includes $12.7 million of newly identified projects, with $6.05 million of this being for renewal and $6.65 million being for new assets. This is offset by $4.0 million of grant funding.

$9.7 million of expenditure has been retimed from 2025/26, primarily for the Foreshore Plaza Splash and Play project that will now be completed next year, with $3.0 million of grant funding retimed offsetting this.

There are a number of assumptions around savings built into the budget and LTFP as follows:

- Assumption of 1.5 vacant positions on average during each financial year - $180,000 for 2026/27.
- An ongoing reduction of 1.5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions from 2026/27, with 1.1 FTE of this already identified.
- Identification of other operating savings - $25,000 for 2026/27 increasing by $25,000 in each subsequent year.

The LTFP projected a rate increase of 5.7% for 2026/27, being 0.8% above CPI. Despite adding additional resources for city amenity and budget pressures created by increased fuel costs, Council has managed to responsibly fund the budget with only a 0.1% rise in the required rate increase.

The implementation of the plan will be measured against a number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The list is made up of:

- Delivery of strategic initiatives.
- Delivery of capital program.
- Performance against Council's adopted budget.
- Maintain a breakeven position or better for Council excluding Airport.
- Implement strategies to restore a modified breakeven financial position by 2028/29.

Rating Policy

The State Valuation Office has completed their overall assessment and advised of a general property valuation increase of 9.9% over the previous year. Residential properties experienced an overall increase of 10.0%, with increases of 6.4% for Whyalla and Whyalla Playford, 10.0% for Whyalla Jenkins and 12.9% for Whyalla Norrie and Whyalla Stuart. Rural and shack sites experienced an increase of 13.9%, commercial and industrial properties experienced an average increase in value of 5.7%, while vacant land experienced an increase of 10.6%.

Refer **Annexure "B"** – Updated Rating Policy

The Rating Policy only includes minor changes from last year, including updated differentials to accommodate relative valuation changes. Additionally, the section on capping has been updated to remove 2025/26, which is no longer relevant.

The Waste Management Service Charge is proposed to increase by 3.5% from $425 to $440.

The Regional Landscape Levy is set by the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board and is a State Government tax imposed under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019. The Board has advised the levy for 2026/27 is $1,096,900, previously $1,096,900, an increase of 2.4%.

Council rates for the year ending 30 June 2027 will be payable by quarterly instalments on the first Friday of the month, being 4 September 2026, 4 December 2026, 5 March 2027 and 4 June 2027.

Feedback from Consultation

While the response received focused primarily on the proposed rate increase, there was other feedback received that could be useful for Council decision-making. Some of the items raised and some initial thoughts on these are as follows:

- Discussion about large increases in staff numbers over time and a request for more transparency over staff numbers. It is proposed that a new section be added to the Annual Business Plan next year for just this purpose, however, some information is provided here in the meantime.

  Over the last 6 budget cycles, there has been a total Full Time Equivalent (**FTE**) increase of 13.8. Once childcare positions, which are self-funded, and trainee positions, transferred from contracting are removed, this figure becomes 5.1. 2 of these positions are the additional resources for city amenity proposed to commence in July, meaning that the FTE increase over the previous 5 years was only 3.1.

  There was also discussion about the size of Management increasing over time as well. While there was a re-structure that occurred back in 2021/22 that did add additional management roles, the management numbers have actually reduced since then. Any new management positions are included within this overall 3.1 FTE increase.

- Comments about rate rises over time, not resulting in increased service delivery. It is important to note that the rate increases over the last five years, while they have been above CPI, have been about addressing budget pressures, financial sustainability and project delivery. None have related to increased service delivery, with the exception of maintaining additional assets, until this year where Council have proposed an increase in resources for city amenity.

- Comments were raised around not delivering any new projects in the current climate. Council has undertaken a lot of work in the last few years in reducing capital spend on new assets. However, they were adamant that the outcomes of the Foreshore Master Plan needed to begin being delivered, which is where the only material spend on new assets is occurring. The ongoing impacts of this are offset by the proceeds of the strategic land sale.

- A comment around Council refining the scope of the service review program. This was a conscious decision for Council over the next couple of years, with this focus to be brought in house.

- Some comments about the consistency of service delivery across the entire city, with a feeling that the Western end of the city is underserviced. During the recent service review of Open Space, it was recognised that some teams have been under resourced, particularly when training of new staff is being undertaken. The additional resources for city amenity should help with some of these issues, and lead to better consistency in service delivery. However, it should be noted that some of the items raised relate to private property, which is not within Council's power to remedy, except in extreme circumstances.

- A comment about fact that Council should be able to identify higher saving levels within its large budget. However, as has been consistently discussed with Council, many areas of the business have actually been under budgeted over time, and so only increasing budget levels by CPI still actually requires efficiencies to be found over time, or alternate income sources to fund. There is no capacity for additional savings at this time. A comment was raised about new technologies creating savings over time, and this is certainly something that should be able to be realized in the future.

- There were discussions around implementing more of a shared responsibility for verges in the city, like some metropolitan councils. This would be a massive cost saving for the city, but would also be a massive change, that would take a long time to implement. Some metropolitan councils with a higher proportion of lower socio-economic households; similar to Whyalla, also maintain verges, as in these areas less community involvement in this activity occurs.

  The same submission discussed updating the tree policy to require a tree in front of every household, but this runs into some of the same issues. Council does not have the capacity to water that many trees until they reach maturity, and household buy-in to take responsibility for them can be hard to achieve.

  Having said all of this, Council is reviewing how it can get higher levels of community buy-in on verge maintenance, to reduce costs and increase amenity over time.

Comparative Rate Increases

Council has consulted with the community based on our own unique financial position and has had open honest conversations about what this means for the future, including projected rate increases. Inevitably, comparisons with rate increases being adopted by other Councils will always be mentioned, but each Council is unique and caution with this approach is advised. However, for information purposes only (i.e. not comparison), the rate increases being proposed by councils on the Eyre Peninsula and Upper Spencer Gulf are shown below:

Council	Proposed Rate Increase	Current Stage
Ceduna	5.3%	Audit Committee
Cleve	5.4%	Consultation
Elliston	5.7%	Consultation
Franklin Harbour	4.9%	Audit Committee
Kimba	6.9%	Consultation
Lower Eyre	4.9%	Consultation
Port Augusta	7.8%	Audit Committee
Port Lincoln	4.9%	Consultation
Port Pirie	5.0%	Audit Committee
Steaky Bay	4.9%	Consultation
Tumby Bay	7.0%	Consultation
Wudinna	TBA	
Whyalla	**5.8%**	**Consultation**

As can be seen, the majority of councils in this group that have announced a proposed rate increase at this time, have landed between 4.9% and 5.7%, with three outliers significantly higher than this range.

Asset Management Strategy

Refer **Annexure "C"** – Updated Asset Management Strategy Renewal Projections

Under Section 122(1b) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the financial projections in Council's adopted LTFP must be consistent with the projections in Council's Asset Management Strategy (**AMS**). To ensure that this occurs, an updated version of the most current renewal projections from Council's AMS, indexed to current year values, are included for adoption.

Financial Implications

Council has prepared the 2026/27 ABP&B in line with the adopted Strategic Plan, LTFP and AMS.

Key Financial Performance Indicator targets (KPIs) guide revenue and expenditure decisions, overall budget strategies and future decision making. These targets promote a sustainable position in the long term; with short, medium and long term targets being set to achieve this aim.

Indicator	**Target Short Term Years 1-3**	**Target Medium Term Years 4-6**	**Target Long Term Years 7-10**
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) Ratio	(2) to 1%	0 to 3%	2 to 5%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	<80%	≤80%	≤80%
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	90-110%	90-110%	90-110%

The following projections are consistent with a rate increase of 5.8% as per the Council resolution from 1 June 2026.

The key financial measures for the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan and Budget are:

- an operating deficit $1.31 million;
- an operating deficit ratio of (3)%;
- a net liabilities ratio of 24%; and
- an asset sustainability ratio of 160%.

Refer **Annexure "A"** – Financial Statements (Appendix A) and Updated Long Term Financial Plan Tables (Appendix B)

Council proposes an operating deficit of $1.31 million and an operating deficit ratio of (3)%. This is lower than Council's target range of (2)% to 1%. Council will move back into target range in 2027/28. During the next major review of the Long Term Financial Plan, it is likely that this measure will be replaced by the modified operating ratio, with a target range of breakeven or better, as this aligns with Council's current budget parameters. Under this measure, Council will move back to target range by 2028/29, as per the current target.

Council's Net Financial Liabilities ratio is projected to be 24% for 2026/27, which is well within target range. This is projected to be the peak for this ratio and then drop over the term of the Long Term Financial Plan to 3% by 2033. Total borrowings are projected at $10.1 million for 2026/27. They are projected to peak at $10.5 million in 2027/28, after which they are projected to reduce over time, to zero by 2034.

The Asset Renewal Funding Ratio is projected to be 160% in 2026/27 and averages 110% over the remaining nine years of the plan. This indicates that Council is planning to renew assets in line with the requirements of the AMS. It is above target range in the short term due to renewal projects being retimed from 2025/26.

Projections for Council over the next 10 years are as follows:

	2027	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**2032**	**2033**	**2034**	**2035**	**2036**
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,313)	(944)	(599)	(263)	(86)	252	511	687	660	924
Operating/(Deficit) Ratio	(3)%	(2)%	(1)%	(1)%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	24%	24%	20%	14%	14%	8%	3%	(2)%	(7)%	(15)%
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	160%	107%	114%	113%	106%	118%	110%	94%	117%	110%
Modified Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(800)	(424)	(72)	272	457	809	1,082	1,272	1,260	1,539
Modified Operating/(Deficit) Ratio	(2)%	(1)%	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%

Airport

The model shows that the airport is running at a high level of deficit, particularly in the first half of the LTFP. However, this begins to improve over time, as airport loan balances begin to reduce after Council loans reach zero. It is also important to remember that the airport can run at a deficit equal to half of depreciation in the long term, with this measure shown as the modified operating result. In the current model this result is only approached around year nine of the model, so more work is required to bring this timeline forward. However, there are limit options to improve the overall airport result, with passenger numbers being the primary driver, which is beyond Council's ability to control.

The projections across the 10 years are:

	2027	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**	**2031**	**2032**	**2033**	**2034**	**2035**	**2036**
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,478)	(1,385)	(1,341)	(1,198)	(1,077)	(1,026)	(899)	(809)	(791)	(813)
Operating/(Deficit) Ratio	(52)%	(45)%	(42)%	(36)%	(31)%	(29)%	(24)%	(21)%	(20)%	(21)%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	346%	332%	283%	190%	179%	99%	30%	(1)%	(12)%	(22)%
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Modified Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(965)	(865)	(814)	(663)	(534)	(469)	(328)	(224)	(191)	(198)
Modified Operating/(Deficit) Ratio	(34)%	(28)%	(25)%	(20)%	(15)%	(13)%	(9)%	(6)%	(5)%	(5)%

Council

It is also considered useful to look at the operating position of the Council excluding the Airport, with projections as follows:

	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	165	441	742	935	991	1,278	1,410	1,496	1,451	1,737
Operating/(Deficit) Ratio	0%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	(2)%	(7)%	(14)%
Asset Renewal Funding Ratio	160%	107%	114%	113%	106%	118%	110%	94%	117%	110%

The plan is in breakeven or surplus for the length of the plan.

Strategic Plan

The ABP&B is a key document that outlines the activities that Council will undertake to deliver on all its strategic objectives.

Legislation

Council has prepared and consulted on the 2026/27 ABP&B in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999*, *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* and Council's Public Consultation Policy.

In accordance with Section 123(8) of the Act, Council must adopt an Annual Business Plan and Budget between 31 May and 15 August for the ensuing financial year.

Council has also undertaken a review of the Long Term Financial Plan, in accordance with Section 122 (4)(4a) of the Local Government Act 1999 and Regulation 5 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, with the updated projections included as Appendix B the Annual Business Plan.

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

Council have consulted on the Annual Business Plan in accordance with its legislative requirements but have also made sure to go beyond these requirements. There may be some reputational risk if Council are not seen to be responding to community feedback.

As shown in Council's financial projections, a deficit position is again projected, and this will be the case for at least three more financial years after this. Work is actively being done to improve Council's financial result in the short to medium term. The Airport continues to pose the highest financial risk to Council and will need to continue to be monitored closely moving forward.

Social Considerations – Nil

Community Engagement

Council conducted extensive public consultation on its draft 2026/27 ABP&B, in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act and Council's Public Consultation Policy. Full details of all feedback received during consultation can be reviewed in the report presented to the Special Council meeting on 1 June 2026.

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication

A summary version of the adopted ABP&B will be included with the first quarter rates notice with the content for this flyer included as **Annexure "D"**. This document will be prepared in the same format used for 2025/26, which can be seen in **Annexure "E"**. Details of Council's adopted ABP&B will also be communicated via mainstream media channels, social media and via Council's website.

Conclusion

The Annual Business Plan and Budget is a key document that outlines the activities that Council will undertake to deliver on all its strategic objectives.

Council consulted with the community on two rate increase options, being 5.3% and 6.3%. Both models proposed additional resources for city amenity, but under the 5.3% model, these resources would only be deployed once short-term fuel prices returned to where they were in February 2026. When the draft was developed, CPI was projected to be 3.5%. However, March CPI was released at the beginning of the consultation period and was higher than projected, at 4.9%.

Feedback on the proposed rate increase was mixed, but a key theme was that the figure should be as close to CPI as possible. Work has been undertaken on adjusting the budget, with an alternative proposal of an increase of 5.8%. While this is higher than the lower option consulted on, it is actually 0.9% closer to the final CPI figure (when comparing the lower option to the projected CPI). Additionally, it allows for some of the extra resources for city amenity to be deployed immediately, something that was originally only included with a 6.3% rate increase. This model is considered to best reflect the variety of feedback received.

The Waste Service Charge is proposed to increase by 3.5% from $425 to $440.

When the Waste Service is added to the rate increase, the average residential property will see an annual increase of $110.

Council proposes an operating deficit of $1.31 million and an operating deficit ratio of (3)%. This is lower than Council's target range of (2)% to 1%. Council will move back into target range in 2027/28. During the next major review of the Long Term Financial Plan, it is likely that this measure will be replaced by the modified operating ratio, with a target range of breakeven or better, as this aligns with Council's current budget parameters. Under this measure, Council will move back to target range by 2028/29, as per the current target.

Annexure "B"

Rating Policy

Rating Policy	
Type	Financial
GDS Category	Financial Management – Public
Responsible Officer	Finance Coordinator
Policy Adopted	June 2026~~5~~
Review Period	Annually
Last Reviewed	June 2025~~4~~ *(now archived)*
Next Review Date	June 2027~~6~~
Policy Version Number	10~~9~~
Applicable Legislation	• Local Government Act 1999 • Local Government General Regulations 1999 • Valuation Land Act 1971 • Natural Resource Management Act 2004 • Rates and Land Tax Remissions Act 1986 • Rates and Land Tax Remissions Regulations 2011 • Heritage Act 1993 • Recreation Grounds Rates and Taxes Exemption Act 1981 • Recreation Grounds (Regulations) Act 1931, Recreation Grounds Regulations 2011 • Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 • Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 1966 • Aboriginal Lands Trust Regulations 2014 • Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011
Related Documents	• Financial Hardship Policy
Public Consultation Required	No
Purpose	All land within a Council area, except for land specifically exempt (e.g. Crown Land, Council-occupied land and other land prescribed in the Act) is rateable

1. Introduction

Council's powers to raise rates are found in Chapter 10 of the *Local Government Act 1999 ("the Act")*. The Act provides the framework within which the Council must operate but also leaves room for the Council to make a range of policy choices. This document includes reference to compulsory features of the rating system, as well as the policy choices that the Council can make on how it imposes and administers the collection of rates.

2. Policy Principles

Councils are required to raise revenue for Governance, Administration and the delivery of appropriate goods and services to the community. Rates are not a fee for service; they constitute a system of taxation for Local Government functions and purposes which are defined in the Act.[1]

This policy represents Councils' commitment to balancing the five main principles of taxation being:

- *Equity* – taxpayers with the same wealth pay the same tax (horizontal equity), wealthier taxpayers pay more tax (vertical equity);
- *Benefit* – taxpayers should receive some benefits from paying tax, but not necessarily to the extent of the tax paid;
- *Ability-to-pay* – in levying taxes the ability of the taxpayer to pay the tax must be taken into account;
- *Efficiency* – if a tax is designed to change consumers behaviour and the behaviour changes, the tax is efficient (e.g. tobacco taxes); if a tax is designed to be neutral in its effect on taxpayers and it changes taxpayers behaviour the tax is inefficient; and
- *Simplicity* – the tax must be understandable, hard to avoid and easy to collect.

Councils' Rating Policy is underpinned by:

- accountability and professional ethics;
- community consultation;
- transparency and simplicity;
- efficiency;
- equitable distribution of the rate burden;
- consistency with the strategic directions of Council; and
- compliance with relevant legislation.

[1] Chapter 10 Local Government Act 1999

3. Implementation

In setting its rates annually, the Council will consider the following:

- Councils' Strategic Plan;
- Councils' Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Strategy;
- the recurrent expenditure and income resources required for the delivery of Council services which are documented in the Annual Business Plan and Budget over the next 12 months;
- the operating and capital projects and new programs for the coming year;
- the impact of rate changes on all ratepayers in the Council area;
- extreme changes in valuation and how their effect can be minimised in setting rating levels;
- Councils' recent development approval trends and growth expected for the Council area;
- Equity issues and the relationship between various land uses and the existing rating structure;
- Increased use of "user pays" cost recovery systems;
- Current local, state and national economic conditions and expected changes during the next financial year; and
- The principles as outlined in this policy.

4. Policy Statement

Method Used to Value Land

Council uses Capital Value as the basis for rating land within the Council area. Capital Value is the value of the land and all improvements on the land.

Adoption of Valuations

Council adopts the most recent valuations provided by the Valuer General that are to apply to the financial year in question at the time rates are adopted. Valuation changes received after this time, excluding objections and corrections, will to be applied to future financial years.

If a ratepayer is dissatisfied with the valuation made by the Valuer General, their rates notice will include information about how to object to the valuation. The lodgment of an objection does not change the due date for the payment of rates.

If an objection is upheld and a new value issued by the Valuer General, rates will be adjusted accordingly for the current financial year and an amended rate notice will be issued. Retrospective adjustments will not be made for prior financial years unless expressly directed by the Valuer General.

Differential General Rates

All land within a council area, except for land specifically exempt under section 147(2) of the Act is rateable. The Local Government Act provides for a Council to raise rate revenue through a General Rate which applies to all rateable properties, or through differential general rates, which apply to classes of properties.

Council has elected to apply differential rates primarily based on the prescribed Land Use codes, being:

1 – Residential
2 – Commercial - Shop
3 – Commercial - Office
4 – Commercial - Other
5 – Industrial – Light
6 – Industrial – Other
7 – Primary Production
8 – Vacant
9 – Other

In addition, Council has elected to apply differentials using a combination of Locality and Land Use in a limited number of circumstances.

There are two separate differential groupings, made up of the following combinations of Locality and Land Use:

Heavy Industry

Significant Industry (Industry - Other and Other)
Visitor Experience (Industry - Other)
Strategic Employment (Other)

Coastal and Rural Living

Rural Shack Settlement (Residential and Vacant Land)
Rural Settlement (Residential and Vacant Land)
Rural Living (Residential, Vacant Land and Primary Production)

Based on these factors and by consolidating Land Use codes where appropriate, Council has eight identified differential groups. The table below shows the differential applied to each property type, with this being expressed as a percentage of the rate in the dollar applied to Residential properties.

Residential	100%
Commercial (Shop, Office and Other)	2875%
Industrial (Light and Other)	3750%
Primary Production	10%
Vacant Land	3750%
Other	2875%
Heavy Industry	2,078203%
Coastal and Rural Living	70%

In applying this approach Council will take into consideration all prevailing economic conditions and changes and adjust its differential rates accordingly, to ensure an appropriate and fair equalisation of rates across all land use categories.

Fixed Charge

Council applies a Fixed Charge to each rateable property, based upon the principle that:

- it is appropriate that all rateable properties make a contribution to the cost of administering the Councils' activities and make a contribution to the cost of creating and maintaining the physical infrastructure that supports each property; and
- a fixed charge rating system reduces the impact of volatility in property valuations.

The Fixed Charge is set at a level such that it raises approximately 50% of the rates raised from Residential properties. In applying this approach Council will take into consideration all prevailing economic conditions and changes and adjust the Fixed Charge accordingly, to ensure an appropriate and fair equalisation of rates across properties.

Upon application, where two or more adjoining properties have the same owner and occupier, only one fixed charge is payable by the ratepayer. Properties may be classified as adjoining if:

- the relevant blocks are contiguous according to the Local Government Act;
- they have the same owner and occupier; and
- the owner lives at one property and the remaining are vacant land or zoned primary production.

Capping

Due to the large changes caused by shifting the basis of rating from Site Value to Capital Value, Council will apply a mechanism of rate capping for a period of 3 years, the maximum allowed under section 166(1)(l) of the Act.

After this time, Council may consider a mechanism for capping rate increases for properties that constitute a ratepayers principle place of residence under section 153(3) of the Act, with a decision to be made on an annual basis.

The cap adopted for each year will be applied to the net general rates payable for the previous year, after capping was applied, to set the maximum amount of general rates payable. For clarity, this means that the cap is cumulative.

For properties that fall into the differential categories Residential, Primary Production and Coastal & Residential Living, and where capping was applied in 2025~~4~~/26~~5~~, capping will be applied automatically within the following parameters:

~~2025/26~~	~~12% plus the General Rate Increase for 2025/26~~
2026/27	12% plus the General Rate Increase for 2026/27

For properties that fall into the differential categories Commercial, Industrial, Vacant and Other, and where capping was applied in 2025~~4~~/26~~5~~, capping will be applied automatically within the following parameters:

Small Business, Community Use or Private Use

~~2025/26~~	~~30% plus the General Rate Increase for 2025/26~~
2026/27	30% plus the General Rate Increase for 2026/27

Other

~~2025/26~~	~~60% plus the General Rate Increase for 2025/26~~
2026/27	60% plus the General Rate Increase for 2026/27

Capping will not apply to properties in the Heavy Industry category.

Council reserves the right to apply capping in a manner more favourable to that outlined above in individual circumstances where it is deemed appropriate.

Service Charges

The Act allows Council to apply a charge to ratepayers to recover the cost of dedicated services provided to specific properties. The use of such a charge is appropriate whenever beneficiaries can be identified, and it is practical to do so, ensuring users pay for the services provided to them.

