



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

held on Tuesday 19 August 2025 commencing at 5.30pm
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa.

MINUTES

Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country by Mayor Bim Lange declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

Mayor Bim Lange, Crs John Angas, Don Barrett, David de Vries, Tony Hurn, Kathryn Schilling, Cathy Troup, Jane Evans, Bruce Preece, Jess Greatwich, Rick Lane and Heidi Thompson

Apologies

Nil

Not Present

Nil

Leave of Absence

Nil

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of previous meetings – for confirmation:

MOVED Cr Hurn

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 5.30pm, as circulated, be confirmed as true and correct records of the proceedings of those meetings.

SECONDED Cr Thompson

CARRIED 2022-26/783

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

2.2.1 CORRESPONDENCE FROM MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FROM ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL TO WITHDRAW FROM GAWLER RIVER FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

25/52593

At its meeting held 15 April 2025, Council considered a report in relation to correspondence from Minister for Local Government – Adelaide Hills Council request to leave Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (Refer Agenda Item 7.1.4). A copy of the resolution is included below:

MOVED Cr de Vries

That Council having reviewed the material from the Adelaide Hills Council:

- (1) Note their analysis and concur with its conclusions, and authorise the Mayor to respond to the Minister that it has no objection to Adelaide Hills Council request to leave the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority (GRFMA).
- (2) Notwithstanding the Minister's decision, it be put to the Minister that an alternative model should be considered and put to Adelaide Hills Council and other constituent that would:
 - a. Limit the extent of the current GRFMA to the prior agreed Bruce Eastick Dam only; and
 - b. If determined necessary, a cross-government group be established to address risk and the business case for further stage 2 investment for flood mitigation on the North Para River from Gawler to the Gulf.
 - c. With the limited GRFMA being of the current six Councils and the alternative body be established with downstream Local Government entities, private sector and State Government to address the future risk mitigation and business case outcomes.
- (3) Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to develop and review paper on the benefits, costs and risk of being a member of the GRFMA (in its current form) and consideration of The Barossa Councils future membership with this Authority to meet budget discussions for the 2026-27 financial year.

SECONDED Cr Troup

CARRIED 2022-26/667

Correspondence has now been received from the Hon Joe Szakacs MP (Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Veterans' Affairs), advising that the request has been denied (refer [Attachment 1](#)).

The Constituent Councils of the GRFMA are encouraged to engage constructively to determine how they should contribute to flood mitigation in the Gawler River catchment.

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

3. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

3.1 Petitions

Nil

3.2 Deputations/Visitors to the meeting

Nil

3.3 Notice of Motion

Nil

3.4 Questions with Notice

Nil

4. MAYOR

4.1 Mayor's Report

Mayor Lange advised the Chamber that he has received a formal invitation from Mayor Tate, City of Grapevine, The Barossa Council's Sister City to visit the 39th Annual Grapefest event as part of a diplomatic visit in Grapevine, Texas in September 2025.

Mayor Lange tabled this letter to be included in the minutes of this meeting as Appendix 1.

MOVED Cr de Vries

That the Mayor's report be received.

SECONDED Cr Schilling

CARRIED 2022-26/784

5. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

5.1 COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL - DON BARRETT

MOVED Cr Evans

That the Councillor Barrett's report be received.

SECONDED Cr Greatwich

CARRIED 2022-26/785

6. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 Completion of Gawler River Stormwater Management Plan

6.2 Food Act Annual Report 2024-2025

- 6.3 Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) - Report: Adapting Together, Local Government Leadership in a Changing Climate.
- 6.4 Williamstown and Lyndoch Landcare Group Inc. - Minutes of meeting
- 6.5 Development Applications Report - Quarter 2 - April to June 2025
- 6.6 Residential Hard Waste Program - Summary Report for Financial Year 2024 - 2025

7. DEBATE REPORTS

7.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

Nil

7.2 Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation

7.2.1 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT AS AT 31 JULY 2025 25/55124

MOVED Cr de Vries

That Council receives and notes the monthly finance update report as at 31 July 2025, as provided in Attachment 1.

SECONDED Cr Lane

CARRIED 2022-26/786

PURPOSE

The monthly finance update report as at 31 July 2025 provides information on the financial position and performance of the Council, including notes on material trends and transactions.

REPORT

The monthly finance report as at 31 July 2025 is at Attachment 1. It should be noted that there are still ongoing 2024-25 end of year transactions being processed, which may affect the actual balances presented here (e.g. accrued expenses and income).

This report has been prepared comparing the year-to-date actuals at the end of the period, to the original adopted 2025-26 budget.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Monthly Finance Report Council July 2025 

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**Corporate Plan**

BS6 Finance