Waste Management Service Charge

- The Council directly charges ratepayers for their kerbside waste collection services. The total amount recovered must not exceed the cost of providing the service. The charge is reviewed annually against the cost to provide the service. When making this assessment, the total cost of managing waste costs in the city is taken into account, including hard waste and illegal dumping.
- Properties may receive a discounted charge where their property access point is more than 500 metres from their bin collection point. These rebates are applied automatically against these properties.

Regional Landscape Levy

The Council is required under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* to make a specified contribution to the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board. It does so by imposing a separate rate against all rateable properties. The levy is based on land use type and is shown as a separate charge on the rates notice.

This separate rate is effectively a State tax that Councils are required to collect and return to a State Government agency, the Landscape Administration Fund. Even though it appears on the Councils' rates notice, enquiries about this component should be directed to the Landscape Board. Contact details are available on the back of rates notices.

5. Help with Rates

Concessions

The State Government provides a "cost-of-living concession" payment which is provided directly to those entitled. This replaced the previous concession provided by the State Government, which as directed to councils and applied to rate bills. Queries and applications for concessions can be made through the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI) Concessions Hotline 1800 307 758 or at www.sa.gov.au/concessions using the on-line form.

If successful, the applicant will receive the concession as a payment directly from Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Refuse Charge Remissions

Upon application, Council provides a $1807~~8~~ waste service charge remission against the refuse charge for the following eligible pensioners:

- Aged Pension
- Carers Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card

The application must be received prior to the due date for 3rd quarter rates to be applied to the current year. The concession will continue to be applied in subsequent years for eligible aged pensioners, but other eligible pensioners must apply on an annual basis. Council must be notified of any change in circumstance that would change eligibility.

Remission of Rates

Council has the discretion to partially or wholly remit (i.e. waive) rates on the basis of hardship. This is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer.

If a ratepayer believes they are suffering financial hardship, as described in Councils' Financial Hardship Policy, they may contact the Rates Officer to discuss the matter. Such inquiries are treated confidentially, and any application will be considered on case-by-case basis.

Remission of Fines

Council permits the remission of rates fines and interest charges under delegated authority to the Manager Finance & Knowledge Management and the Finance Coordinator, in order to provide relief in those circumstances where it is reasonable to expect that, had the circumstances not existed, the amount would not have been outstanding.

This applies to fines and interest raised under Section 181(8) of the Local Government Act 1999 and must not exceed $75 per month per property.

Postponement of Rates for Seniors

Holders of a State Seniors Card are eligible (under certain conditions) to postpone on a long-term basis, all but $500 of the annual rates on their principal place of residence. The postponed amount is subject to a monthly interest charge, with the accrued debt falling due for payment only when the title to the land is transferred to another person (e.g. sold), or there is a failure to comply with a condition that is imposed by regulations under the Act.

Postponement of Rates due to Hardship

Persons other than the holders of a Seniors Card may also apply for postponement of rates. A postponement of rates may be considered if Council is satisfied that the payment of rates would cause hardship. Council may, on application and subject to the ratepayer substantiating hardship, consider granting a postponement of payment of rates in accordance with Financial Hardship Policy.

The ratepayer must agree to pay interest on the amount affected by the postponement at the cash advance debenture rate and providing the ratepayer satisfies the following criteria:

- the property is the principal place of residence of the ratepayer, and
- the property has been owned by the ratepayer and has been their principal place of residence for a minimum of one year, or
- any other financial hardship reason as approved by Council that is in accordance with Councils' Financial Hardship Policy.

The amount postponed will not exceed:

- 75% of the rates payable for the assessment and shall accrue interest at the cash advance debenture rate published by the LGFA for 1 July each year.
- 50% of the land value of the principal place of residence.

This will be conditional:

- the owner must advise the current or potential mortgagee of such debt.
- any change in financial circumstance must be immediately advised to Council.
- a new application must be completed for each subsequent year postponed.

The amount of the postponement may be extended and is conditional on Council approval.

6. Rebate of Rates

Mandatory Rebates

Council are required to rebate (discount) the rates payable on some land.

A 100% rebate must be applied to land used for:

- health services;
- religious purposes; and
- public cemeteries.

A compulsory rebate of 75% must be applied to land used by:

- community service organisations; and
- schools and universities.

Discretionary Rebates

In addition, the Council is allowed a wide discretion to rebate any percentage of rates for a number of other purposes, such as:

- securing proper development of an area;
- assisting or supporting a business;
- preservation of historically significant places;
- facilities or services for children or young persons;
- accommodation for the aged or persons with a disability; or
- other purposes.

Upon receipt of your application, the Council will take into account:

- why there is a perceived need for financial assistance through a rebate;
- the level of rebate being sought;
- the extent of financial assistance, if any, being provided to the ratepayer and/or in respect of the land by Commonwealth or State agencies;
- whether, and if so to what extent, they are or will be providing a service within the Council area;
- whether the ratepayer is a public sector body, a private not-for-profit body or a private or profit body;
- the nature and extent of Council services provided in respect of the land, in comparison to services provided elsewhere in the Councils' area;
- the community need, if any, that is being met by activities carried out on the land;
- the extent to which activities at the land provide assistance or relief to disadvantaged persons;
- the desirability of granting a rebate for more than one year;
- consideration of the full financial consequences of the rebate for the Council;
- the total income the applicant received for the prior financial year;
- the time the application is received;
- whether the applicant may be eligible for a Council community grant; and
- any other matters and policies of the Council, which the Council considers relevant.

After considering these matters, the Council may refuse to grant any rebate, or may grant a rebate of rates subject to specific conditions and taking into account the Discretionary Rate Rebate Operational Guidelines.

Retrospective rebates of rates will not be considered for prior financial years.

All persons who, or bodies, who wish to apply to the Council for a rebate of rates must do so on or before the due date of Councils' first quarterly rate instalment. The Council reserves the right to refuse to consider applications received after that date. To apply contact Councils' Rates Officer, or application forms are available on the website.

Where an entitlement to a rebate of rates ceases or no longer applies during the course of a financial year, the Council is entitled to recover rates, or rate at the increased level (as the case may be), proportionate to the remaining part of the year.

Rebates on Service Charges

Rebates will not apply to service charges.

7. Payment of Rates

Rates are declared annually and may be paid, at the ratepayers' discretion, either in one lump sum, or in four quarterly instalments that typically fall due on the first Friday in September, December, March and June. The exact payment dates are set by Council at the declaration of rates and will be printed on the rate notice which will be forwarded to the ratepayer, not less than 30 days before the due date of each notice.

If a ratepayer opts to pay the full years rates in one single payment, the payment must be received prior to, or on the first quarter due date, as penalties will apply to outstanding rates.

Any ratepayer who may, or is likely to, experience difficulty with meeting the standard payment requirements is invited to contact Councils' Rates Officer to discuss alternative payment arrangements. The Council treats such enquiries confidentially.

Late Payment

The Council will impose a penalty of a 2% fine on any late payment for rates, in line with the requirements of the Act. This fine may be remitted (waived) in whole, or in part, at the Councils' discretion. ~~and only w~~Where the fault for the late payment has ~~not~~ been attributed to the ratepayer, consideration for waiving a fine will only be considered if no waived has been provided in the last 4 years. The purpose of this penalty is to act as a genuine deterrent to ratepayers who might otherwise fail to pay their rates on time and to allow Council to recover the administrative cost of following up unpaid rates.

A payment that continues to be late is then charged an interest rate (which is adjusted by legislation each year) for each month it continues to be in arrears, including the amount of any previous unpaid fines and including interest from any previous month. The purpose of this penalty is to cover any interest cost Council may meet because it has not received the rates on time.

Council issues reminder notice for payment of rates when rates are overdue, i.e. unpaid by the due date. Should rates remain unpaid, debt collection will be commenced. This attracts additional fees that are recoverable from the ratepayer.

When Council receives a partial payment of overdue rates, the Council must apply the money as follows:

- first – to satisfy any costs awarded in connection with court proceedings (if applicable);
- second – to satisfy any interest costs;
- third – in payment of any fines imposed; and
- fourth – in payment of rates, in chronological order (starting with the oldest account first).

Sale of Land for Non-payment of Rates

Where rates have been in arrears for three (3) years or more, and Council has unsuccessfully pursued all reasonable attempts to secure payment, Council will invoke section 184 of the *Local Government Act 1999* to pursue recovery of outstanding rates through the sale of land.

Council will provide the owner with details of all outstanding amounts, and notify them of Council's intention to sell the land if payment of the outstanding amount is not received within one month.

All other avenues (including but not limited to payment arrangements and financial hardship assistance) will be exhausted in the collection of the outstanding rates on land that constitutes a persons' principal place of residence prior to the Sale of Land for Non-payment of Rates process being initiated.

Should reasonable attempts to sell the land fail, section 185 of the Local Government Act 1999 will be applied, which may result in the land being transferred to the Crown or to Council.

Sale of Land for Non-payment of Rates will not be applied to rates arrears that have resulted due to an arrangement for postponement of rates unless the postponement ceases to have effect.

8. Delegations

Council acknowledges that the Chief Executive Officer may sub-delegate matters related to this policy to staff or other persons employed or engaged by Council.

Contact details for further information

Phone: 08 8640 3444

Email: council@whyalla.sa.gov.au
Website: www.whyalla.sa.gov.au
Post: PO Box 126, Whyalla SA 5600
In person at: Darling Terrace, Whyalla

Where a ratepayer believes that the Council has failed to properly apply this policy, it should raise the matter with the Council. In the first instance, contact our Rates Officer on 86403444 to discuss the matter. If, after this initial contact, a ratepayer is still dissatisfied they can write and explain the nature of their concern to:

Chief Executive Officer
Whyalla City Council
PO Box 126
Whyalla SA 5600

Availability of Policy

This policy will be available for inspection at Councils' Principal Office as per the contact details above during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website 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.

9. Adopted by Council – 15~~6~~ June 2026~~5~~

Annexure "C"

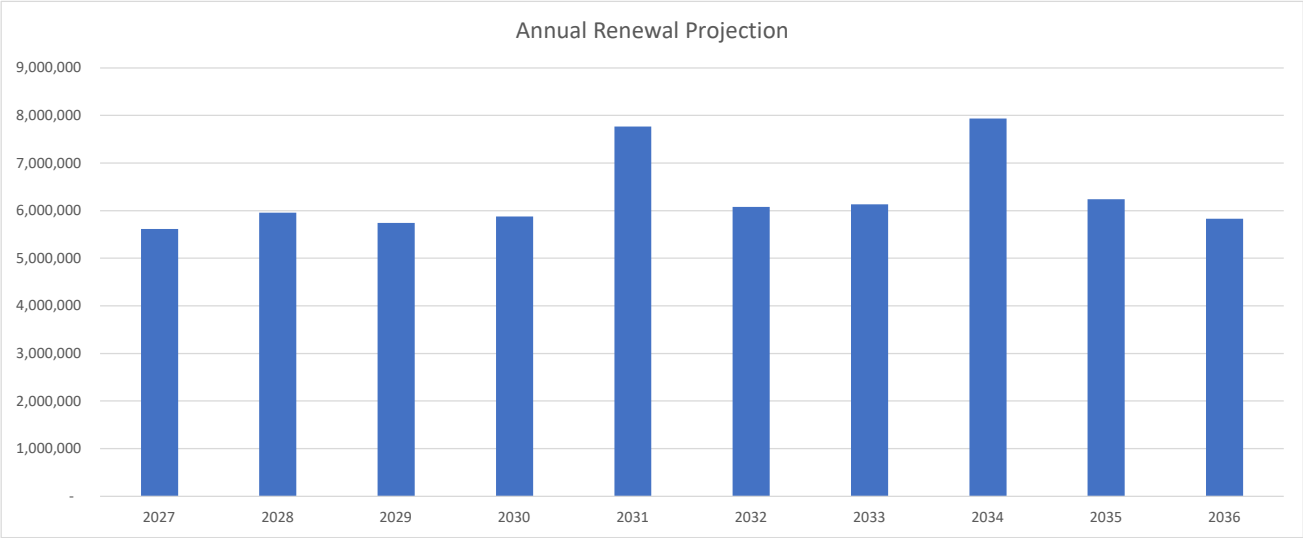
Updated Asset Renewal Projections

Data from Asset Management Plans - Various Base Years

$'000	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	Base Year	Indexation
Transport	$2,393,000	$2,320,000	$2,333,000	$2,390,000	$2,306,000	$2,318,000	$2,321,000	$3,319,000	$2,399,000	$2,399,000	2023/24	110.8%
Buildings	$ 996,000	$ 960,000	$ 836,000	$1,078,000	$1,820,000	$1,202,000	$ 854,000	$1,090,000	$1,393,000	$ 771,000	2023/24	110.8%
Open space	$ 205,000	$ 549,000	$ 507,000	$ 352,000	$ 512,000	$ 536,000	$ 604,000	$ 592,000	$ 361,000	$ 710,000	2023/24	110.8%
Stormwater	$ 57,000	$ 63,000	$ 2,000	$ 108,000	$ 66,000	$ 56,000	$ 56,000	$ 58,000	$ 59,000	$ 59,000	2023/24	110.8%
Plant & equipment	$ 808,000	$ 899,000	$ 898,000	$ 809,000	$1,771,000	$ 853,000	$1,137,000	$1,530,000	$ 850,000	$ 750,000	2023/24	110.8%
Irrigation	$ 229,000	$ 208,000	$ 229,000	$ 190,000	$ 158,000	$ 145,000	$ 188,000	$ 195,000	$ 195,000	$ 195,000	2023/24	110.8%
Furniture & Fittings	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	$ 379,000	2023/24	110.8%
Total	**5,067,000**	**5,378,000**	**5,184,000**	**5,306,000**	**7,012,000**	**5,489,000**	**5,539,000**	**7,163,000**	**5,636,000**	**5,263,000**		

Data from Asset Management Plans - In 2026/27 Dollars

$'000	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
Transport	$2,650,000	$2,570,000	$2,584,000	$2,647,000	$2,554,000	$2,567,000	$2,571,000	$3,676,000	$2,657,000	$2,657,000
Buildings	$1,103,000	$1,063,000	$ 926,000	$1,194,000	$2,016,000	$1,331,000	$ 946,000	$1,207,000	$1,543,000	$ 854,000
Open space	$ 227,000	$ 608,000	$ 562,000	$ 390,000	$ 567,000	$ 594,000	$ 669,000	$ 656,000	$ 400,000	$ 786,000
Stormwater	$ 63,000	$ 70,000	$ 2,000	$ 120,000	$ 73,000	$ 62,000	$ 62,000	$ 64,000	$ 65,000	$ 65,000
Plant & equipment	$ 895,000	$ 996,000	$ 995,000	$ 896,000	$1,962,000	$ 945,000	$1,259,000	$1,695,000	$ 941,000	$ 831,000
Irrigation	$ 254,000	$ 230,000	$ 254,000	$ 210,000	$ 175,000	$ 161,000	$ 208,000	$ 216,000	$ 216,000	$ 216,000
Furniture & Fittings	$ 420,000	$ 420,000	$ 420,000	$ 420,000	$ 420,000	$ 420,000	$ 420,000	$ 420,000	$ 420,000	$ 420,000
Total	**5,612,000**	**5,957,000**	**5,743,000**	**5,877,000**	**7,767,000**	**6,080,000**	**6,135,000**	**7,934,000**	**6,242,000**	**5,829,000**



RATES AT A GLANCE

Annexure "D"

FIXED CHARGE

$873 (previously $825)

GENERAL RATES

AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF $95 PER RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ($2 a week or 5.7% - depending on valuation)

WASTE MANGEMENT SERVICE CHARGE $440

(previously $425)

REGIONAL LANDSCAPE LEVY

(collected on behalf of the State Government)

$1,123,800 for 2026/27

($1,096,900 for 2025/26)

The average residential rates bill of $2,192 for 2026/27 is proposed to be allocated to the following services:

Data for graph:

Waste Management	$440
Open Space	$416
Civil Maintenance	$395
Assets	$190
Sport & Recreation	$170
Community Development	$156
Economic Development	$131
Civic Leadership	$113
Regulatory Services	$75
City Planning	$60
Commercial	$46

2025/26 ACHIEVEMENTS

OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

- Continued demolition of Council owned derelict buildings
- Improvements to the display of the Mount Laura Homestead Museum collection

OUR LIVEABILITY

- Review of hard waste processes
- Finalise design of both major foreshore projects, and complete the tender for the Splash & Play Plaza, with works to commence early in the new financial year

OUR INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS

- Peninsula RDA delivering on Council's Economic Development Plan

OUR LEADERSHIP

- Plan for the upcoming upgrade to Council's IT system
- Implementation of an agent on Council's website, to assist customers with accessing information
- Extensive advocacy undertaken on the needs of the city, focusing on the airport, housing, water and liveability
- Comprehensive review of the condition and value of Council's irrigation assets undertaken

ANNNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

2026/27 SUMMARY

SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCES

Loan borrowings estimated at $10.1 million in June 2027

Consumer Price Index 4.9%

(March 2026)

Local Government Interest Rate 5.5%

(estimated)

Local Government Capital Price Index – Capital 3.5%

(March 2026)

CAPITAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Foreshore Centre Building (62.5% externally funded)	$5,400,000
Transport Renewal Program	$2,670,000
Foreshore Plaza (50% externally funded)	$680,000
Recreation Centre Building Works	$485,000
Animal Management Centre Renewal	$403,000
Median Irrigation Replacements	$248,000
Fish Cleaning Station (75% externally funded)	$202,000
HMAS Whyalla Safety Upgrades	$124,000

To see the full ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN visit our website at whyalla.sa.gov.au

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

- Provide appropriate support to ECSA to provide a high quality election
- Review the operations of the Animal Management Centre

OUR LIVEABILITY

- Provide additional resources to improve city amenity
- Progress the Foreshore Splash & Plaza and Foreshore Centre Building which both have external funding

OUR INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS

- Continue delivery of actions in the Economic Development Plan
- Development of an Airport Masterplan

OUR LEADERSHIP

- Continue to focus on overall Customer Experience
- Continue improvements in the area of Organisational Development
- Commence implementation of a new cloud based IT system
- Implement the service review program
- Advocate for action on a number of highly important areas for the city

2025/26 PROJECT DELIVERY

WHYALLA MARINA BOAT RAMP

AIRPORT RUNWAY UPGRADE

MARINA DREDGING

CIVIC PARK PLAYGROUND & TOILET

HMAS WHYALLA PAINTING

TRANSPORT RENEWAL PROGRAM

FORESHORE PLAZA SPLASH & PLAY (PLANNING)

FORESHORE CENTRE BUILDING (PLANNING)

Annexure "E"

RATES AT A GLANCE

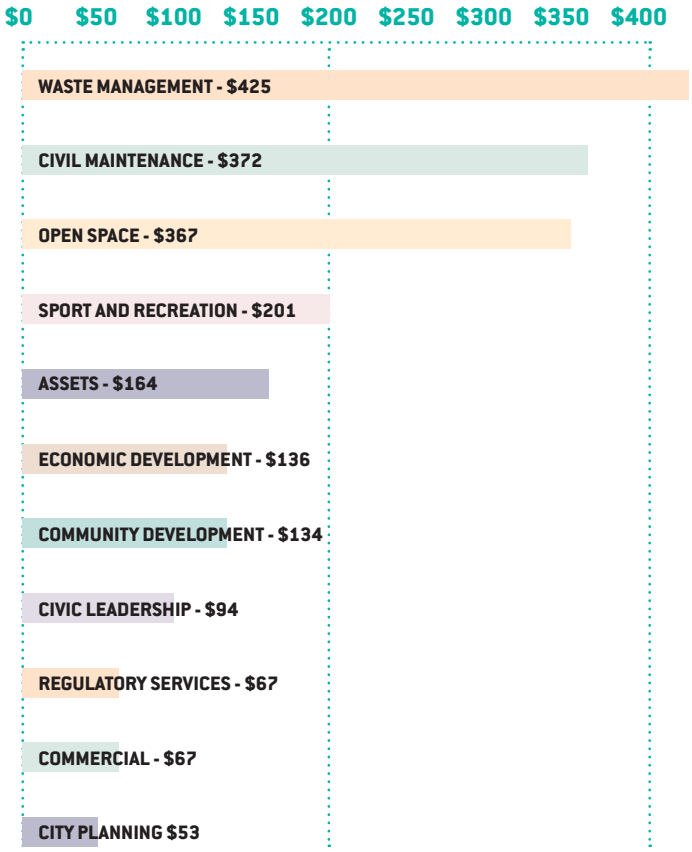
FIXED CHARGE
$825
(previously $800)

GENERAL RATES
AN AVERAGE GENERAL RATE INCREASE OF $45 PER RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY
(under $1 a week or 2.7% - depending on valuation)

WASTE MANAGEMENT
SERVICE CHARGE $425
(previously $415)

REGIONAL LANDSCAPE LEVY
(collected on behalf of the State Government)
$1,096,900 for 2025/26
($1,070,900 for 2024/25)

The average residential rates bill of $2,080 for 2025/26 is proposed to be allocated to the following services:



2024-2025 ACHIEVEMENTS

OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

- Upgrades to the library to allow for a contemporary event space
- A number of minor projects progressed focused on lifting city amenity

OUR LIVEABILITY

- Funding received for the Foreshore Plaza Upgrade, replacement of the Surf Life Saving Club building and the Whyalla Boat Ramp Upgrade, all of which will progress next financial year
- Comprehensive review of the condition and value of Council's building assets undertaken
- The review of Council's buildings, planning for their future use, progressed

OUR INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS

- Eyre Peninsula RDA delivering on Council's Economic Development Plan
- Funding secured for a walkway at the Cuttlefish Dive Site, with this to be progressed next financial year

OUR LEADERSHIP

- Extensive advocacy undertaken on the needs of the city, focusing on the airport, housing, water and liveability



Photography by Karen Bilney

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WHYALLA

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2025 -26 SUMMARY

WHYALLA

SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCES

Loan borrowings estimated at $10.9 million in June 2026

Consumer Price Index 2.2% (Mar 2025)

Local Government Interest Rate 5.3% (estimated)

Increase in the superannuation guarantee at 1 July 2025 from 11.5% to 12%

CAPITAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Foreshore Plaza (50% externally funded)	$6,215,000
Transport Renewal Program	$2,835,000
Pt Lowly Lighthouse Renewal	$294,000
Recreation Centre Toilets	$247,000
Tanderra Electrical Upgrades	$243,000
Toilet Renewal	$206,000
Library Furniture	$135,000

To see the full ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET visit our website at whyalla.sa.gov.au

OR SCAN HERE

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The summary below outlines the initiatives that have been identified to be undertaken in 2025-26 to deliver on objectives in the Strategic Plan 2024-2035.

OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNTIY

- Continue the review of Council's buildings, planning for their future use
- Planning for improvements at the Mount Laura Museum

OUR LIVEABILITY

- Improvements to Community Amenity
- Progress the Foreshore Plaza Upgrade, replacement of the Surf Life Saving Club building and the Whyalla Boat Ramp Upgrade, which all have external funding

OUR INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESS

- Continue delivery of actions in the Economic Development Plan
- Continue to plan for safety upgrades at the Cuttlefish Dive Site
- Continue to negotiate an Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the Northern Coastline
- Development of an Airport Masterplan

OUR LEADERSHIP

- Increase levels of community participation through engagement
- Continue to focus on overall Customer Experience
- Continue improvements in the area of Organisational Development
- Continue to plan for the modernisation of council's information systems
- Implement the service review program
- Plan for the future home of Council's service delivery
- Undertake a full condition rating and valuation of Council's irrigation assets
- Advocate for action on a number of highly important areas for the city

2024-25 PROJECT DELIVERY



AIRPORT RUNWAY UPGRADE

CHILDCARE CENTRE UPGRADE





WHYALLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

PUBLIC TOILET RENEWAL (FORESHORE)





TRANSPORT RENEWAL PROGRAM

FORESHORE PLAZA (PLANNING)





WHYALLA MARINA RENEWAL (PLANNING)

PUBLIC TOILET RENEWAL (PLANNING) WETLANDS / CIVIC PARK



14.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

14.2.3 Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure – <u>For Endorsement</u>

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Sue King – General Manager Corporate Services **File No.:** 2-20
Directorate: Corporate Services

Annexures:
A – Complaints Handlining Policy and Procedure (tracked)

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 copy of the reviewed and updated Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure for adoption.

SUMMARY

The Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure has been reviewed in line with Council's four-year policy review cycle.

The review confirmed the policy and procedure remains fit for purpose, with minor updates made to improve clarity, amend titles to legislative documents and include Council's Unreasonable Customer Conduct Policy, as adopted in June 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Council notes and, subject to any feedback received, adopts the updated Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure as outlined within this report.

DUE DATE

Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure updated to Council's webpage	19/06/2026

14.2.3 Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure – <u>For Endorsement</u>

<u>REPORT</u>

BACKGROUND

The Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure is a mandatory document that establishes the framework for lodging and resolving customer complaints.

The document was originally adopted in June 2021 and incorporated both policy and procedural elements. In accordance with Council's four-year review cycle, the document has now been reassessed. This review confirmed that the document appropriately contains both Council's policy position and the procedures for lodging and managing complaints, and that it is reasonable for this information to remain consolidated within a single document (refer **Annexure "A"**).

The review identified no legislative changes requiring amendment. Minor updates have been made to improve clarity and readability.

DISCUSSION

The review confirmed that the policy and procedure continue to meet their intended purpose and remains consistent with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and relevant Australian Standards for the management of customer complaints.

Key updates include the incorporation of Council's Unreasonable Customer Conduct Policy (adopted June 2025), updates to reflect the current Customer Experience Charter and alignment with the Ombudsman SA *Complaint Management Framework (2016)*.

No material changes to Council's existing practices or approach to managing customer complaints are proposed.

The updated document is provided in **Annexure "A"** (tracked changes).

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
Ombudsman SA Complaint Management Framework (2016)

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment

The risks associated with the updated Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures are assessed as low. No legislative changes have been identified that warrant changes to Council's current practices.

Social Considerations – Nil

Community Engagement – Nil

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication – Nil

Conclusion

The Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure has been reviewed and is considered to remain fit for purpose. The document continues to align with the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council's Customer Experience Charter, and all relevant adopted policies and procedures.

Annexure "A"

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

COMPLAINTS HANDLING POLICY	
Type	Governance Statutory - Council
GDS Category	Governance – Public
Responsible Directorate	Corporate Services
Policy Adopted	28 June 2021
Review Period	4 yearly within the term of the council
Last Reviewed	10 June 2026
Next Review Date	10 June 2030
Policy Version Number	8~~7~~
Applicable Legislation	• Local Government Act 1999
Related Documents	• Internal Review of Council Decision~~'~~s Policy and Procedure • Behavioural Management Policy~~Council Members Code of Conduct~~ • • Code of Conduct for Council Employees Policy • Public Interest Disclosure Policy • Public Interest Disclosure Procedure • Fraud, ~~and~~ Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Prevention Policy • Complaints Handling Procedure • ~~Protocol – Ombudsman Enquiry Procedure~~ • Australian Standard ISO 10002-2018 • Customer Experience Charter • Unreasonable Customer Conduct Policy • Ombudsman SA - Complaint Management Framework - 2016 •
Public Consultation Required	NO
File reference	

POLICY OBJECTIVE

1. SCOPE

Local Government provides an extensive range of services and infrastructure to communities, and discharges obligations under many pieces of legislation.

Whyalla City Council is committed to the provision of quality service to customers and regards complaints as an opportunity to improve practices and procedures as well as resolve the matter. ~~The aim of this policy is to provide a fair, consistent and structured process for Council's customers if they are dissatisfied with a Council action, decision or service. Lessons learnt from complaint investigations will be used to directly inform service improvements.~~

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to establish a fair, accessible, consistent and transparent framework for managing complaints where a customer is dissatisfied with a Council service, action, decision or inaction.

Council seeks to resolve complaints promptly at the first point of contact wherever possible. Where this is not achievable, complaints will be escalated and managed through a structured and proportionate process by appropriately authorised staff to ensure a thorough, impartial and timely outcome.

Insights and lessons arising from complaints will be captured and used to inform continuous improvement across Council's operations, systems and service delivery.

This policy and procedure align with contemporary complaint handling principles and is broadly consistent with the Australian Standard for complaint management.
~~Emphasis will be placed on resolving complaints as quickly as possible. However where complaints cannot be settled in the first instance Council will ensure that they are dealt with through appropriate, more formal procedures by staff with the authority to make the decisions. This procedure is broadly consistent with the Australian Standard for complaint handling.~~

1.1 Principles Underlying the ~~P~~policy and procedure

This ~~P~~policy and procedure ~~is~~are based on five principles, which will be fundamental in the way Council approaches complaint handling. They are:

1. ~~•~~ Fairness: treating complainants fairly requires impartiality, confidentiality and transparency at all stages of the process
2. ~~•~~ Accessibility: to be accessible there must be broad public awareness about Council's policy and a range of contact options.
3. ~~•~~ Responsiveness: this will be achieved by providing sufficient resources, well trained staff and review and improvement of the systems
4. ~~•~~ Efficiency: complaints will be resolved as quickly as possible, while ensuring that they are dealt with at a level that reflects their level of complexity
5. ~~•~~ Integration of different areas of Council where the complaint overlaps functional responsibilities.

2. DEFINITIONS

Council refers to Whyalla City Council

Employee includes a person employed directly by the Council in a full time, part-time or casual capacity (whether that position is permanent or contractual) and persons providing services, to or on behalf of, the Council even though they may be employed by another party.

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

Complaint; for the purposes of this policy, a **complaint** defined as:

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

Council also receives service requests and feedback across all areas of operations and clarification may be necessary to make the distinction for the purposes of this policy.

Complaints which are determined to be about matters that are not Council's responsibility, such as disputes between neighbours, will not be handled under this policy.

A ***complainant*** is a person who is making complaint.

Frivolous means a complaint that lacks merit and has no reasonable chance of success and wastes time.

~~A ***Request for Service*** is an application to have Council or its representative take some form of action to provide a Council service (refer Request for Service Policy).~~

Feedback can take the form of comments, both positive and negative, about services provided by Council without necessarily requiring a corrective action, change of services or formal review of a decision. Feedback may, however, influence future service reviews and delivery methods.

A ***Request for Service*** is an application to have Council, or its representative take some form of action to provide a Council service (refer Request for Service Policy).

Vexatious means and action taken by a complainant with the main aim of harassing or causing harm or trouble for the agency and/or its employees.

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

3. POLICY STATEMENT/APPLICATION

PART 1 - COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO COMPLAINT HANDLING

Council welcomes complaints as a way of improving its services and programs, as well as providing an opportunity to ~~put things right~~resolve issues.

This policy will be made widely accessible to ensure that customers are fully aware of their right to lodge a complaint and ~~complain. Information about~~ how to lodge a complaint, and ~~will~~ be placed in a prominent position on Council's website.

Except for minor Level 1 responses (see Section 6 - Procedures for resolving complaints) Council will try to ensure that, whenever possible, complaints will be handled independently of the original decision-maker or officer involved in the matter that is the subject of the complaint.

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

- Complete the appropriate form on Council's website
- Telephone
- Fax
- Email
- Letter
- Visit a Council Customer Service officeIn person at Council Civic Building

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

Complainants will be advised of the likely timeframe required to investigate and resolve a complaint and regularly updated as to progress where necessary.

Employees will be trained to manage complainants efficiently and effectively, andeffectively and provided with a level of delegated authority appropriate for the nature of complaints they are expected to resolve.

3.1 Seven steps of the complaint handling process

The following steps will be followed by staff to ensure complaints are dealt with efficiently and effectively:

1. Acknowledge complaints in accordance with Councils Customer Experience Charterpromptly
2. Assess the complaint – simple problems may not need to be investigated
3. Plan to investigation where one is warranted
4. Investigate the complaint
5. Respond to the complainant with a clear decision
6. Follow up any customer service concerns
7. Consider whether there are systemic issues which need correction.

4. TIMEFRAMES FOR RESPONSE

Where a complaint cannot be resolved immediately the complainant will be advised of the process to be undertaken. Council will respond within (10) business days, acknowledginge receipt of the complaint within 2 business days and, where possible, resolvingresolve it at the time. If a resolution is not possible at that time, the complainant will be kept regularly informed of progress, either by email, letter or personal conductcontact.

5. PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING COMPLAINTS

Complaints may vary greatly in their level of complexity and seriousness. Wherever possible complaints will be resolved when first reported, but if necessarynecessary, officers will escalate complaint handling as set out below.out within this document.

The complaints procedure consists of a three tiered scheme.

1. *Immediate response to resolve the complaint*

   All staff are empowered to handle complaints in the first ~~instance~~instance, and it is preferable that they are dealt with promptly at the initial point of contact and at the appropriate officer level.

2. *Complaint ~~escalate~~escalates to a more senior officer*

   A complaint will be directed to a more senior officer in the Council, where circumstances indicate that the complaint would be more appropriately handled at a higher level. This may occur, for example, where an officer has been involved in the matter that is the subject of the complaint, where the complaint is about an issue that requires a decision to be made at a more senior level, or where a complaint concerns a matter that ranges across more than one Council work area.

   When assessing a complaint, an appropriate office will first determine if a complaint is frivolous or vexatious and advise the complainant accordingly.

3. *Internal review of a Council decision by statutory process*

   Internal review of a Council decision is available under section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (see Council's Internal Review Procedure). This is a process established by legislation that enables a Council to reconsider all the evidence relied on to make a decision, including new evidence if relevant. This process is generally a last resort in the complaint handling ~~process, but~~process but may also be used in situations which are not able to be resolved by other means, such as a complaint about a decision of the Chief Executive Officer.

~~Council's detailed Complaints Procedure is available to the public. See 13 Further Information below.~~

Where Council prefers to work with its customers to resolve complaints quickly and effectively, a complainant will always retain the right to seek other forms of resolution, such as contacting the Ombudsman, or taking legal action at any time. Note however, that as a general rule, the Ombudsman prefers a complaint to be addressed by Council in the first instance, unless this is not appropriate in the circumstances.

5.1 Alternative procedures

There are also other complaint procedures which apply to particular types of complaints. If the complaint would be more properly dealt with by another process this will be explained to the complainant at the outset. For example:

- Complaints against a Councillor or the Chief Executive Officer
- Freedom of Information application's
- Insurance claims
- Decisions made under legislation other than the *Local Government Act 1999*, such as the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)* or *Expiation of Offences Act 1996.*

In some instances, it may be appropriate to consider mediation, conciliation or neutral evaluation under the Council's scheme authorised by section 271 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. Costs and expenses of the appointment and work of a mediator, conciliator or evaluator will be shared equally between the Council and the other party.

6. UNREASONABLE COMPLAINANT CONDUCT

All complaints received by Council will be treated seriously and complainants will be treated courteously. However, occasionally the conduct of a complainant can be unreasonable. This may take the form of unreasonable persistence, unreasonable demands, lack of cooperation, argumentative or threatening behaviour. What can be termed 'unreasonable' will vary depending on a number of factors and Council aims to manage these situations in a fair and equitable manner.

Where a complainant's ~~behavior~~behaviour consumes an unwarranted amount of Council resources or impedes the investigation of their complaint, a decision may be made to apply restrictions on contact with the person. Before making any decision to restrict contact, the complainant will be warned that, if the specified behaviours(s) or actions continue, restrictions may be applied in line with Councils Unreasonable Customer Conduct Policy.~~.~~

Any decision to suspend action on a complaint will be made by the Chief Executive Officer or ~~his/her~~their delegate and communicated in writing to the complainant.

7. USING COMPLAINTS TO IMPROVE SERVICE

Quality of service is an important measure of Council's effectiveness. Learning from complaints is a powerful way of helping to develop the Council and increase trust among the people who use our services.

In addition to make changes to procedures and practices where appropriate, Council will review and evaluate the information gained through its complaints handling system on an annual basis to identify systemic issues and improvements to service. Council will receive a report on the number and nature of complaints received, including the percentage of unresolved complaints, at least once a year.

Where appropriate, complainants will be provided with an explanation of changes proposed or made as a result of the investigation of their complaint.

8. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Complainants have a right to expect that their complaint will be investigated in private, to the extent possible. The identity of complainants will be made known only to those who need to know in the process of investigating and resolving the complaint. The complaint will not be rerelease or made public the Council, except where required by law.

All complaints lodged with Council are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed under the provisions of that legislation.

9. REMEDIES

Where complaints are found to be justified Council will, where practicable, remedy the situation in a manner which is consistent and fair for both Council and complainants. The solution chosen will be proportionate and appropriate to the circumstances.

As a general principle the complainant should, so far as possible, be put in the position ~~he or she~~they would have been in, had things not gone wrong. This may mean providing the desired service or changing a decision. Sometimes, however, it may only be possible to offer an apology.

Compensation will only be offered in cases where the loss or suffering is considered substantial. The Elected Council and Chief Executive Officer are the only representatives authori~~z~~sed to offer financial compensation and may consult with the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme before taking any such action.

10. ALTERNATIVE REMEDIES

Council may seek to use alternative dispute resolution methods such as mediation to resolve a complaint in circumstances where the Chief Executive Officer or ~~his/her~~their delegate deems such a course of action ~~appropriate~~appropriate, and the complainant is amenable to that process.

When advising a complainant of the outcome of an investigation of a complaint, Council will provide~~d~~ information about alternative remedies, including any rights of appeal and the right to make a complaint to an external agency such as the SA Ombudsman.

11. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

In order to ensure Council continues to provide the best possible complaints handling service for its customers, this policy will be subject to periodic evaluation and review.

~~12. FURTHER INFORMATION~~

~~This policy will be available for inspection at the Council office listed below during ordinary business hours and available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's internet site: www.whyalla.sa.gov.au~~

~~Civic Building~~
~~Darling Terrace~~
~~WHYALLA SA 5600~~

~~Copies will be provided to interest parties upon request. Email: council@whyalla.sa.gov.au~~

PART 2 – COMPLAINTS REGARDING CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COUNCIL EMPLOYEES

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Where a person alleges –

- an employee (or a relative of an employee) has sought or received a gift or benefit that is, or could reasonably be taken to be, intended or likely to create a sense of obligation on the part of the employee to a person or to influence the employee in the performance or discharge of the employees functions or duties; or

- an employee has failed to record, or correctly record, details of a gift or benefit received by the employee (or a relative of an employee) on the gift and benefits register; or

- the Chief Executive Officer has not appropriately maintained a register for gifts and benefits received by employees of the council;

they may submit a complaint alleging that an employee of council has contravened or failed to comply with the Code of Conduct for Council Employees, as prescribed in Schedule 2A of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013.*

A complaint must be given to the Chief Executive Officer or ~~Governance Officer~~General Manager Corporate Services. In the case of a complaint against the Chief Executive Officer, a complaint must be given to the principle member of the council, except in circumstances where it would be inappropriate to do so (such as where legislation requires the matter to which the complaint relates to remain confidential).

A complaint will be investigated and resolved according to the industrial and human resource procedures of the council.

12. FURTHER INFORMATION

This policy and procedure will be available for inspection at the Council office listed below during ordinary business hours and available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's internet site: www.whyalla.sa.gov.au

Civic Building
21 Grundel Street
WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608

Copies will be provided to interest parties upon request. Email: council@whyalla.sa.gov.au

13. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE

Corporate Services

14. AUTHORITY

This policy was adopted by Council at its meeting held on ~~21 June 2021~~15 June 2026.

14.3 CITY GROWTH

14.3.1 Community Grant – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Courtney Haak – Community Services Co-ordinator **File No.:** 5-82
Directorate: City Growth

Annexures:
A – Grant application, including club financials – under separate cover

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

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

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

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

To consider the allocation of a Community Grant funding request.

SUMMARY

One Community Grant application was received in round six.

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

This current round will evaluate the applications listed below.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Group	Project	Amount
Sunrise Whyalla	**Hydrogen Car Projects**	**$5,000**
	Total:	**$5,000**

DUE DATE

Community Grant – For Endorsement	15/06/2026

14.3.1 Community Grant – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

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

The most recent grant round opened on 16 March 2026 and closed on 15 May 2026, with one application, requesting a total of $5,000 in funding.

The review process has determined that the applicant has supplied documentation and information pertaining to their organisation, under the individual heading the details will be broken down.

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

Sunrise Whyalla Hydrogen Car Project

Request of $5,000 to support travel to attend H2 Grand Prix World Finals in Switzerland.

The H2 Grand Prix World Finals in Switzerland is a prestigious event where students from around the world compete in Hydrogen powered remote control cars.

The event, running from 28 June – 6 July 2026, is a testament to the growing interest in hydrogen technology and the potential in hydrogen powered vehicles. The finals will showcase the creativity, engineering and problem-solving skills of participating teams.

A team of five high school students from Sunrise Whyalla have qualified to represent Australia at the Grand Prix, competing in their category to become world champions. Students have designed components, built the car and have been performing 4-hour endurance races in preparation.

This grant will support five students and five adults to attend and participate in this opportunity and Whyalla City Council logo will feature on team uniforms and on the Hydrogen cars.

The group have sought financial contributions for this project with sponsorship from local businesses, a donation from Whyalla Business and Tourism and have commenced a crowd funding initiative with Go Fund Me which has been successfully shared and promoted by Members for Parliament, Media Identities, and locals.

The group will also provide their own financial contribution.

The total cost of this project is $100,000, grant funding requested $5,000.

Grant funding recommended: $5,000

Financial Implications

Budget 2025/26	$55,000.00
Amount Committed in Previous Rounds	$46,537.40
Amount Allocated this Round	$5,000.00
Remaining Funds:	$3,462.60

Strategic Plan

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

Legislation – Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Nil

Social Considerations

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

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

Community Engagement – Nil

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication

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

Conclusion

That Council consider the current Community Grant application and make recommendations accordingly.

14.3 CITY GROWTH

14.3.2 Changes to the Memorials Policy – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Gail Rostig – Manager City Activation **File No.:** 4-68
Directorate: City Growth

Annexures:
A – Memorials Policy, Version 2

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 the Council's formal endorsement of the updated Memorials Policy, Version 2. The policy has been reviewed to ensure the content meets the current need.

SUMMARY

This policy was originally developed to establish and formalise the process for the placement and management of memorial plaques. Following this policy review, only minor amendments have been identified as necessary, including the title of the staff member responsible for the management policy and the change of date and version control.

The implementation of the Memorials Policy has strengthened the management of memorial requests by providing clearer guidance, formalised procedures, and more consistent assessment processes.

The policy has also supported the introduction of stricter guidelines to ensure requests are managed in an equitable, transparent, and sustainable manner.

RECOMMENDATION

Council endorses the proposed changes to the Memorials Policy, Version 2.

DUE DATE

Changes to the Memorials Policy – For Endorsement	16/06/2026

14.3.2 Changes to the Memorials Policy – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Memorials Policy was originally developed to establish a clear and consistent framework for the placement and management of memorial plaques and related commemorative requests within Council-owned and managed spaces. Prior to the implementation of the policy, requests were assessed on an ad hoc basis, highlighting the need for a more formalised and transparent approach to guide decision making and to ensure consistency across the organisation.

The introduction of the policy has strengthened the management of memorial requests by providing clearer guidance to both Council staff and the community regarding eligibility, assessment criteria, approved locations, maintenance responsibilities and application processes. The policy has also supported improved governance outcomes by formalising procedures and ensuring requests are considered in an equitable, consistent and sustainable manner.

As part of the current policy review, only minor amendments have been identified as necessary. The review has confirmed that the policy continues to effectively support the management of memorial requests while balancing community expectations, operational considerations, and the long-term management of public spaces.

DISCUSSION

The Memorials Policy currently sits within the City Growth directorate and is managed by the Manager City Activation. The policy provides a structured and consistent framework to guide decision making in relation to memorialisation requests across the city.

The policy has proven effective in supporting the appropriate management of memorial seats, benches, plaques and other commemorative installations within Council managed spaces. Prior to the implementation of the policy, memorial requests were often considered on an ad hoc basis, resulting in inconsistencies in placement, design and long-term management considerations.

By establishing clear assessment criteria and approval processes, the policy has strengthened governance and improved the consistency of decision-making. It has also assisted Council in balancing community expectations with broader considerations relating to public amenity, accessibility, maintenance responsibilities, asset management and the equitable use of public spaces.

Overall, the policy continues to provide clear direction for the management of memorialisation requests while supporting a co-ordinated and sustainable approach to commemorative installations across the city.

Financial Implications

Endorsement of the updated Memorials Policy has no financial implications for Council.

Strategic Plan

Objective 2.1 – Create a city that is attractive and showcases our natural built assets

Strategy 2.1.3- Promote, protect, and rehabilitate Whyalla's unique and historical built environment

Legislation – Nil

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Nil

Social Considerations

Our community values the opportunity to memorialise and remember family members and community champions.

Community Engagement – Not applicable

Environmental Implications – Not applicable

Communication – Not applicable

Conclusion

In summary, only minor changes were required within the policy review of the Memorials Policy and its endorsement is recommended.

Annexure "A"

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

Memorials Policy	
Type	Council Policy
GDS Category	Public
Responsible Officer	Manager Community Development
Policy Adopted	15 June 2026
Review Period	4 years
Last Reviewed	-
Next Review Date	June 2030
Policy Version Number	Version 2
Applicable Legislation	
Related Documents	Cemetery Operations & Administration Policy
Public Consultation Required	No
Purpose	To provide a framework for the consistent management of all new and existing memorials and monuments within the city (but outside of the Whyalla Cemetery).

1. Introduction

The City of Whyalla's (Council) Memorial Policy provides guidance for the management and placement of all existing and proposed plaques and memorials within the city, excluding the Whyalla Cemetery, whether they are in or on buildings or other community facilities, pavements or roadsides, benches, parks, gardens, streets, or any other area of council owned or managed public open space.

2. Objective

This policy aims to ensure that applications for memorial plaques are managed on a consistent basis.

3. Scope and Responsibilities

The City of Whyalla recognises that community members may wish to install memorials at various locations within the city and supports this installation where application is made through the appropriate process and the memorial meets the following:

3.1 General Criteria for the approval of memorials within the City

3.1.1 The proposed memorial will not commemorate a person, event, or place that is already memorialised within the city.

3.1.2 The proposed memorial demonstrates cultural sensitivity and will not cause offence.

3.1.3 The proposed memorial is:

- In keeping with any existing master plan or strategy to the site
- Will not adversely impact the existing site
- Will not compromise the aesthetic or cultural integrity of the site
- Will not compromise wither public or personal safety
- The long-term viability and maintenance does not significantly impact Council's maintenance resources

3.1.4 General conditions for the approval of memorials within the City:

- Prior to a new memorial being considered, the Memorial Application Form must be completed by the donor
- The type, content and location of any park infrastructure and all wording on plaques is subject to the approval of the Manager City Activation or nominee
- No special care or guarantee of replacement is given
- Consideration will be given to the number of existing trees, plaques, and memorials in the vicinity of the proposed new memorial as part of the assessment process
- The City of Whyalla will manage the planting of any trees, and the design, manufacture, and installation of any memorial/commemorative plaque.

3.2 Types of Memorials

3.2.1 Memorial/Commemorative plaque on a seat, bench

- A small commemorative metal plaque for groups or individuals, may be attached to a seat or bench as installed/designed by Council. There may be more than one plaque on any piece of furniture.

3.2.2 Memorial/Commemorative trees and planting

- Memorial/Commemorative tree(s) for planting in any appropriate street, park or reserve within the City of Whyalla are available based on the following:
- Memorial/Commemorative trees can be planted in any appropriate reserve or street provided they comply with any existing master plan or planting design or street and the nursey standards in accordance with Council's policy and framework.
- No memorial plaque will be available for this type of memorial.

3.2.3 Heritage Recognition Markers

Heritage Recognition Markers are installed by the City of Whyalla on private and public property and communicate the listing of the building, its history, and its significance. Markers are the same size and style and limited to 70 words.

The following criteria applies to Heritage Recognition Markers:

- The property must be State or Local Heritage listed
- Development approval is required
- Property Owner permission is required

Markers are generally installed directly onto the building or fence, if this is not possible, the markers will be post mounted as close to the building or fence as practical.

3.2.4 Commemorative/Memorial plaques

Commemorative and Memorial plaques are used to signify or commemorate an historic or significant occasion, or feature and will be considered o an individual basis.

3.2.5 Commemorative/Memorial feature

A Commemorative/Memorial feature such as a fountain, ornamental feature, sculpture or other significant or unique artwork will be considered on an individual basis.

If the proposed memorial is in the form of a public artwork, it much complies with the above criteria and the City of Whyalla's Arts and Cultural Strategy.

Any significant commemorative or memorial feature will be referred to Council for their consideration/approval.

3.2.6 War Memorials

A war memorial commemorates the people who served in and died because of war. They vary widely in form, but all have the same information, that is to remind us of those we have lost to war.

All war memorial requests will be referred to Council for their consideration and approval in line with the following guidelines:

- Wherever possible any war memorial and the remembrance of any future conflict should be made at an existing war memorial site (in consultation with the relevant ex-services organisation(s).
- Any proposal to move or significantly change an existing memorial shall be considered under this Policy.

4. Fees & Charges

All costs are to be borne by the donor; standard costs are documented in the City of Whyalla's Fees and Charges Schedule. Any additional costs specific to the memorial must also be borne by the donor.

5. Ownership and Life of the Memorial

All memorials placed on Council owned or managed land are deemed to be assets of the City of Whyalla and will be recorded in the Memorials Register and will be managed in accordance with Council's policies and procedures.

The City of Whyalla will manage and maintain a memorial for the life of the asset in accordance with the relevant Asset Management Plan, after which time, determination of the future of the memorial will be at Council's discretion, which may include the relocation, removal, and/or decommissioning as required.

Where the condition of the memorial is poor or the site is no longer appropriate, Council officers will take all reasonable measures to contact the person who initiated the memorial prior to its removal or relation.

6. Definitions

Plaque

A flat tablet of metal or other durable material and which includes text and/or images that commemorate a person, group, association, event, or occasion. Such plaque is to be affixed to a building, object, or pavement.

Memorial or Monument

An object such as statue, sculpture, or plaque (but not including a plaque that is affixed to a memorial seat or bench that is designed to preserve the memory of a person, group, association, physical object (such as a bridge), event or occasion.

14.4 CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

14.4.1 Whyalla Road Safety Centre – Lease Agreement – For Endorsement

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Geraldine Broadbent – Facilities Co-ordinator **File No.:** 1-267
Directorate: City Infrastructure

Annexures:
A – Email from the Whyalla Road Safety Centre

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

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

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

☐ **Yes** ☑ **No**

Reason – Not applicable

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council authorisation for Administration to issue a lease to the Whyalla Road Safety Centre over Allotment 101 (6 Plum Street), Deposited Plan 116773, comprised in Crown Record Volume 6223 Folio 237. The proposed lease term is five (5) years, commencing on 1 August 2026 and expiring on 31 July 2031, with a further five (5) year extension option.

This report also seeks Council's endorsement for Administration to undertake public consultation in accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy in relation to the proposed lease term, with the lease to proceed subject to no substantial issues being raised during the consultation process.

SUMMARY

It is proposed that Council enter into a lease agreement with the Whyalla Road Safety Centre Inc for the continued use and operation of the Whyalla Road Safety Centre located at 6 Plum Street, Whyalla, CR 6223/237. The proposed lease term is for five (5) years commencing on 1 August 2026 and expiring on 31 July 2031, with a further five (5) year extension. In accordance with Council's legislative obligations and Public Consultation Policy, the proposed lease term requires community consultation prior to finalisation.

This report seeks Council's endorsement to proceed with public consultation and, subject to no substantial objections being received, to authorise Administration to finalise and execute the lease agreement under delegated authority.

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

1. **endorses the granting of a Lease to the Whyalla Road Safety Centre over Allotment 101 (6 Plum Street), Deposited Plan 116773 comprised in Crown Record Volume 6223 Folio 237 for a period of five (5) years commencing on 1 August 2026 and ending on 31 July 2031 with a further five (5) year extension, subject to the outcomes of public consultation being undertaken as per Council's Public Consultation Policy; and**
2. **notes that, subject to the outcomes of public consultation, and in the absence of any substantial submissions, Administration is authorised to finalise and execute the lease agreement under delegated authority. Should substantial submissions be received, the matter will be referred back to Council for further consideration.**

DUE DATE

Public consultation undertaken	19/06/2026 to 10/07/2026
New lease terms and conditions to be negotiated	13/07/2026
Execution of new lease agreement	01/08/2026

14.4.1 Whyalla Road Safety Centre – Lease Agreement – For Endorsement

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Whyalla Road Safety Centre Inc currently occupies the facility at 6 Plum Street, CR 6223/237, where it delivers road safety education and related programs for children and young people in the Whyalla community. The Centre is a long-standing provider of these services, contributing to increased awareness, safer road user behaviours and broader community safety outcomes.

DISCUSSION

The Whyalla Road Safety Centre Inc plays an important role in supporting Council's broader objectives in relation to community safety, education and wellbeing. The Centre delivers practical road safety education programs, with a strong focus on school-aged children and young people, contributing to increased awareness and safer road user behaviours across the community.

The organisation's continued occupation of the site represents an appropriate and beneficial use of community land, aligning with Council's strategic priorities. Its activities are consistent with the land dedication purpose, Road Safety Instruction Centre Purposes and provides community benefit through education, engagement and prevention-focused safety initiatives.

The proposed lease term of five (5) years with a further five (5) year extension option, provides an appropriate level of tenure security. This supports the Centre's ongoing operations and enables investment in infrastructure, equipment and educational resources that may not be feasible under shorter-term leasing arrangements thereby enhancing the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of its services.

The proposal ensures compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*, which requires public consultation for leases over community land exceeding five (5) years, including extension options. Undertaking consultation in accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy promotes transparency and accountability and provides the community with an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation process, and in the absence of any substantive submissions, the proposed lease is considered to be in the best interests of Council and the broader Whyalla community.

Financial Implications

All infrastructure within the leased area is owned and maintained by the Whyalla Road Safety Centre. The Whyalla Road Safety Centre pay an annual fee consistent with the Community Service Provider user category.

Strategic Plan

Objective 2.1	Create a city that is attractive and showcases our natural and built assets
Strategy 2.1.4	*Provide accessible social/physical infrastructure that promotes and supports the health of our community through active and passive recreation opportunities*
Objective 2.2	Ensure that assets and facilities infrastructure is maintained and managed to meet community's needs
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 2.3.2	*Encourage and support key stakeholder groups to promote neighbourhood programs that focus on crime prevention and safety*
Strategy 2.2.3	*Provide a safe and convenient city in which to work and live*

Legislation

Local Government Act 1999 – Section 2: Alienation of Community Land by Lease or Licence

Officer Direct or Indirect Interest – Nil

Risk Assessment – Nil

Social Considerations

Council is responsible for ensuring that appropriate lease and licence arrangements are in place for community groups and organisations within our community. The lease for the Whyalla Road Safety Centre is one of a number of agreements managed and negotiated by Council Administration. These arrangements provide clarity, structure and security of tenure for lessees, while also establishing the parameters for which the organisations are required to operate.

Community Engagement

Council will engage with the community in regard to the proposed Lease term with the Whyalla Road Safety Centre in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Environmental Implications – Nil

Communication

Established communication channels will be used to undertake the finalisation of the new lease agreement with the Whyalla Road Safety Centre.

Conclusion

Council is committed to ensuring community organisations are supported with appropriate lease and licence arrangements that enable their ongoing operation and sustainability. The Whyalla Road Safety Centre is a well-established organisation that actively contributes to community safety, health and wellbeing, including the delivery of training, development and inclusive community programs. Council administration seeks to undertake public consultation in relation to the proposed lease term. Following the consultation process, Council will consider the outcomes and proceed, where appropriate, to finalise, and execute a new lease agreement.

Naomi Jarvis

From: Whyalla Road Safety Centre Inc. [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 12:31 PM
To: justin.
Cc: Geraldine Broadbent
Subject: IE135482 - 1-267 - Option of a further five year lease agreement

Dear Sir,
In reviewing our draft lease proposal our committee would ask council to consider an option of a further five years. This was highlighted that some major works requiring grants and if successful follow up sourcing contracts within the specified time limits. Eg: bitumen resurfacing .

For your consideration.

Bet Henderson, secretary

15.1 COUNCIL MEMBERS

15.1.1 Mayor Phill Stone – List of Engagements – For Noting

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Michelle Armstrong, Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor **File No.:** 0-97

Annexures – 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 18 May – 14 June 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	15/06/2026

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

<u>REPORT</u>

BACKGROUND

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

DISCUSSION

Monday 18 May 2026

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

Tuesday 19 May 2026

- National Volunteers Week – Morning Tea Celebration
  Delivered an address to volunteers and presented Certificates of Appreciation
- Lunch meeting with M Resources
  A meet-and-greet at the request of M Resources representatives
  (also in attendance, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager City Growth)
- Meeting with Dr Joy Penman, re a Multicultural Activity Centre proposal
  (also in attendance, Manager City Activation)
- Eyre Peninsula Mayors – Informal Online Catch-up

Wednesday 20 May 2026

- Monthly Catch-up with Manager, Media and Communications
  Discussing potential story ideas for the various Council platforms
- Council media: Filmed latest edition of "From the Mayor's Desk"
- Annual Business Plan and Budget – Public Information Session

Thursday 21 May 2026

- Council media: Edwina Bartholomew, The Australian Women's Weekly interview
  In Whyalla speaking with various people for a future article on Whyalla

Friday 22 May 2026

- Upper Spencer Gulf Intergovernmental Group Meeting in Adelaide with Treasurer Koutsantonis, attending in my capacity as a Board Member of Spencer Gulf Cities
  (also in attendance, Chief Executive Officer)

Monday 25 May 2026

- Sharon Todd's Funeral (former Councillor)
- Council media: Wrote the Whyalla News edition of "From the Mayor's Desk"
- Council Members Confidential Briefing Session

Tuesday 26 May 2026

- Open Community Workshop – So you want to become a Councillor?
- Triple Y Council Radio Show
- Council media: ABC Drive with Nikolai Beilharz, re Whyalla Steelworks
- Eyre Peninsula Mayors – Informal Online Catch-up

Wednesday 27 May 2026

- Council media: ABC Radio National Breakfast, 6am interview with Sally Sara, re Whyalla Steelworks
- Council media: ABC TV, interview with James Wakelin re Whyalla Steelworks

Thursday 28 May 2026

- LGA Conference – Mayor and CEO Workshop – Adelaide
  (also in attendance, Chief Executive Officer)
- LGA Conference – Welcome Reception
- Lord Mayor Dinner – Adelaide Town Hall, hosted by the Lord Mayor

Friday 29 May 2026

- LGA Conference and Ordinary General Meeting – Adelaide
  (also in attendance, Chief Executive Officer)
  Separate conference report still to be prepared and circulated to Council Members

Monday 1 June 2026

- Weekly Briefing with Chief Executive Officer
- Special Council Meeting
- Future of Community Buildings and Facilities Meeting, re information and consultation session in Council Chamber with various representatives of community organisations

Tuesday 2 June 2026

- Spencer Gulf Cities – Board Meeting
- Eyre Peninsula Mayors – Informal Online Catch-up
  (Topics included Whyalla Steelworks update, camping problem areas, various Council Members not standing at the next election, retirement issues, Tumby Bay has a new CEO, upcoming LGA conference, impost of high air fares for regional communities)
- Cuttlefest Art Prize Launch – Middleback Arts Centre
  Gave a brief address and presented awards to major prize-winners

Wednesday 3 June 2026

- Council media: Inspection of all works at Civic Park completed to date, plus photo for follow-up story
- Adelaide University – Student Acknowledgement Evening.
  In conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer, presented Whyalla Council Student Grants to Jenna-May Clark and Cassandra Kirk-Herd – also spoke briefly

Thursday 4 June 2026

- Whyalla Services Leadership Group Meeting
- Meeting, re AI Summaries of Council Updates
- Council Members Confidential Briefing Session, re Northern Water

Saturday 6 June 2026

- Salty Sea'esta – Ada Ryan Gardens

Tuesday 9 June 2026

- Alligator Energy – Field Recovery Trial – Site Visit
  (also in attendance, Chief Executive Officer, and available Council Members and Executive Leadership Team)
- Eyre Peninsula Mayors – Informal Catch-up
  (Topics included significant discussion around the move to delay upcoming Local Government election, financial difficulties while councils work to keep rates down, suggestions that the impact of lack of doctors and associated medical issues in regional areas are not understood or appreciated in capital cities)

Wednesday 10 June 2026

- Council media: Inspections of the latest sand replenishment program and current construction progress of the replacement boat ramp – also to be used in follow-up media stories and photos
  (also in attendance, General Manager(s) City Growth and Infrastructure)

Thursday 11 June 2026

- EPLGA Board Workshop / Tour – Ceduna
- EPLGA Board Dinner

Friday 12 June 2026

- EPLGA Board Meeting – Ceduna

Saturday 13 June 2026

- Philippine Independence Day Celebrations
  Invited to attend and speak, by the Filipino Cultural Association – a significant occasion celebrating the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and contributions of Filipinos in our local community

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 – June 2026 – For Noting

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026

Author's Title: Jo Peden – Customer Experience Coordinator, Natalie Williams – Library Coordinator, Lisa Peatfield – Library Outreach Officer, Chloe Fisher – Community Activation Officer – Youth Focus, Teresa Coles – Community Activation Officer – Arts and Culture, Alberto Salatino – Community Activation Officer – Sport and Recreation, Louise Fiedler – People and Culture Advisor, Sue King – General Manager Corporate Services, Sean Kelly – Manager Media and Communication, Molly McGovern – Media and Communications Officer, Jenn Rausa – Creative Media Officer

File No.: 0-1

Directorate: Corporate, City Growth, Executive

Annexures:

A – Information Reporting Calendar
B – Indicative Schedule of Upcoming Items
C – Staffing Update
D – Customer Experience
E – Community and Library Services
F – RAP
G – Community Engagement/Media and Communications

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 **Annexure "A"**. Note that other activity reports are provided separately, as identified.

In addition to the calendar of reporting, Administration also maintains an Indicative Schedule of Upcoming Items outlining possible reports that will be listed for consideration at future Council, Audit and Risk Committee, 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. **June 2026 activity reports for the following services:**

    - **Customer Experience**
    - **Community and Library Services**
    - **RAP**
    - **Community Engagement/Media and Communications**

DUE DATE

Monthly Information Report – June 2026 – <u>For Noting</u>	15/06/2026

Annexure "A"

INFORMATION REPORTING CALENDAR

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

Other regular reports include:

- Monthly CEO action report, providing an update on the progress of Council resolutions.
- Monthly finance report, providing a regular update on Council's financial position, identified budget issues and progress on Council's major capital and operational projects.
- Quarterly budget review, updating projections of Councils' operating and capital budgets for the relevant financial year, identifying any variations sought to Councils' original budget and the resulting cumulative financial implications.
- Quarterly procurement update, outlining procurement activities for the quarter including policy exemptions and local spend.
- 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

Annexure "B"

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING ITEMS FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION
for the period June 2026 – September 2026

Monday **15 June 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report • Records Management Policy • Memorials Policy • Budget Management and Review Policy • Treasury Management Policy • Quarterly Procurement Report • Rating Policy • Complaints Handling Procedure
Monday **6 July 2026**	**COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION** •
Monday **20 July 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report
Friday **24 July 2026**	**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING** • Entertainment and Hospitality Policy • Financial Hardship Policy • Quarterly Procurement Report • Review Emergency Management and BCP Policies and Plans • Cyber Security Review Report • Review Performance Assessment Methodology • Receive and Consider Internal Audit Report on Council's Systems of Control on Ethical Standards etc.
Monday **3 August 2026**	**COUNCIL MEMBER BRIEFING SESSION** •
Monday **17 August 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report
Monday **7 September 2026**	**COUNCIL MEMBERS BRIEFIENG SESSION** •
Monday **21 September 2026**	**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING** • CEO's Action Report • Mayor's Report • Information Report • Monthly Budget Report

Annexure “C”

Staffing Update June 2026

	Employee Name	Position Title	Start Date	End Date	Length of service
Staff Leaving	Jeffrey Aquino	Assistant Childcare Educator	29/09/2025	25/06/2026	0 years, 8 months, 24 days
Staff Commencement	Madyson Hunt	Assistant Childcare Educator	22/05/2026		
Staff Commencement	Natalie Armour-Gardiner	Assistant Childcare Educator	08/06/2026		
Staff Movement	Michaela-Anne Michie	Early Childhood Teacher	21/05/2026		Recruitment process to change from Assistant Childcare Educator to eCT
Staff Movement	Jess Wood	Customer Service Lead	18/05/2026		Internal recruitment process from Customer Service Officer to Customer Service Lead

Customer Experience Information Report

Council Meeting – June 2026 | Reporting period: 1 February 2026 – 31 May 2026
Authored by: Joanne Peden, Customer Experience Coordinator

This reporting period saw the launch of the Customer Experience Framework and Charter for the next three years, with a strong focus on putting our customers first in everything we do across Council.

The document is structured into three sections:

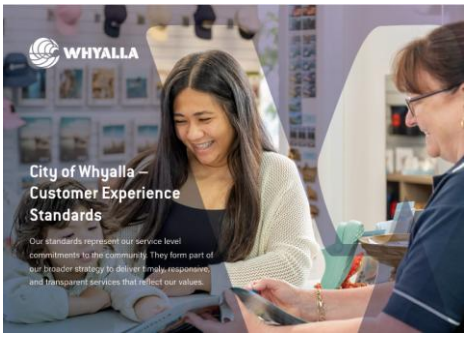
(1) the Customer Experience framework,

(2) the service standards, and

(3) the action plan for the next 12 months.

The action plan will be updated each year, for the following 12 months.

The rollout has included presentations at staff meetings, a Brainfeed session, and a presentation to Council Members. The document is now available on Council's website, with banners displayed across all Council sites. Postcards featuring a QR code linking to the document have also been distributed to all staff.



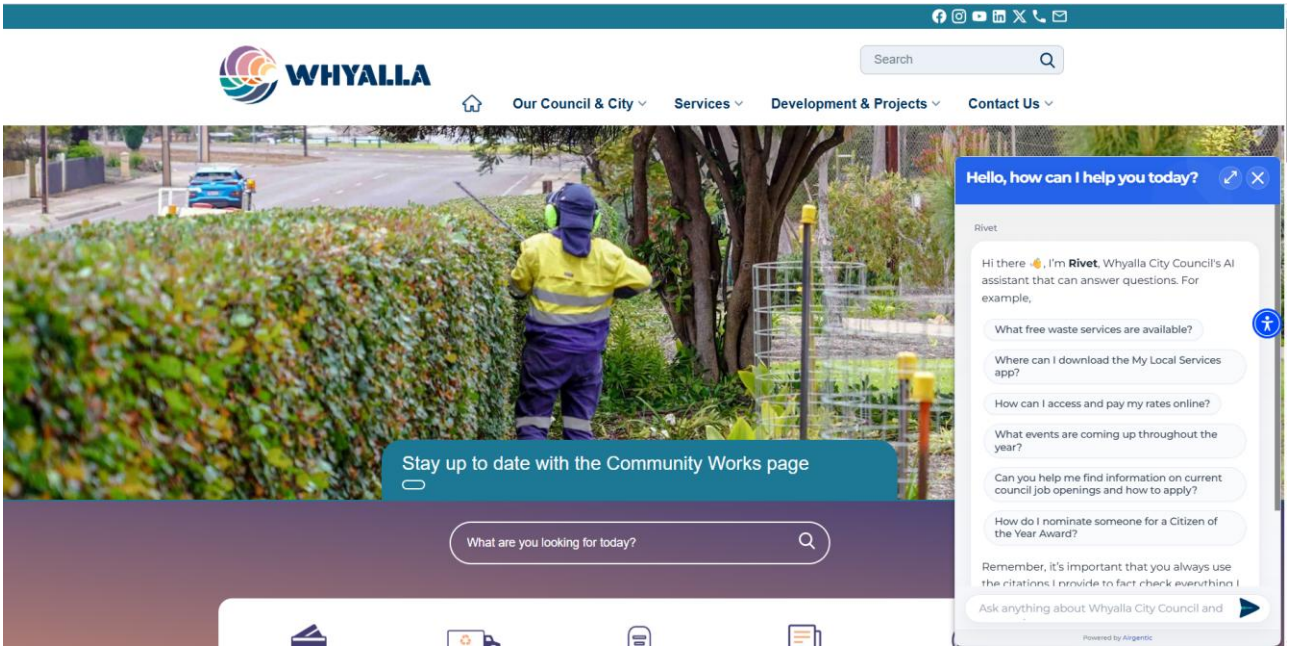


Picture 1&2: Customer Experience postcards distributed to all staff.



Picture 1: Customer Experience banners placed around Council sites.

During April, we introduced a new AI tool called RIVET, on our website. As it is still in its early stages, we are continuing to refine it and work through any errors or inconsistencies before officially promoting it.



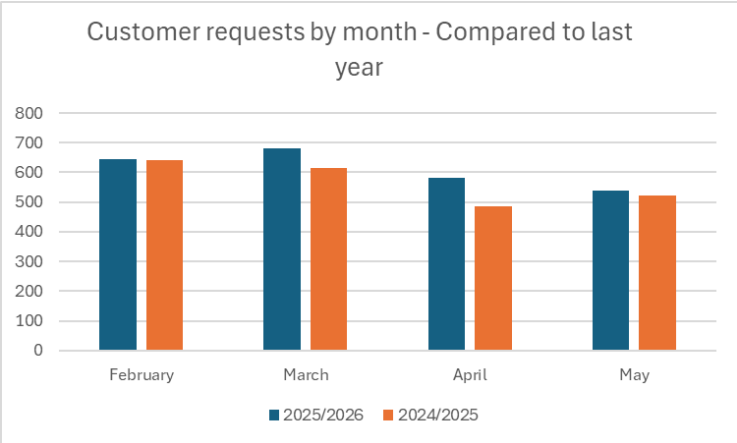
Picture: Whyalla City Council website displaying the new AI tool called RIVET

Total customer requests for this reporting period

The total number of customer requests received for this reporting period was 2444, representing an increase of 178 compared with the same period last year. March recorded the highest number of requests, driven by an increase in rate enquiries related to third-quarter instalments due, bin replacements and repairs, and reports of illegal dumping.

Despite a 7.9% increase in customer requests compared with the same period last year, overall performance has improved significantly. The proportion of requests actioned increased from 70% to 80%, while outstanding requests reduced substantially from 17.9% to 4.8%. This indicates improved service efficiency despite increasing demand, although a rise in pending requests suggests some emerging pressure in workflow scheduling.

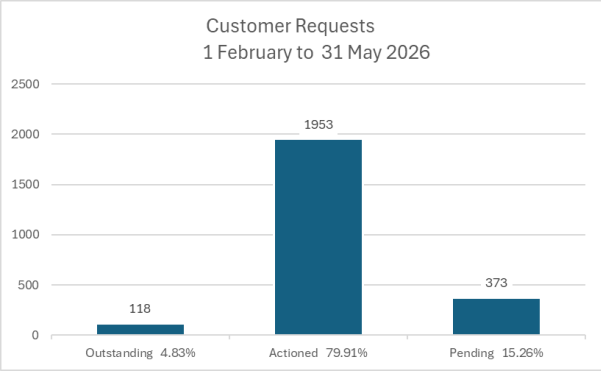
	Total Customer Requests 2025/26	***Total Customer Requests 2024/25***
February	645	642
March	681	616
April	581	486
May	537	522
Total	**2444**	**2266**

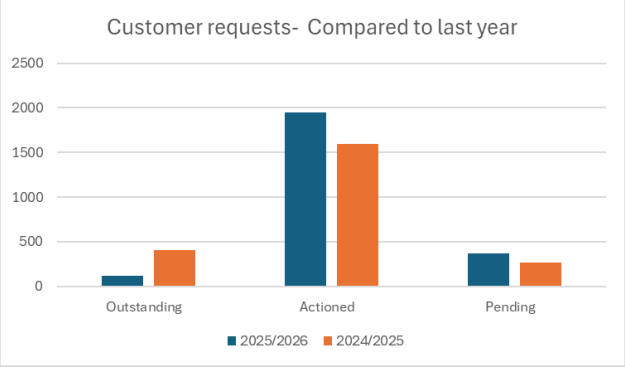


Customer requests actioned for the quarter

2025/26	*Outstanding*	*%*	*Actioned*	*%*	*Pending*	*%*
February	2	0.31	566	87.75	77	11.94
March	1	0.15	577	84.73	103	15.12
April	8	1.38	472	81.24	101	17.38
May	107	19.93	338	62.94	92	17.13
Total	**118**	4.83	**1953**	79.91	**373**	15.26

Of the 2444 customer requests that were received this reporting period 1953 (79.91%) are actioned, 118 (4.83%) are outstanding and 373 (15.26%) are pending.





Over the same period previous year

2024/25	*Outstanding*	*%*	*Actioned*	*%*	*Pending*	*%*
February	114	17.76	465	72.43	63	9.81
March	95	15.42	473	76.79	48	7.79
April	90	18.52	325	66.87	71	14.61
May	107	20.50	331	63.41	84	16.09
Total	**406**	**17.92**	**1594**	**70.34**	**266**	**11.74**

This quarter has seen an increase in pending customer requests compared with the same period last year, along with a decrease in outstanding requests. This may indicate that customer requests are being reviewed and placed in pending while works are scheduled to be completed.

Time taken to action Customer requests

1 February 2026 – 31 May 2026	*Number*	*Average Days*	*Percentage*
Time to action completed requests	1,953	6	80%
Time open for current pending requests	373	59	15%
Time open for current outstanding requests	118	17	5%

Of the 2,444 customer requests received this quarter 1,953 (80%) have been actioned, with an average completion time of 6 days. A further 373 requests (15%) are currently pending, with an average of 59 days to complete, while 118 requests (5%) remain outstanding, with an average completion time of 17 days.

Time to resolve completed requests (as at 1 June 2026)	*Number*	*Percentage*
Within 1 day	912	47%
Within 2 days	403	21%
Within 3 days	113	6%
Within 4 days	99	5%
Within 5 days	42	2%

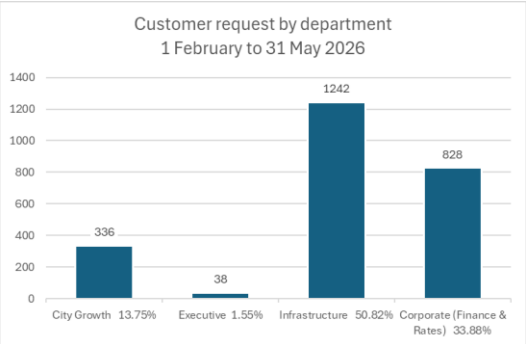
Within 7 days	82	4%
Within 14 days	116	6%
Within 28 days	80	4%
Greater than 28 days	106	5%

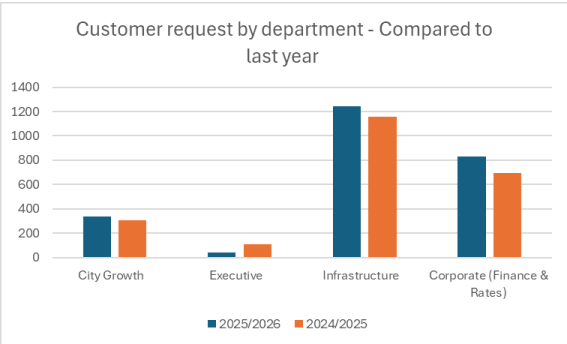
Of the 1,953 completed customer requests, 47% were resolved within 24 hours and 68% within 48 hours. A further 6% were completed within 3 days, bringing the total to 74%. An additional 11% were resolved within 7 days, resulting in a cumulative total of 85% of customer requests being completed within one week.

Customer requests by Department for the quarter

During this reporting period, 51% of all customer requests were forwarded to the Infrastructure Department for action, consistent with trends from previous periods. The Corporate Department received 34% of requests, while the City Growth Department accounted for 13%.

1/02/2026 to 31/05/2026	*Outstanding*	*Actioned*	*Pending*	*Total*	*%*
City Growth	26	307	3	336	**13.75**
Executive	3	35		38	**1.55**
Infrastructure	39	834	369	1242	**50.82**
Corporate	50	777	1	828	**33.88**
	118	**1953**	**373**	**2444**	





Over the same period previous year

1/02/2025 to 31/05/2025	*Outstanding*	*Actioned*	*Pending*	*Total*	*%*
City Growth	107	197	0	304	**13.42**
Executive	16	94	1	111	**4.90**
Infrastructure	222	672	265	1159	**51.15**
Corporate (Finance Rates)	61	631	0	692	**30.54**
	406	**1594**	**266**	**2266**	

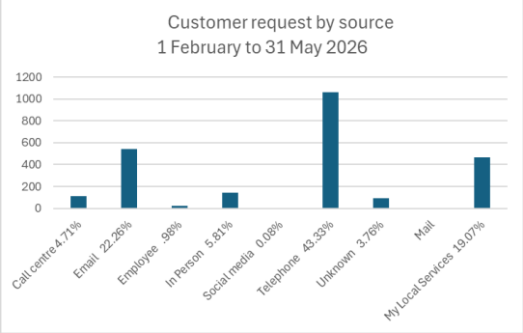
Customer requests by source for the quarter

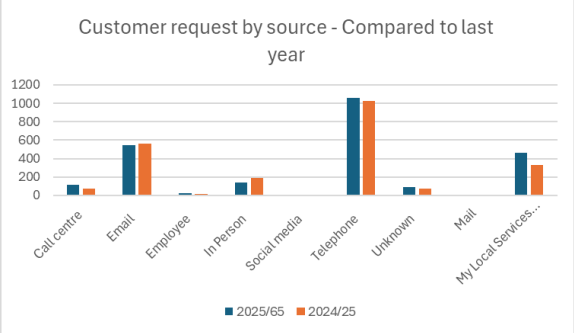
Telephone remained the preferred method of contact for customers during this reporting period, with 1,059 requests (43%), an increase of 5% from 749 requests (38%) in the previous reporting period.

Customer requests received via email remained steady this reporting period at 544 requests (22%), consistent with historical trends.

The My Local Services application continues to grow steadily, now accounting for approximately 20% of all customer contact, with 466 customer requests received this reporting period.

Source of request 2025/2026	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*Total 2025/26*	*%*
Call centre	38	25	33	19	115	**4.71**
Email	141	157	125	121	544	**22.26**
Employee	6	8	7	3	24	**0.98**
In Person	60	40	19	23	142	**5.81**
Social media			2		2	**0.08**
Telephone	272	313	246	228	1059	**43.33**
Unknown	22	30	19	21	92	**3.76**
Mail						
My Local Services App	106	108	130	122	466	**19.07**
	645	**681**	**581**	**537**	**2444**	



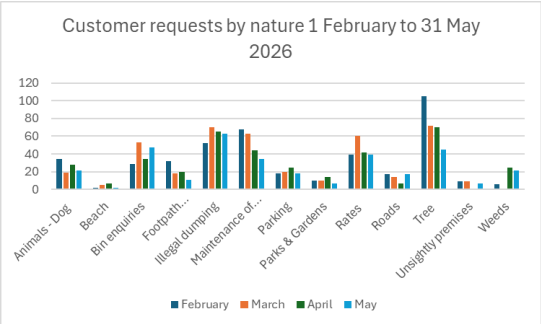


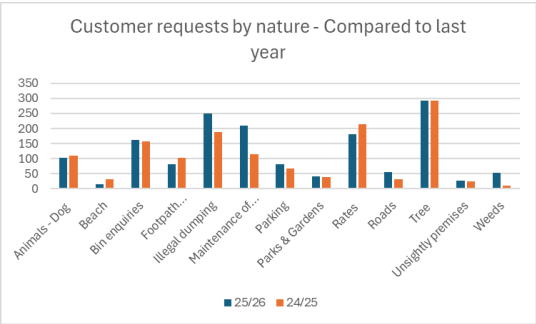
Over the same period previous year

Source of request 2024/2025	***February***	***March***	***April***	***May***	***Total 2024/25***	***%***
Call centre	17	27	16	12	72	**3.18**
Email	175	171	95	124	565	**24.93**
Employee	3	2	2	6	13	**0.57**
In Person	40	51	47	54	192	**8.47**
Social media	2	2			4	**0.18**
Telephone	300	262	227	232	1021	**45.06**
Unknown	25	13	18	16	72	**3.18**
Mail						**0.00**
My Local Services App	80	88	81	78	327	**14.43**
	642	**616**	**486**	**522**	**2266**	

Compared with the same period last year, customer requests received via email decreased by 21 (2.6%), while in-person visits to the office declined by 50 (2.6%). Call centre interactions increased by 43 (1.5%), and requests submitted through the My Local Services application saw the largest growth, increasing by 139 (4.6%).

Nature of request





	February	*March*	*April*	*May*	*Total*	*Previous quarter*	*Previous year*
Animals - Dog	34	19	28	21	**102**	82	111
Beach	2	5	7	2	**16**	15	32
Bin enquiries	29	53	34	47	**163**	133	157
Footpath complaints & maintenance	32	18	20	11	**81**	93	103
illegal dumping	52	70	65	63	**250**	188	187
Maintenance of Council property	68	63	44	34	**209**	164	115
Parking	18	20	25	18	**81**	66	68
Parks & Gardens	10	10	14	7	**41**	59	40
Rates	39	60	42	39	**180**	128	213
Roads	17	14	7	17	**55**	57	31
Tree Trimming	105	72	70	45	**292**	286	292
Unsightly premises	9	9	1	7	**26**	2	24
Weeds	6	1	25	21	**53**	36	11

During this quarter, reports of illegal dumping increased substantially, with a total of 250 reports received, an average of 62 per month, compared with 187 reports during the same period last year. It should be noted that some reports may relate to the same incident.

Maintenance requests for Council-owned facilities have almost doubled compared with the same period last year, reaching 209 this quarter, up from 115. This is also an increase on the previous quarter, which recorded 164 requests.

Weed reports increased during April and May, with a total of 53 reports received this quarter, compared with 36 in the previous quarter and 11 during the same period last year.

Reports of unsightly properties increased significantly rising from 2 in the previous quarter to 26 this quarter. Despite this increase the number remains in line with the same period last year.

Customer requests relating to trees, including fallen branches, trimming and removals, remained consistent with both the previous quarter and the same period last year.

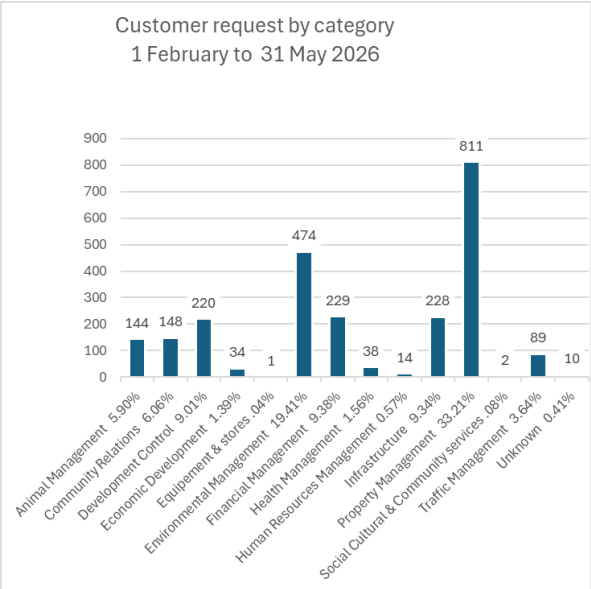
Enquiries regarding bins remained high, with 163 requests received this quarter.

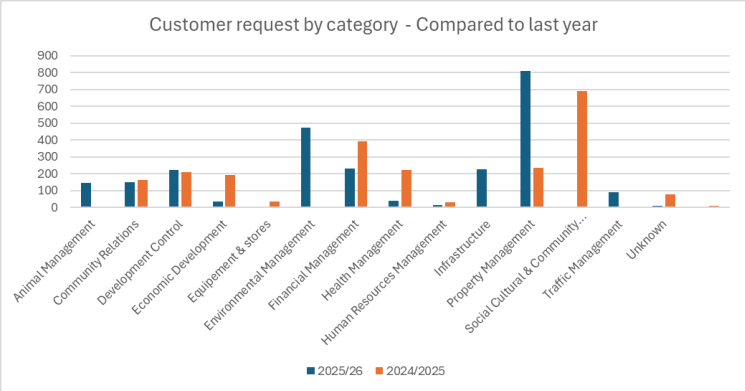
Footpath related requests decreased slightly to 81, down from 93 last quarter, and 103 for the same time last year.

In contrast, most other service areas remained steady or consistent with seasonal expectations.

Customer Request category for the quarter

Customer Request category	***2025/2026***	***2024/25***
Animal Management	144	164
Community Relations	148	210
Development Control	220	191
Economic Development	34	35
Environmental Management	474	391
Equipment & stores	3	
Financial Management	229	224
Fleet Management		
Governance		
Government Relations		
Health Management	38	32
Human Resources Management	14	5
Infrastructure	228	233
Legal Provisions		
Property Management	811	691
Social Cultural & Community services	2	3
Strategic Management		
Technology & Communication		
Traffic Management	89	79
Unknown	10	8





Section 7 and Section 187 property search requests

All property transactions in South Australia require the seller to provide the purchaser with a Form 1, in meeting all obligations relating to disclosure. Council section 7 and section 187 property searches are required statutory searches that enable completion of the Form 1.

During this reporting period, Section 7 search requests increased compared to the same period last year.

Section 7 and 184 Property Searches	***February***	***March***	***April***	***May***	***Total***
2025/26	68	83	65	58	**274**
2024/25	75	56	52	61	**244**



Community Activation Report - June 2026

Chloe Fisher, Alberto Salatino & Teresa Coles

Community Activation Officer: Youth Focus

uneARTh Festival

Throughout the month of March, the CAO – Youth Focus delivered and supported a series of arts and culture focused activations for young people in the community for the uneARTh Festival. Activations included:

Out of the Box – Create, Construct, Imagine

Whyalla City Council and headspace Whyalla collaborated to deliver four creative sessions in Westland Shopping Centre where young people could drop in and create, make a mess and express themselves. Their creations will be displayed until the end of the month. Young people demonstrated creativity and enthusiasm, imagining the pieces of cardboard in all different ways.









uneARTh the Beat

Whyalla City Council and headspace Whyalla collaborated to deliver the first silent disco on the foreshore and iconic Whyalla jetty! The jetty came alive with great music, good vibes, and a stunning sunset backdrop, as DJ Rick kept everyone dancing.

Foreshore Fridays

The Community Activation Officer – Youth Focus supported the delivery of 1 out of 3 Foreshore Fridays in the absence of the events Coordinator. This event is a community favourite, and this year did not disappoint. The weather was immaculate, the music was incredible and the community thoroughly enjoyed an evening with live music, roving circus work, free bubbles and good vibes.



Junkyard Beats

During the uneARTh Festival, the Junkyard Beats crew visited Whyalla to deliver a range of school workshops as well as a community performance. Junkyard Beats transform ordinary household items into extraordinary musical instruments—proving that music can be made from almost anything. Students from Long Street Primary School, Whyalla Stuart Primary School and Fisk Street Primary School learnt about rhythms and creating music together. Students finished off their session with a meditation activity to down regulate before heading back to class.







Be Active Program – Samaritan College

As part of the Samaritan College – Be Active Program, Whyalla City Council were invited to present at Our Lady's Help of Christian campus. Year 3–6 students heard about the importance of healthy eating and creating positive, lifelong healthy habits. Students then had the opportunity to create smoothies and pedal to blend them on the smoothie bike!





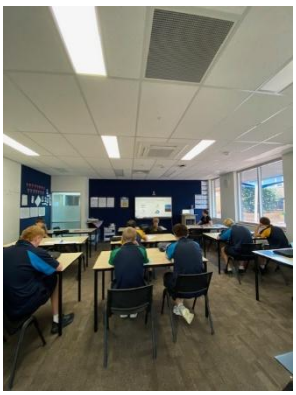


Long Street Primary School - Community Afternoon



The Community Activation Officer – Youth Focus was lucky to be invited to the Long Street Primary School community day to engage with students and their families. In collaboration with headspace Whyalla, the team brought out the highly requested smoothie bike for students to make and blend their own smoothies. Students and families thoroughly enjoyed the novelty of pedalling for their smoothies and requested that the bike come back to Long St for other fun opportunities.

Sammy D at Samaritan College - St. Johns Campus



Stage 2 of the Youth Leadership Project, funded by Spencer Gulf Cities was completed with the Sammy D Foundation running a 2-day Adulting 101 workshop for Samaritan College. This was delivered to a cohort of students who are on a pathway to trades and either currently have apprenticeships or are working towards them. This real life, skills-based knowledge was valuable and relevant to this cohort as they will soon be juggling the responsibilities of adulthood. Themes and topics that were presented included:

- budgeting and tax
- respectful relationships
- finding/keeping employment

These sessions were tailored to the specific needs of the participants. Students were highly engaged, asking questions, bantering with the facilitator and restating information that they had learned.

HOPE Day





The Whyalla City Council Community Activation team have continued their partnership with HOPE Whyalla and are continuing to collaborate in delivering community events and activations. This year, the Community Activation Officers supported HOPE Day with activities and stalls. The kites were a fan favourite, as always, colouring the sky with specially designed kites created by young people. The team also delivered an activity to find out what “connection” means to people in Whyalla. The community provided fantastic answers and thought deeply about the different avenues of connection.

TAFE SA Campus - Alive Event

Adelaide University – Uni Vibe Event



Both TAFE SA and Adelaide University invited Whyalla City Council to be part of their 2026 events to launch the beginning of the semester. Both campuses requested the smoothie bike to engage students and provide an opportunity for the team to speak to them. This year, People and Culture joined the Community Activation team to speak to students about traineeships, career pathways and employment opportunities. Students were surprised by the breadth of work that the Whyalla City Council delivers.

Local Drug Action Team (LDAT)





Over the last 6 months, Whyalla City Council, headspace Whyalla and Mission Australia have been working together to reinvigorate the Local Drug Action Team for Whyalla. This process began with consultation where parents were surveyed on alcohol and other drug (AOD) concerns for the young people in their lives.

Over 100 parents responded, providing both quantitative and qualitative data. Some learnings that were gained included: almost 1 in 2 parents were concerned about AOD use for a young person in their family and 65% were concerned for a young person between 15-25 years of age. From this data, a roundtable presentation was hosted by the LDAT team where members of the community service sector were invited to hear the findings of the survey and share their views. From this data, the LDAT team will then work to meet some of the needs/wants identified in the survey and provide opportunities for the Whyalla community, aiming to reduce AOD harm and concerns.

Community and Careers: Learning at Long St







Long Street Primary School invited staff from the City Growth team to talk about the different tasks and roles of Council, exposing students to the different services in Whyalla. The Community Activation Officer – Youth Focus and Manager City Development attended the Reception/Year 1 class to talk about building cities. Students learnt about the new developments that are upcoming in Whyalla as well as talked about the elements and considerations when building a city. Students then got to implement their knowledge and build a city using Play Dough with schools, footpaths, bridges, hospitals, bridges and more.

SA Youth Week (SAYW)





SA Youth Week (SAYW) is South Australia's biggest celebration of young people aged 12 to 25!

SAYW ran from 9–17 April 2026 and is proudly supported by the Department of Human Services (DHS). This week shines a light on the ideas, talents, and contributions of young South Australians, with events created by and for young people.

SAYW kicked off with the much-loved brekky club! The CAO – Youth Focus and headspace Whyalla served bacon and egg muffins to students at Samaritan College, celebrating the end of Term 1 and SAYW. Students were thrilled with the surprise brekky and learnt about SAYW and why the team were on site. Many young people had never even heard of the week. Later in the week, the Whyalla Rec Centre was filled with roller skating, glitter, music and good vibes. Over 150 people of all ages attended the two sessions of the SAYW Roller Disco! There were craft activities, a glitter station, music, food and roller skates galore for young people to enjoy and celebrate. The community gave incredible feedback with people even travelling from out of town to attend.







The Smith Family Career Mentoring Event – Whyalla Secondary College

Whyalla City Council was invited to connect with approximately 150 year 10 students during a career mentoring session. Students were keen to hear about the different services that Council provide, how each professional came into their position, their career pathway and what their day-to-day work life looks like. Students discovered different opportunities in the community that they were unaware of and learnt about the different career pathways that may not always follow the traditional roadmap.

School Holidays (April)

Along with the SAYW Roller Disco, a series of school holiday activities were delivered during April. This included;

- A community day at Nunyarra raising awareness for the importance of health checks and screenings. Council were invited by Nunyarra to join with the smoothie bike as a healthy activity for young people to engage in.
- Drop-in sessions were also held for the Mental Health Matters Round (MHMR) design competition. Young people were able to join the team in creating a custom soccer uniform for local soccer players to wear during MHMR 2026.
- Whyalla City Council staff also partnered with HOPE Whyalla to deliver a community BBQ in Wilson Park. The afternoon included a free BBQ, yoga activity from the Whyalla Rec Centre and an opportunity for the community to share their thoughts on connection points in Whyalla.





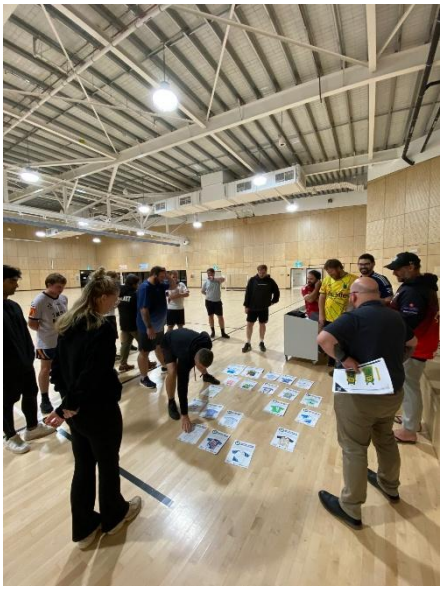
Families Week

Families Week is celebrated annually during the month of May, recognising the importance of family support. Centacare Catholic Country SA hosted their annual Families Week event, this year at the Whyalla Rec Centre with the Whyalla City Council invited to join with an activity. Young people joined us for a Friday afternoon of free activities and connection, providing a free and fun option to spend their time. Activities included: biscuit decorating, a free movie, bracelet making and more.



Mental Health Matters Round 2026 (MHMR)

Planning for Mental Health Matters Round 2026 is underway with the team bringing the Whyalla Soccer Association into the calendar of events. This year, the team received over 250 entries into the design competition where young people were given the opportunity to design soccer strips for the A grade and B grade players in Whyalla. This year will also see collaboration with Australian mental health advocacy organisation, Speak and Share to educate young people and provide some additional opportunities as the round expands. The MHMR team will continue to activate the Whyalla Football League and Whyalla Netball Association, maintaining those already established relationships and continuing to advocate for the cause. Local soccer clubs are in the process of choosing their favourite design before the MHMR team begins the production process! The soccer teams have been highly engaged and are excited to be part of such an important initiative whilst activating their sport.



Cuttlefest Celebrations

Sparkles: The Inflatable Cuttlefish





Sparkles has made two outings this Cuttlefest season already, educating young people about the incredible creatures that visit our region during the months of June and July. Sparkles visited Long Street Primary School in anticipation for the Whyalla Jetty Open Air Gallery. Students had the opportunity to sit inside Sparkles and learn about cuttlefish before engaging in a creative activity where they drew what they learnt. These drawings were then entered into the Open-Air Gallery competition. Sparkles also visited McRitchie Crescent Children's Services Centre. The children were thrilled to see Sparkles and listen to some fun facts about cuttlefish, completed with a story time. This visit provided a different, early years level of engagement and excitement for the upcoming Cuttlefish season.





Open Air Gallery

The Community Activation and Events Teams worked closely and in partnership with Alligator Energy to deliver the first Open Air Gallery on the Whyalla Jetty. This began with schools entering their designs and colouring in work in the hopes it would feature on the jetty. Over 550 creations were received, and Alligator Energy had the tough task of narrowing the designs down so they would fit on 14, 1 metre decals to be installed on the jetty. The Council team worked with the Alligator Energy team to develop the decal design before they were installed on the jetty in mid-May. The team then worked to deliver a launch day where schools were invited to visit the jetty prior to the evening event and browse their fine artwork. The community then came out in their hundreds to enjoy an evening of live music, free hot chips and donuts, roving circus work, and more! All delivered on the Whyalla jetty to launch the incredible artwork created by local young people. This event also saw Spencer the cuttlefish mascot's first outing!











Community Activation Officer: Sport & Recreation/Connected & Active Communities Officer

Learning Life through Sport

Rod Campbell from Learning Life Through Sport presented to local clubs and associations in early May at the Mt Laura Homestead. A small number of attendees were present on the night to learn about the program and how it can be implemented within their respective clubs and sport. Learning Life Through Sport (LLTS) is a program that creates safe and inclusive environments for everyone involved in sport.

LLTS is setting a new standard for behaviour in sport. It is built on the principle of Empowerment, not Enforcement, and promotes three core values:

- Sportsmanship
- Respect
- Try Your Hardest

LLTS targets coaches, teachers, and leaders (sport and business) who make a significant impact in their fields. The ninety-minute presentation uses stories and case studies to inspire participants, equipping them with practical tools to build positive environments.

Those who attended the session were impressed with the content and will implement the strategies moving forward. Clubs and Associations present also expressed that they would like to have the session again prior to their respective season commencing next year and will strongly promote the need for this to happen within the sports.



Healthy Eating Presentation & Smoothie Bike Samaritan College - Our Lady's Campus



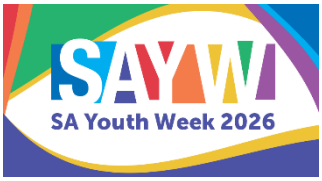
Samaritan College Our Lady's Campus ran a Be Active Program from Week 3 to Week 7 this year and wanted to reward the students who had participated in the program with the smoothie bike which also tied in with the message of healthy eating and physical activity with a fun way to make a smoothie.

Children first listened to a short presentation on healthy habits which was the perfect way to tie the fun exercise of the smoothie bike into some real information they need to continue to follow their healthy habits of exercising and eating well! The students loved the event and were asking when we would be back to make more smoothies. This was a great way to promote the importance of healthy eating while reinforcing the value of physical activity.

NAIDOC Week Golf Day 2026

Whyalla City Council Community Activation Officers hold positions on the local NAIDOC Week committee. Preparation has commenced for 2026 and as part of the NAIDOC Week events, the Community Activation Officer – Sport and Recreation will once again manage the NAIDOC Week Golf Day. The event will occur on the 10th of July. The event will be a 9-hole Ambrose competition. A free BBQ and soft drink will be available to participants at the end of the round with presentations being held in the clubrooms.

SA Youth Week (SAYW)
3x3 Basketball Competition





As part of this years SA Youth Week celebrations, Community Activation Officer – Sport and Recreation delivered a 3x3 Basketball tournamnet for young people aged 12-18 at The Whyalla Recreation Centre.

Players of all abilities participated, from first timers to experinced players, there was great attendance and engagement.

Prizes were given for participants and the winners received a prize pack including a voucher, drink bottle, sport socks and a basketball.

There was lots of positive feedback from both players and parents/caregivers who were there on the day. Due to this feedback we will host another event in the next school holidays period.

Special thanks goes out to Patrick Kelly from the Whyalla Basketball Association who provided umpiring on the day.







Community Activation Officer: Arts & Culture

uneARTh Festival

Throughout the month of March, the CAO – Arts & Culture delivered and supported a series of arts and culture focused activations for people in the community for the uneARTh Festival. Activations included:

The Dome 'Immersive Worlds'



The Arts & Culture Facilitator and Middleback Arts Centre staff were excited to be showcasing and supporting 'The Dome' (an Adelaide Fringe Show) on the Stage at the Middleback Arts Centre as part of Whyalla's uneARTh Festival, 26th March – 6th April 2026.

As part of the Immersive Worlds experience, 14 documentaries were shown over multiple sessions throughout the program. Many Schools attended free sessions, alongside $5 tickets for community sessions with thanks to sponsorship from Adelaide Uni.

Live @Lefties UneARTh Program

The Arts & Culture Facilitator supported the Whyalla Left Hand Club to deliver a comprehensive 'Live@Lefties UneARTh Program' – including live music, comedy, theatre and open mic talent night bringing a wide variety of local and South Australian artists to the local community.

Gratitude Walls

"Today I am grateful for……

The Arts and Culture Facilitator coordinated the installation of two Gratitude Walls as part of the Whyalla uneARTh Festival, a month long celebration showcasing all things Art, Culture & Community in line with the Adelaide Fringe Festival.



The Gratitude Walls welcomed people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to contribute – one message at a time – helping build a more connected, positive and grateful community.

As part of the Cuttlefest program one of the Gratitude Walls has been relocated to the Dive Site for further engagement and activation.

Cuttlefest

Spencer – Cuttlefish mascot

Spencer our Cuttlefish mascot has been completed by local artist Deb Dawson and had his debut at our Open-Air Gallery event.

Spencer will be activated at several events throughout Cuttlefest and has been shown to be an excellent engagement tool for families.





Cuttlefest Art Prize Exhibition

The arts & culture facilitator has partnered with Whyalla Business and Tourism to deliver the Cuttlefest Art Prize Exhibition for 2026.

The creativity of local and regional artists will once again be celebrated as the exhibition opens at the Middleback Arts Centre on Tuesday 2 June at 6pm, featuring the exhibition launch, awards presentation and panel session.

Over 50 artworks will remain on display throughout June and July, providing community members and visitors with the opportunity to explore and enjoy this diverse collection.

Over 20 individual artists have entered the Art Prize, and more than 170 students contributed to the exhibition across six Whyalla Schools and Child Care Centres.





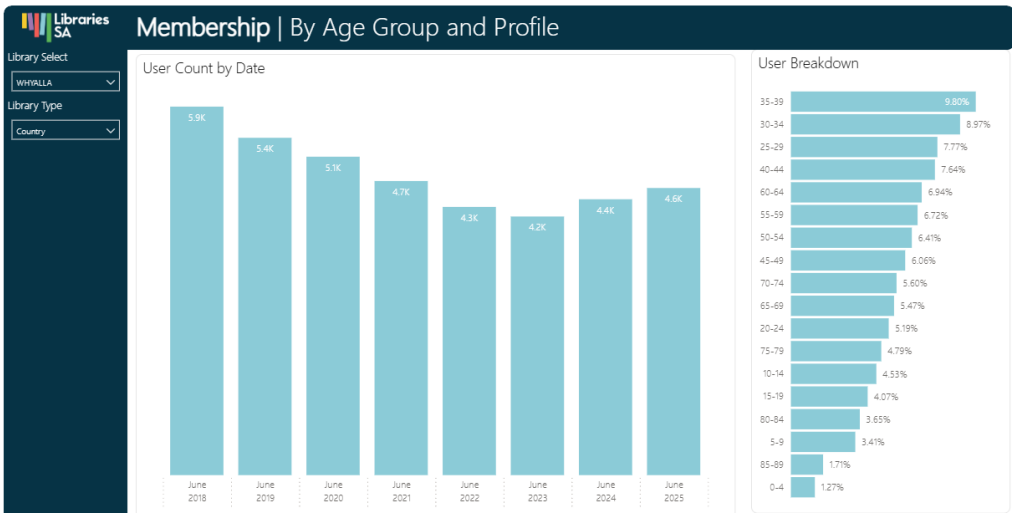


LIBRARY

INFORMATION REPORT - June 2026

Report Author: Natalie Williams & Lisa Peatfield

Membership Summary

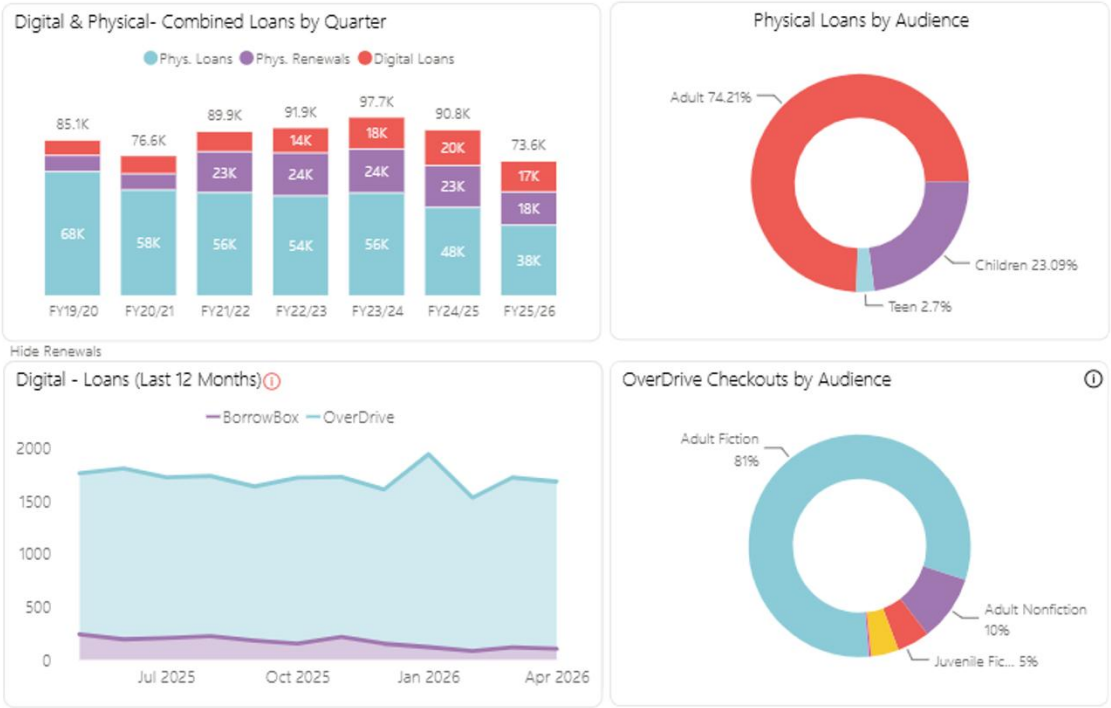


The library's membership base has shown a steady recovery and gradual growth following the decline experienced during the COVID period. Membership numbers have increased from 4,200 in 2023 to 4,400 in 2024, reaching 4,600 in 2025.

While 2022 recorded 4,300 members, the following year reflected some continued impacts from the pandemic before growth resumed. Overall, the trend demonstrates a positive rebuilding of community engagement with library services and a return to sustained membership growth.

2026 data not shown as this is available at end of financial year. This will be disseminated at next reporting period.

Collection Summary



The library's collection usage continues to demonstrate strong engagement across both physical and digital formats.

The physical collection currently holds approximately 27,650 circulating items, with total physical loans for the financial year reaching **38,220**. Adult members account for most of the physical borrowing at **74.21%,** followed by children's memberships at 23.09%, while teen borrowing represents 2.7% of total physical loans.

Digital borrowing through the free library apps Libby and BorrowBox has remained consistent over the past 12 months, with 17,040 eBooks and eAudiobooks borrowed. These platforms continue to play an important role in extending access to library resources, providing members with a broader range of titles and convenient access beyond the library's physical collection.

Wear Orange Wednesday

Wear Orange Wednesday (Wow Day) is a National Day of Recognition to thank SES Volunteers across Australia.
Celebrated on Wednesday May 20 coinciding with National Volunteer Week.
On this day communities are encouraged to wear orange to show appreciation for the selfless efforts of SES volunteers who respond to emergencies, including storms and floods.



As part of children's learning programs the Library and The Smith Family invited the local SES crew to visit the library and talk to children about how they work to keep community safe.

National Volunteers Week

National Volunteers Week was celebrated on Tuesday 19th May with a morning tea held at Council Civic Building with all volunteers across Council. The library recognises the important role that our 20 dedicated volunteers play in ensuring we are able to deliver the range of service and programs to our community. Our volunteers range from JP's, Family History Group Members to people running craft programs, one editing and making videos for social media and 3 helping keep our books to a high standard by covering them and maintaining our collection. Two volunteers are ex staff members that wish to continue giving back to the community long after they have retired and our book covers and video editor are school leavers and looking to help expand their work profile, gain new skills and give back to their community.





Library Lovers Day

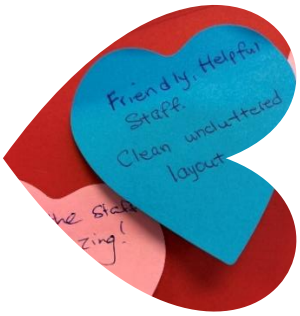
We celebrated National Library Lover's Day on February 14th

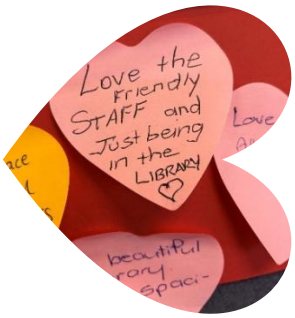
The day promotes a deep passion for books and gives opportunity to show appreciation for the people who care for them.
Our community took some time to honour our library and staff on this special day!

Some notes our customers left us about our library and why they enjoy it.







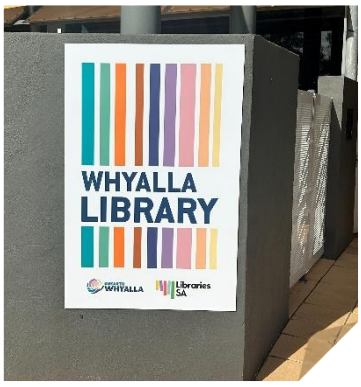


New Signage

A huge thank you to Signarama for their ongoing support of our vision.
Our new signage, designed by Josh from our Media team, looks fantastic and has really helped bring the space to life.







History Month – May

The South Australian History Festival was a truly inspiring celebration of connection, storytelling, and community. From the threads that bind family stories, places, and peoples — to the lines linking past to present and South Australia to the wider world — this year's festival invited us to see history in a whole new light.

Family History Group

During History Month in May, the Whyalla Public Library partnered with the Whyalla Family History Group to support community members interested in exploring their family history and discovering local stories.

Members of the Whyalla Family History Group volunteered their time each Wednesday throughout May, providing one-on-one assistance to help locals begin researching and building their family tree. Sessions were held in the Library's Local History Room and welcomed participants of all experience levels.

Using a range of genealogy and local history resources, community members were guided through the process of tracing family connections, researching historical records and documenting their personal histories.

The initiative highlighted the important role the Whyalla Family History Group plays in preserving local heritage, encouraging community engagement and supporting an interest in family history research.





Local Historian, Researcher – Paul Mazourek

As part of South Australia's History Festival 2026, the Whyalla Public Library proudly hosted a range of activities celebrating local history and community connections.

A highlight of the month was the free public lecture *Introduction to Whyalla Coastline*, presented by local historian and researcher Paul Mazourek. The presentation explored the natural and cultural history of the coastline from Douglas Point North to Murninnie Beach, sharing stories of Aboriginal heritage, early European exploration, local marine life and the changing coastal environment.

Held at the Whyalla Public Library on 20 May, the event welcomed community members interested in learning more about the region's rich coastal history. The presentation was also made available online through YouTube, allowing the wider community to engage with and enjoy this important local history resource.

Library Services

Community Outreach



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

Each month, dedicated library staff carefully select between 200 and 300 items — including books, magazines, audiobooks, music CDs and DVDs — tailored to each customer's personal preferences and interests.

Deliveries are made with the invaluable assistance of volunteers, who facilitate item exchanges on the last Tuesday and first Tuesday of each month, allowing staff to efficiently process returns and prepare new loans for delivery.

Our dedicated volunteer, Lynette, continues to make deliveries twice a month and has developed meaningful connections with the people she visits. We also welcomed a new volunteer, Sheryl, in January this year, whose support has already become a valued part of the service.

Outreach Service Activity Summary

Month	Run 1	Run 2	Pickup Library	Copperhouse Court	Yeltana	Month Total
January	24	98	4	65	33	**224**
February	24	97	4	66	34	**225**
March	28	91	4	68	40	**231**
April	24	78	-	68	38	**208**
May	24	84	4	68	34	**213**

Key Highlights

- The outreach service consistently delivered over 200 items per month across the reporting period.
- Copperhouse Court remained the largest service location, averaging approximately 67 items per month.
- Demand for outreach services remained steady, highlighting the ongoing importance of accessible library services within the community.
- Volunteer support continues to be essential to the success and sustainability of the program.

Digital Support

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

Being Digital is a free program offered by South Australian public libraries to support adults in building their digital skills. At the Whyalla Public Library, we also host a **weekly Digital Drop-In Session**, where customers can bring their own devices—such as phones, iPads, or laptops—and receive one-on-one assistance from our Digital Officer. These sessions cover a wide range of topics, including:

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

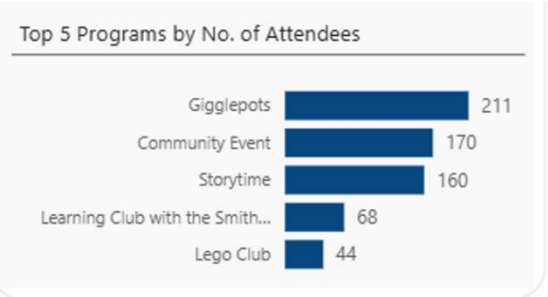
Year	Month	Date	Town	Adults attended
2026	JANUARY	21ST	KIMBA	2
2026	FEBRUARY	4TH	COWELL	2
2026	FEBRUARY	4TH	CLEVE	7
2026	FEBRUARY	18TH	KIMBA	1
2026	MARCH	18TH	COWELL	7
2026	MARCH	18TH	CLEVE	3
2026	APRIL	15TH	KIMBA	5
2026	APRIL	29th	COWELL	8
2026	APRIL	29th	CLEVE	2
2026	MAY	13th	KIMBA	5

Children's Programs

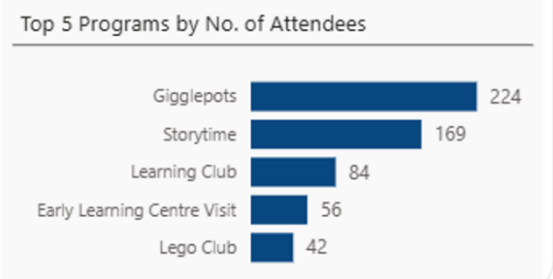
*All early childhood programs incorporate the **Words Grow Minds** initiative — **Read, Sing, Talk, and Play**. Weekly programs include:*

- **Gigglepots** – Baby bounce and rhyme for children under 2. Fully booked weekly sessions, with families encouraged to engage in early literacy and play.
- **Story Time** – For children aged 2–5, combining singing, movement, and storytelling. Observed improvements in listening skills and engagement over the year.
- **Little Learners** – Includes **Maths Fun for Under 5s**, focusing on hands-on activities like measurement, rhythm, patterns, and displacement. Supports both children's and parents' confidence in early numeracy.

February – 721 attendees



March – 656 attendees



The above statistics show the top 5 programs attended regularly by children and families to the Library.

Gigglepots continues to show great numbers and engagement closely followed by Storytime.

After School Programs

- Learning Club – Wednesdays ages 5+
- Lego Club – Thursdays ages 5+
- STEM Club – Thursdays ages 10+

The Library staff and The Smith Family collaborated to deliver a special Mother's Day Learners Club where children from Learning Club and Story Time enjoyed special stories, fun activities, and creating lovely handmade gifts for their mums and special people. It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces and creative little hands at work.





School Holiday Programs

The library staff ran several activations for the community over the April school holidays;

- Making a Wind Chime
- Slime Workshops
- Maths is Fun
- Coding for beginners
- Pokemon scavenger hunt

There were also programs run by Children's University;

- Make a music video
- Get Animated

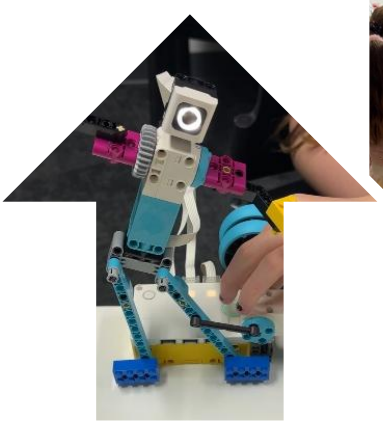
















Adult Programs

Chatty Table

Chatty Table continues to provide a welcoming and inclusive space for community members seeking social connection and conversation. Held fortnightly on Wednesdays from 11:00am to 12:00pm, the group encourages people to drop in for a friendly chat in a relaxed environment.

Since recommencing back in January with just three attendees, the program has experienced steady growth, with attendance numbers now consistently reaching 14–17 participants each fortnight. Conversations throughout the sessions have included sharing travel experiences, with attendees discussing recent holidays to Vietnam and Victor Harbor, helping foster friendships and common interests.

The positive impact of the group has been evident through the social connections formed. One attendee initially joined following the recent passing of her husband, explaining she wanted to get out of the house as her children live out of town. A regular participant warmly welcomed her into the group, offering friendship and support during a difficult period of adjustment. Their connection has since extended beyond the library, with the pair now regularly meeting for coffee and continuing to support one another socially. Another attendee Greg was on holiday from Port Adelaide. Stephen mentioned Chatty Table when he met him down the beach and told him to come along.





Crochet Collective Social Group

The Crochet Social Group is held fortnightly on Wednesdays. The group provides a welcoming space for participants to share and create their crochet projects. Sessions are self-sufficient, with participants bringing their own materials and projects. Initially, the group had just two participants, but since promoting it on our Facebook and Instagram pages, attendance has grown. Regular attendees have begun to form connections beyond the sessions, some choosing to meet up on the opposite week for a chat and crochet around the library.

Social connections in the library



Where else can people meet friends, sit and chat, enjoy a coffee, or play a game together with no time limits and no cost?

The library continues to provide a warm and welcoming space where community members can stay socially connected in a relaxed environment.

As the colder weather arrives, the library offers an inviting place for people to come together indoors. Community members are encouraged to visit the library to sit and chat, play cards, enjoy one of the many board games available for use within the space, or simply relax and read the newspaper or one of the library's magazines free of charge. Visitors can spend a few hours catching up with friends, meeting new people, and enjoying social interaction in a comfortable and inclusive setting.

These informal opportunities for connection continue to play an important role in supporting community wellbeing and reducing social isolation, while reinforcing the library as a safe and welcoming community hub for all ages.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Whyalla City Council's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was endorsed by Reconciliation Australia in April 2026 (refer attached) and is now publicly available on the Reconciliation Australia website.

Following endorsement, Council launched the RAP with staff and delivered an internal "brain-feed" session to build awareness and understanding of the reconciliation process and Council's commitments.

Collateral has been designed and distributed, including promotional brochures, pull-up banners for each Council site, postcards and pocket clip lanyards for staff. All printed material includes a QR code which links to the Council RAP information page.

Implementation of the RAP continues to be actively monitored. RAP deliverables (attached) are maintained as standing agenda items at Leadership Meetings, with Managers responsible for providing regular progress updates on assigned actions. In addition, the Reconciliation Working Group (RWG) meets monthly and provides oversight of deliverables to support accountability and progress.

Further initiatives undertaken include:

- Council's email footer has been redesigned to incorporate artwork by Barngarla artist Jason Croft, depicting the Cultana Hills and Douglas Point Bay area. The footer also includes a direct link to Council's RAP information page.
- The People and Culture team is prioritising the identification of a suitable provider to deliver Cultural Awareness Training for staff.
- The Chief Executive Officer has met with Indigenous staff members to seek feedback on the RAP and discuss opportunities for representation on the RAP Working Group.
- Staff were invited to participate in an internal screening of *Nunga Screen* as part of National Reconciliation Week. The screening was made available across all of Council's satellite sites.
- A dedicated SharePoint page has been established to provide staff with RAP resources, including detailed Action Plan deliverables and supporting information.

Council will continue to progress RAP commitments and provide regular updates on implementation.

WHYALLA CITY COUNCIL

REFLECT RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

JULY 2025 - JANUARY 2027

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN
REFLECT

WHYALLA



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Acknowledgment

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

NATURE STUDIO

"Where art meets environment"

Free community art event

May 2025

Image: Nature Studio community event – Indigenous basket weaving workshop (2025)

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR & CEO

Our Reconciliation Action Plan will pave the way for the Council's reconciliation journey and provide a framework for creating an inclusive and respectful environment in which the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are acknowledged, shared, and celebrated.

We are delighted to present the Whyalla City Council's 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The plan seeks to strengthen the Council's role in facilitating a united community approach to reconciliation.

Our Reconciliation Action Plan will pave the way for the Council's reconciliation journey and provide a framework for creating an inclusive and respectful environment in which the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are acknowledged, shared, and celebrated.

This RAP has been developed in the spirit of reconciliation and acknowledgement of the Barngarla People as the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which the City of Whyalla is built.

As a Council, we will work diligently and collaboratively to create a prosperous future in which we all can share. To this end, we are keen to engage our community in respectful conversations to build relationships contributing to greater opportunities and outcomes for First Nations peoples.

As an organisation, we embrace diversity and inclusion and seek to ensure we respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures. As we develop our vision for reconciliation, it will be built upon Reconciliation Australia's five dimensions - reconciliation; historical acceptance, race relations, equality and equity, institutional integrity and unity. Building relationships is important to engage all people in our vibrant community activities, educational and cultural experiences.

We encourage everyone to take time to truly connect with this plan, as employees, stakeholders and partners, and as members of our diverse community. The success of our efforts will be determined by the extent to which our business operations, the accessibility of our services and our mindset and attitudes contribute to the continued progress for reconciliation.

We look forward to continuing our reconciliation journey together.



PHILL STONE
MAYOR



JUSTIN COMMONS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ABOUT THE ARTWORK

This artwork is a representation of Cultana hills and the Douglas Point bay area.

Dreamtime stories are connected to this place.

The artwork on the cover and featured throughout this document was created by Barngarla artist Jason Croft.

Jason's paintings were specifically commissioned for various City of Whyalla projects over the years. His original artworks are also included in the official City of Whyalla Art Collection.

This artwork is a representation of Cultana hills and the Douglas Point bay area. Dreamtime stories are connected to this place. All travels of the Aboriginal people were determined by basic resources of water availability and food resources while following the mythological trail. There are freshwater holes in the hills and the land provides an abundance of terrestrial animals. Opportunity for fishing also increased the suitability of this area for establishments of temporary camps. The Barngarla people regularly visited this site while travelling from the northern desert lakes to Point Lowly, Whyalla and beyond.



Artwork: "Cultana Hills and Point Douglas Bay Area" by Jason Croft

SHOOTING STARS NATIONAL SORRY DAY EVENT

May 2025



Image: Shooting Stars National Sorry Day event – hand painting activity (2025)

Image: Shooting Stars National Sorry Day event – hand painting activity (2025)

OUR BUSINESS

The regional City of Whyalla is located on Barngarla land on the western shores of the Upper Spencer Gulf, approximately 395km northwest of Adelaide. The Barngarla people have lived in the region for thousands of years.

The City of Whyalla is a local government organisation committed to serving and supporting the Whyalla community through effective governance, sustainable development, and inclusive community services. Our core business includes infrastructure and asset management, planning and development, environmental sustainability, community wellbeing, and economic development.

Whyalla City Council has one of the most diverse operations of local government. These operations include an airport, library, childcare centre, cemetery and crematorium that serves the broader Eyre Peninsula area. Also included are a visitor information centre, visitor information pod, maritime museum, lighthouse, marina, boat ramps and the city's recreation centre. The Whyalla City Council is also responsible for major developments such as water harvesting projects, public works, tourism development and innovative environmental projects.

Council's urban boundaries comprise 41.5 Square kilometres within a total local government area of approximately 1,000 square kilometres. Our population was recorded as 21,244 residents at our last census (2021 data). Whyalla was recognised to be home to 1160 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with 408 Families representing 5.5% of the total Whyalla population. Whyalla is a diverse community of cultures and nationalities, with 24.6% of Whyalla's population acknowledged as being born overseas.

Today, Whyalla is a city of contrasts, from green parks and gardens to industrial operations, newer housing estates and those estates that are well established. We currently employ approximately 168 staff across our operations, with a dedicated focus on creating a safe, inclusive, and equitable workplace. While the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees within Council is currently unknown, we are working within this RAP implementation to understand this in a culturally safe way, we are committed to increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and participation across all areas of our organisation. Council has developed a School-based traineeship program aimed at increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment opportunities and forged strong relationships with the local Clontarf group and provide projects linked to community pride and city beautification.

Whyalla City Council's operations are primarily local, with our services and initiatives focused on the Whyalla region. The Whyalla City Council Strategic Management Plan is a high-level planning document, supported by a number of other plans, which collectively form the Strategic Management Planning framework of the Council. The span of this document is 2025 to 2034, aligning with the Whyalla Community Plan, Whyalla 2030 and beyond. These plans, along with the City of Whyalla Public Health Plan provide a framework for the Reflect RAP and working party.

OUR RAP

Whyalla City Council is developing a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan to formalise our commitment to strengthening relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, embedding respect, and creating meaningful opportunities for collaboration and inclusion. This RAP represents the first step in our reconciliation journey and will guide our internal learning, planning, and engagement efforts.

Our approach to implementing this RAP is focused on building cultural awareness among staff, fostering respectful relationships, and establishing a foundation for future, more ambitious reconciliation actions. Through education, consultation, and reflective practice, we aim to ensure our services, policies, and workplace culture are inclusive and respectful of First Nations peoples who have lived on and cared for this land for tens of thousands of years.

The Council acknowledges the Barngarla people as the Traditional Custodians of the land now known as Whyalla and recognises their continuing connection to Country. While our formal reconciliation journey is in its early stages, we have undertaken a number of steps to acknowledge and respect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage. The development of this Reflect RAP marks a significant milestone in further embedding reconciliation into the heart of our organisation.

As part of this journey, we have established a Reconciliation Action Working Group (RAWG) to ensure collaboration, accountability and institutional integrity. The RAWG is comprised of internal operational staff and staff who engage with the broader community, particularly those staff who meet with the Barngarla Elders Group. The Chief Executive Officer is a RAWG member and the Senior RAP Champion.

RECONCILIATION ACTION WORKING GROUP

With strong support from our executive management team and staff champions from across the Council operations, the Whyalla City Council is well positioned to succeed in our Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan. Embarking on the RAP journey, it is our goal that the RAP is the first step in a shared journey, and that we can embed the principles of reconciliation into the fabric of our working culture, connecting with the community.

RAWG members are:

Irene Adair, Corporate Services Partner

Jenny Barnes, Events and Tourism Lead

Sam Bourne, Project Manager Landscape

Justin Commons, Chief Executive Officer

Jade Grund, Records Management Officer

Sue King, Manager People and Culture

Paul Mazourek, Community Activation Officer - Tourism Assets

Lisette Symons, Executive Officer

Ryan Sutherland, Events Co-ordinator



Image: Whyalla City Council Reconciliation Action Working Group (2025)

CLONTARF GARDEN OPENING

Whyalla Maritime Museum February 2025

Image: Opening celebration of the Whyalla Clontarf Group Indigenous Garden at the Whyalla Visitor Information Centre (2025)

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our Partnerships / Current Activities

Council has permission to commence their meetings with a video production of the Barngarla Welcome to Country a film produced by Country Arts SA. Integrating this powerful message into our public meeting schedule, recognising the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which we live, we seek to amplify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and perspectives in local decision making.

The Whyalla City Council has a history of engaging with local Aboriginal community leaders, Elders, and organisations on matters of cultural heritage, community development, and inclusive service delivery. We work in partnership with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to support events such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week, as well as participating in community forums and cultural learning opportunities.

Internally, the Council has initiated staff training on cultural awareness and inclusion and is exploring further opportunities for learning and engagement.

This Reflect RAP builds on our existing efforts and lays the groundwork for deeper relationships, shared understanding, and positive change in our community. The following represents not only the agencies and individuals we partner with, but the activities we undertake and wish to mature.

Through these ongoing efforts, Council demonstrates its commitment to reconciliation.

01 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Council actively collaborates with programs and services that support and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, including:

- Annual National Reconciliation Week events.
- NAIDOC Week: Funding and support provided to the NAIDOC Week Committee to deliver a range of community events.
- Nunga Screen: Partnership with Country Arts SA to host film screening sessions for Council staff.
- Aboriginal Community Catchups: Informal gatherings open to the Whyalla Aboriginal community, offering opportunities to share concerns, ask questions, and learn about Council initiatives.
- Aboriginal Elders Meeting: Meetings involving the Mayor, CEO, and administration to discuss Council matters, address concerns, and provide opportunities for direct dialogue with Whyalla Elders.
- Whyalla Services Leadership Group: Collaborative efforts to address shared priorities and community needs.
- Collaborating with the Clontarf Group on projects for male school students years 7 to 12.

02 INTERNAL ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

- Welcome to Country video at the commencement of all formal Council meetings and acknowledgement of Country at the commencement of all other meetings of significance.
- Flying of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at the Civic Building on Grundel Street and the Flinders and Freycinet Lookout.
- Active communication, encouragement, and support to ensure all staff are informed about culturally significant days and weeks. Staff are encouraged to engage, learn, and participate in community events recognising these occasions.

03 SUPPORT FOR SACRED SITES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Council maintains and enhances access to significant local sacred sites, including:

- Seven Sisters Dreaming at the Whyalla Foreshore.
- Access roads to Wild Dog Hill, Black Point, and Point Douglas.
- Walking trails and access roads at Eight Mile Creek and Murrippi Beach.

04 CULTURAL ASSETS AND INITIATIVES

- Whyalla Maritime Museum (2008): Features a permanent exhibition, Singing to the Sharks, which tells the story of the Barngarla People and their sea-related rituals.
- Flinders/Freycinet Lookout (2001): Includes an acknowledgment of the original owners of Spencer Gulf.
- Freycinet Trail (2004): Interpretive signage highlighting First Nations heritage, history, and traditional hunting practices.
- Whyalla Visitor Centre (2021): Exhibits and sells original contemporary paintings by Barngarla artists.
- First Nation (Barngarla) Trail (2022): Includes interpretive signage and storytelling in the northern coastline area.
- Gulf and Ranges Trail (2022): Features additional insights into First Nations culture and history.
- City of Whyalla Art Collection (2022–2024): Showcases original artworks by Pitjantjara and Barngarla artists.

RELATIONSHIPS

Establish and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.	Identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations within our local area or sphere of influence. *Timeline* *October 2025* *October 2026* *Responsibility* *Events Coordinator*
	Research best practice and principles that support partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations. *Timeline* *November 2025* *Responsibility* *Manager City Activation*
Build relationships through celebrating National Reconciliation Week (NRW).	Circulate Reconciliation Australia's NRW resources and reconciliation materials to our staff. *Timeline* *27 May 2025 – 3 June 2025* *27 May 2026 – 3 June 2026* *August 2025* *August 2026* *Responsibility* *Community Activation Officer*
	RAP Working Group members to participate in an external NRW event. *Timeline* *27 May 2025 – 3 June 2025* *27 May 2026 – 3 June 2026* *July 2025* *July 2026* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Encourage and support staff and senior leaders to participate in at least one external event to recognise and celebrate NRW. *Timeline* *27 May 2025 – 3 June 2025* *27 May 2026 – 3 June 2026* *July 2025* *July 2026* *Responsibility* *Tourism and Events Lead*
Promote reconciliation through our sphere of influence.	Communicate our commitment to reconciliation to all staff. *Timeline* *July 2025* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Identify external stakeholders that our organisation can engage with on our reconciliation journey. *Timeline* *November 2025* *Responsibility* *Manager City Activation*
	Identify RAP and other like-minded organisations that we could approach to collaborate with on our reconciliation journey. *Timeline* *August 2025* *August 2026* *Responsibility* *Events Coordinator*
Promote positive race relations through anti-discrimination strategies.	Research best practice and policies in areas of race relations and anti-discrimination. *Timeline* *October 2025* *October 2026* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*
	Conduct a review of HR policies and procedures to identify existing anti-discrimination provisions, and future needs. *Timeline* *July 2025* *July 2026* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*

RESPECT

Increase understanding, value, and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge, and rights through cultural learning.	Develop a business case for increasing understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge, and rights within our organisation. *Timeline* *November 2025* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Conduct a review of cultural learning needs within our organisation. *Timeline* *August 2025* *August 2026* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*
Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by observing cultural protocols.	Develop an understanding of the local Traditional Owners or Custodians of the lands and waters within our organisation's operational area. *Timeline* *July 2025* *July 2026* *Responsibility* *Community Activation Officer*
	Increase staff's understanding of the purpose and significance behind cultural protocols, including Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome to Country protocols. *Timeline* *June 2026* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
Build respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories by celebrating NAIDOC Week.	Raise awareness and share information amongst our staff about the meaning of NAIDOC Week. *Timeline* *24-28 June 2025* *22-26 June 2026* *Responsibility* *Manager Communication & Engagement*
	Introduce our staff to NAIDOC Week by promoting external events in our local area. *Timeline* *24-28 June 2025* *22-26 June 2026* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	All RAP Working Group members to participate in at least one external NAIDOC Week event. *Timeline* *6-13 July 2025* *5-12 July 2026* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Council Leadership to support staff attending at least one weekday activity celebrating NAIDOC Week event *Timeline* *6-13 July 2025* *5-12 July 2026* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*

OPPORTUNITIES

Improve employment outcomes by increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention and professional development.	Develop a business case for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment within our organisation. *Timeline* *September 2025 September 2026* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*
	Build an understanding of current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing to inform future employment and professional development opportunities. *Timeline* *September 2025 September 2026* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*
Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier diversity to support improved economic and social outcomes	Develop a business case for procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses. *Timeline* *September 2025 September 2026* *Responsibility* *Manager Finance & Knowledge Management*
	Investigate Supply Nation membership. *Timeline* *July 2025* *Responsibility* *Manager Finance & Knowledge Management*



GOVERNANCE

Maintain an effective Reconcilliation Action Working Group (RWG) to drive governance of the RAP.	Maintain a Reconcilliation Action Working Group (RWG) to govern RAP implementation. *Timeline* *July 2025* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Review current Terms of Reference for ongoing relevance for the Reconcilliation Action Working Group (RWG). *Timeline* *August 2025* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Ensure ongoing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the Reconcilliation Action Working Group (RWG). *Timeline* *August 2025* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
Provide appropriate support for effective implementation of RAP commitments.	Define resource needs for RAP implementation. *Timeline* *February 2025* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Engage senior leaders in the delivery of RAP commitments. *Timeline* *Delivery Dates September 2025 January 2026 June 2026* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Appoint a senior leader to champion our RAP internally. *Timeline* *July 2025* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
	Define appropriate systems and capability to track, measure and report on RAP commitments. *Timeline* *July 2025* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*
Build accountability and transparency through reporting RAP achievements, challenges and learnings both internally and externally.	Contact Reconciliation Australia to verify that our primary and secondary contact details are up to date, to ensure we do not miss out on important RAP correspondence. *Timeline* *July 2025* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*
	Contact Reconciliation Australia to request our unique link to access the online RAP Impact Survey. *Timeline* *August annually* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*
	Complete and submit the annual RAP Impact Survey to Reconciliation Australia. *Timeline* *30 September, annually* *Responsibility* *Chief Executive Officer*
Continue our reconciliation journey by developing our next RAP.	Register via Reconciliation Australia's website to begin developing our next RAP. *Timeline* *November 2026* *Responsibility* *Manager People and Culture*

WHYALLA NAIDOC WEEK 2025

Image: Whyalla NAIDOC Week community event at Norton Park (2025)

CONTACT

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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

MARCH - MAY 2026

INFORMATION REPORT

All analytics in this report compared to 1 November 2025 - 28 February 2026

MEDIA OVERVIEW

Media mentions of the city were on par with the previous period, mostly dominated by the steelworks' sale reaching the final bidder stage, plus mentions of the steelworks funding in the State Government election coverage. The period saw a potential audience reach of more than 800 million.

Some of the council-focused headlines included syndicated Realestate.com coverage of the Spencer Gulf Cities liveability campaign (11m reach); syndicated Advertiser coverage of the passing of former Councillor Sharon Todd (7m reach); as well as Cuttlefest and the Unearth Festival getting statewide coverage courtesy of Glam Adelaide (0.3m reach).

Mayor Phill Stone was prominent once again, particularly on ABC Radio and ABC online, regularly quoted in relation to the city's reactions to the various steelworks updates. This included a live interview on ABC Radio National that was syndicated across the country. Mayor Stone also had the honour of being named the 321st most influential person in South Australia by The Advertiser!

Locally, council stories regularly featured across the ABC North & West airwaves (particularly Mayor Stone on the afternoons program), as well as on the front page of the Whyalla News, including several stories highlighting the Annual Business Plan and Budget; the Forged in Steel music festival; and the impact of the airport on council's budget.

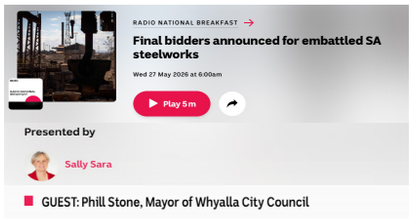
WHYALLA COVERAGE ANALYTICS

POTENTIAL REACH	837 m
ADVERTISING EQUIVALENT (AVE)	$7.7m
MENTIONS	1,520

POSITIVE / NATIONWIDE COVERAGE

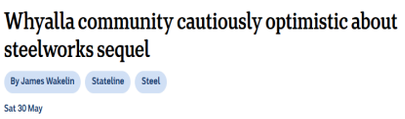
STEELWORKS FINAL BIDDERS ANNOUNCED - MAYOR STONE INTERVIEW

ABC Radio National
27 May
13.8m reach



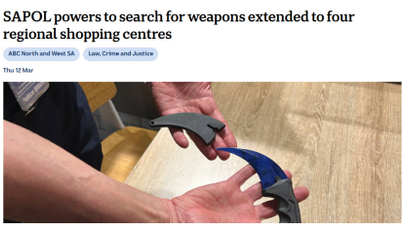
WHYALLA CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT STEELWORKS

ABC Online
30 May
13.8m reach



SAPOL POWERS TO SEARCH FOR WEAPONS

ABC Online
12 March
13.8m reach



SPENCER GULF CITIES LIVEABILITY CAMPAIGN

Relestate.com
7 April
11m reach



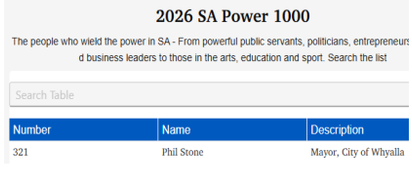
COUNCILLOR SHARON TODD PASSING

Advertiser + syndicates
19 May
7m reach



SA POWER 1000 - MAYOR STONE RANKED 321

Advertiser
12 March
1.5m reach



CUTTLEFEST

Glam Adelaide
27 May
0.3m reach



UNEARTH FESTIVAL

Glam Adelaide
16 March
0.3m reach



POSITIVE LOCAL COVERAGE / WHYALLA NEWS



WHYALLA NEWS

EXPANDED COVERAGE FROM ACROSS THE SPENCER GULF

Flying high on world stage. Page 6

Check out who's been out and about. Pages 27-28

THURSDAY, 21 MAY, 2026

WhyallaNewsOnline.com.au | $3.50

Tribute ride

By Jack O'Halloran

WHYALLA - Motorcyclists and community members gathered in Whyalla on Saturday, 16 May, to celebrate the life of beloved local dog Nugget.

Nugget, who passed away earlier this year, was well-known in the broader community as the face of local business Steel City Tyres.

The star of television adverts and an icon of the Steel City Toy Run, Nugget was loved by many, none more so than his long time companion Ian Worth.

In honour of Nugget, the British-American Motorcycle Club (BAMC) organised a memorial ride and fundraiser, with the proceeds going directly to the Whyalla RSPCA.

About 40 people took part in the ride, which set off from Field Street out to Point Lowly before returning to the clubrooms.

More than $1300 was raised thanks to donations from members of the community.

A special memorial plaque was also presented to Ian Worth by Chris Birch from the BAMC, preserving the legacy of the beloved Nugget.

The event will be brought back as an annual fixture, memorialising the memory of Nugget while continuing to raise funds for the local RSPCA.

Rachel and Ian from Steel City Tyres thanked Chris Birch and Darrell Risborg from the BAMC for helping to organise the ride, as well as Signarama and King Signs for making the plaque and stickers.

Chris Birch from the British American Motorcycle Club presents a memorial plaque honouring Nugget to Ian Worth. (Geniene Gordon: 554151)

AIRPORT STRAINS

By Jack O'Halloran

WHYALLA - A new report from the Australian Airports Association (AAA) has found that regional airports are under increasing financial pressure, with Whyalla Airport a key example.

The Regional Airports Financial Sustainability Survey 2026 received 41 responses from regional airports across the country and showed the typical regional airport was losing $192,000 each year.

AAA chief executive Simon Westaway said the findings demonstrate just how complex the regional aviation sector is.

"What this report shows is that many regional airports are operating at a loss - often supported by local councils and ratepayers - simply to keep their communities connected," Mr Westaway said.

"The typical regional airport is losing around $200,000 a year just to keep aircraft moving and runways open.

"These airports are essential infrastructure supporting healthcare access, tourism, emergency services and regional economies."

Mr Westaway said regional aviation operates in very thin markets, where passenger volumes are small and airline capacity decisions largely sit outside the airport's control.

"These findings also reinforce the need for a permanent and sustainable funding mechanism to support regional airport infrastructure and ensure regional communities remain connected," he said.

"Encouraging sustainable airline competition and new entrants is one of the most effective ways to put downward pressure on airfares over the long term."

Recent financial data from the Whyalla City Council indicates its airport is losing around $500,000 annually on a cash basis, excluding depreciation, which sits at around $1 million.

A Whyalla City Council spokesperson said the operation of Whyalla Airport has unique challenges of its own compared to other regional airports.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Airport Financial Pressure Report
(21 May)



WHYALLA NEWS

EXPANDED COVERAGE FROM ACROSS THE SPENCER GULF

Design a mental health awareness jersey. Page 2

Check out who's been seen out and about. Pages 16-17

THURSDAY, 23 APRIL, 2026

WhyallaNewsOnline.com.au | $3.50

"Too many of us die out here."

2 in 3 deaths on country roads are country people.

THINK! ROAD SAFETY

Government of South Australia

Community hub in works

By Jack O'Halloran

WHYALLA - A new community-focused initiative aimed at strengthening connections between local businesses and residents is taking shape in Whyalla.

Sophie Hancock is the founder of The Whyalla Collective, which is currently being developed as both an online platform and a future physical hub designed to support small businesses while contributing to the broader local economy.

Having only recently relocated to Whyalla, Ms Hancock said that she quickly recognised a need for greater accessibility and collaboration between local businesses and community.

"When I first moved here I found it really difficult to find small businesses to connect with... it all just felt really messy and disconnected," Ms Hancock said.

With a background in hospitality and the arts, Ms Hancock said her initial concept focused on creating a space that could bring together different sectors of the community.

"What I'm really passionate about is hospitality as an industry, but also the arts," she said.

"I wanted to see something that would pull the artistic and wellness community together."

As Ms Hancock became more familiar with the local community, the concept expanded to address what she described as barriers faced by small business operators.

"I've noticed that there has been an issue with people not marketing their businesses in a way that is easily accessible," she said.

"I think we need to make local businesses accessible so people know they actually exist."

The Whyalla Collective is intended to function initially as an online directory, with participating businesses featured in a way that highlights both their services and the people behind them.

CONTINUED PAGE 5

Sophie Hancock is the founder of the Whyalla Collective, an initiative that aims to connect business and community. (Nick Hancock)

Budget outlined

By Jack O'Halloran

WHYALLA - Whyalla City Council has endorsed the draft 2026/2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget for public consultation, with residents asked to consider rate increases of either 5.3 per cent or 6.3 per cent.

The draft plan was presented at council's ordinary meeting on 20 April, and outlined proposed services, projects and financial strategies for the coming financial year (FY).

Community consultation, which was endorsed unanimously by the elected members, will run from 30 April to 25 May.

Key to the proposed budget is a focus on improving highly visible services such as verge and median maintenance, which councillors have identified as in need of additional resources.

As such, during the consultation period, ratepayers will be asked whether they are willing to fund these improvements through higher rates.

Under the proposal, a 5.3 per cent rate increase would cost the average residential ratepayer an additional $101 annually, while a 6.3 per cent increase would raise this to $117.

A higher increase of 9.2 per cent was identified as necessary to return the council to a modified breakeven position in 2026/2027, but this increase was deemed too high due to current cost of living pressures.

In a joint statement, Mayor Phill Stone and chief executive officer (CEO) Justin Commons said that balancing current service delivery with future growth was central to the budget.

"While we remain committed to maintaining our existing services and assets, we are equally focused on preparing for future opportunities that will shape and strengthen our city, its economy and our community over time," they said.

"We've used feedback from the 2025 Annual Community Survey to directly shape council's priorities, with a strong focus on areas identified by the community as needing improvement.

"This includes targeted action on illegal dumping through increased promotion of free disposal options, service reviews and community engagement initiatives, alongside the introduction of Enjoy Whyalla to highlight and support efforts to improve the city's appearance, as well as ongoing work across city maintenance, roads, footpaths and project delivery."

Financial projections show the council expects an operating deficit of $1.39 million for the coming FY, driven entirely by the airport, with the broader council budget forecast to break even when the airport is excluded.

Council has projected the overall financial position to return to a modified breakeven by 2028/2029.

The draft budget includes a capital works program of about $21 million, significantly above typical levels due to major projects such as the foreshore Splash and Play Plaza and the Whyalla Foreshore Centre building.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Annual Business Plan & Budget
(23 Apr & 14 May)



WHYALLA NEWS

EXPANDED COVERAGE FROM ACROSS THE SPENCER GULF

Community turns out in pink. Page 2

The Whyalla News wishes you a safe and Happy Easter

THURSDAY, 2 APRIL, 2026

WhyallaNewsOnline.com.au | $3.50

Steel beat rocks city

By Jack O'Halloran

WHYALLA - The inaugural 'Forged In Steel' music festival was held in Whyalla over the weekend, with The Screaming Jets headlining in a rocking performance at the Ada Ryan Gardens.

Delivered by Open Eyre Events with support from Whyalla City Council on March 28 and 29 , the festival served as the high-profile closing event of the month-long uneARTh Festival.

Inspired by Whyalla's industrial heritage, Forged in Steel was designed to reflect the character and resilience of the community, combining nationally recognised acts with regional talent.

CONTINUED PAGE 5

The Screaming Jets returned to perform in Whyalla after more than 20 years. (Jack O'Halloran: 544379)

Forged in Steel
(2 April)

PLATFORMS

FACEBOOK

POSTS	207
	▲ 58%
POTENTIAL REACH PER POST	7.1k
	▼ 37%
ENGAGEMENTS PER POST	469.1
	▼ 53%
VIDEO VIEWS	58.6k
	▲ 154%
LINKS CLICKS PER POST	16
	▼ 25%

INSTAGRAM

POSTS	79
	▲ 61%
POTENTIAL REACH PER POST	667
	▼ 20%
ENGAGEMENTS PER POST	6.1
	▼ 38%
FOLLOWERS	1.57k
	▲ 3%

LINKEDIN

POSTS	29
	▲ 42%
VIEWS PER POST	993
	▼ 25%
ENGAGEMENTS PER POST	130
	▼ 44%
FOLLOWERS	3.15k
	▲ 3%
LINK CLICKS PER POST	110
	▼ 46%

SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

FACEBOOK

HIGHEST REACH/VIEWS

40 YEARS SINCE THE QUEEN'S VISIT

Today marks 40 years since Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Whyalla in 1986!

Whyalla Mayor Phill Stone said the visit continues to hold special memories for those who were there. "Many locals still remember the excitement of the day Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Whyalla in 1986, and I certainly do as well. It was a very proud



21.4K REACH

HIGHEST ENGAGEMENT

THE PASSING OF Cr SHARON TODD

A message from Mayor Phill Stone on behalf of the Whyalla City Council; I wish to acknowledge the recent passing of Sharon Todd.

Sharon was a highly respected member of Council throughout her term, from 2022 to 2026.



684 INTERACTIONS 19.5K REACH

VIDEO VIEWS

OPEN AIR GALLERY PROMO VIDEO

The Open-Air Gallery is starting soon! Join us at the Whyalla Jetty from 5pm to 7pm, celebrating Whyalla's world-famous Giant Australian Cuttlefish and the creativity ... See more



7.5K VIEWS

LINKEDIN

HIGHEST ENGAGEMENT / VIEWS / CLICKS / LIKES

CREATIVE MEDIA OFFICER ROLE VACANCY

City of Whyalla
3,149 followers
2mo •

Are you passionate about visual storytelling? Do you thrive on creating innovative and engaging digital content? Then we have a great opportunity for you!

We're seeking a motivated Creative Media Officer to join our team to develop content for social media platforms, website, video, publications and much more. Anyone who is a creative thinker with a strong eye for visual storytelling, a passion for community engagement, and able to work in a team while managing projects independently is encouraged to apply. Check out the video below for an idea of some of the exciting things you get to be involved in!



2.26k VIEWS
39 CLICKS
7 LIKES

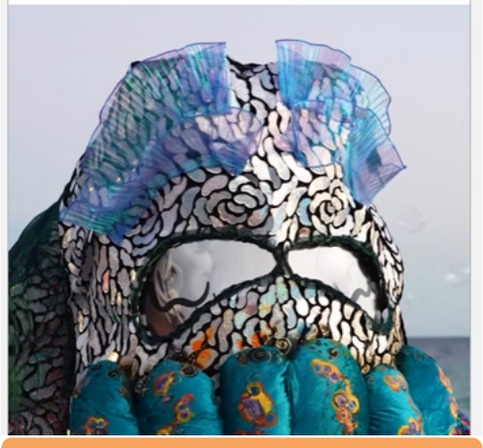
7.2% ENGAGEMENT

INSTAGRAM

HIGHEST INTERACTION (VIDEO)

OPEN AIR WRAP UP VIDEO

whyallacitycouncil



554 VIEWS - 407 REACH - 19 INTERACTIONS

HIGHEST INTERACTION

40 YEARS SINCE THE QUEEN'S VISIT

whyallacitycouncil



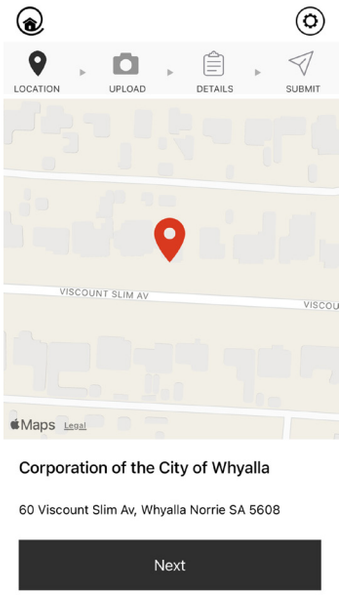
579 VIEWS - 238 REACH - 20 INTERACTIONS

MY LOCAL SERVICES



26.05.26 The past month saw Mayor Stone involved in local leadership, community engagement and regional advocacy, covering everything from ANZAC Day commemorations and budget consultation, to industry engagement and regional collaboration.





CURRENT USERS	as of May 01	6958
Last period: 6674	▲ 4.3%	
CURRENT PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION		33%

EMAIL MARKETING

OPEN RATE		35.2%
▼ 2.0%		
CLICK RATE		2.4%
▼ 0.4%		
CAMPAIGNS SENT		72
▲ 56.5%		

HIGHEST OPEN RATE

MARINA CONCEPT

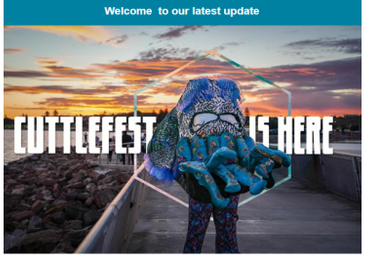


2026 Mental Health Matters Round uniform competition now open

43.69% OPEN RATE

HIGHEST CLICK RATES

CUTTLEFEST PROGRAM LAUNCH

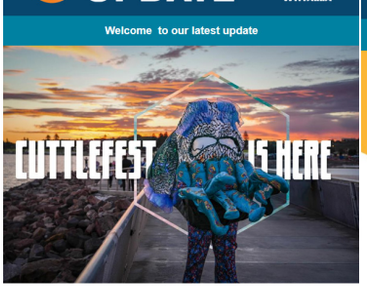


Cuttlefest 2026 Program Launches

15.3% CLICK RATE

HIGHEST OPEN RATES

CUTTLEFEST PROGRAM LAUNCH



Cuttlefest 2026 Program Launches

13 May 2026

42.8%

CAREER ROADSHOW



The Career Roadshow is coming to Whyalla

12 May 2026

Residents of all ages are encouraged to attend the upcoming Career Roadshow at the Whyalla Recreation Centre on Thursday, May 28 from 10am to 2pm.

41.3%

HIGHEST CLICK RATES

FINAL COUNCILLOR COLUMNS



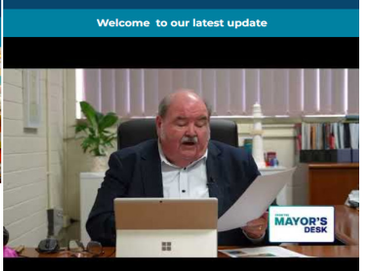
Final Councillor Columns Released

18 May 2026

Whyalla City Council has released the final series of Councillor columns from

6.3%

MAYOR'S DESK MARCH



From the Mayor's Desk March 2026

5.2%

ENGAGEMENT

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET

We consulted extensively on next year's budget, including offering a survey; multiple in-person information sessions; an online information session; and the option to provide a verbal submission at the May Ordinary Council Meeting. Feedback will be incorporated into the final budget decision.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

We sought feedback from residents on our updated Community Engagement Policy to ensure they could have their say before it was put into action. The policy is designed to make it easier for the community to be part of local decision-making by outlining the various ways we will seek residents' feedback. The updated policy has been developed in line with changes to the South Australian Government's new Community Engagement Charter, introduced under the Local Government Act 1999.

The Charter aims to create a more modern, accessible and transparent approach to consultation across all South Australian councils.



WASTE DISPOSAL

We continued our focus on engaging the community in an effort to get more residents on board in improving the look of the city. This was identified as critically important by the community in last year's community survey, so we're making numerous changes to help address the problem. Promotions during this period focused on local organisations who accept used goods and resell them, helping reduce the amount of goods going to landfill. This included ADRA, Vinnies and the locally formed Boomerang Bags volunteer group, which turns unwanted clothing and materials into reusable products while giving back to the community. Other focuses included what goes in which bin, how to properly recycle batteries, and highlighting the list of free waste services available.



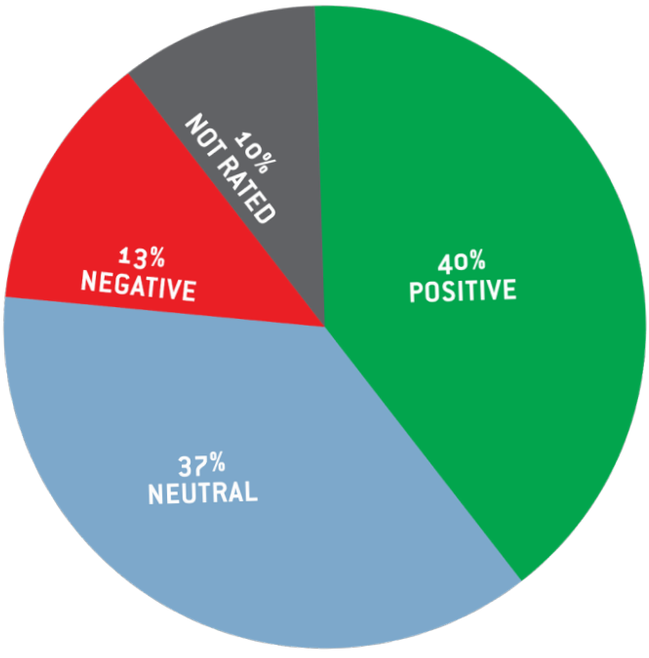
DELIVERY ON ENGAGEMENT

After extensive promotion and consultation of the community survey late last year, we started implementing and planning improvements based on residents' feedback. This included numerous initiatives to improve illegal dumping management, city maintenance, project delivery and roads and footpaths



SOCIAL COMMENTS

COMMENTS	1660
POSITIVE	40% (665) ▼1.2%
NEUTRAL	37% (620) ▼1.1%
NEGATIVE	13% (216) ▼1.7%
NOT RATED	10% (159) ▲ 4%



OUR PHOTO OF THE QUARTER

Forged In Steel - Whyalla Music Festival at Ada Ryan Gardens, 28 March 2026.



CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE


























MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS





Cuttlefest Open Air Gallery Launch & Salty Seaesta





Cuttlefest Digital Guestbook & Salty Seaesta Letterbox Mail





Forged in Steel - Whyalla Music Festival





Annual Budget Plan Consultation



Career Expo









Unearth Festival

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION REPORT

MARCH - MAY 2026

Sean Kelly
Molly McGovern
Josh Berkett
Jenn Rausa

16. NOTICES OF MOTION – Nil

17. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – Nil

18. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

19. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

20. CONSIDERATION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 CITY GROWTH

20.1.1 Property Modifications – Youth Foyer – For Endorsement – Confidential

Council Meeting: 15 June 2026
Author's Title: Lucas Trevisan – Manager City Development **File No.:** 2-81
Directorate: City Growth

Annexures:
A – Floor Plan
B – Kelleher Road Reserve

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 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, Les Jones; Manager Capital Works and Delivery, Lucas Trevisan; Manager City Development, Michelle Armstrong; Executive Co-ordinator – CEO and Mayor and Lisette Symons; Executive Co-ordinator – Corporate for Agenda Item 20.1.1 – Property Modifications – Youth Foyer.

The 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 and consider a report containing information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is proposing to conduct business or to prejudice the commercial position of the Council and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

21. CLOSE

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

- 19 June 2026 – Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- 6 July 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 20 July 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting
- 3 August 2026 – Council Members Briefing Session
- 17 August 2026 – Ordinary Council Meeting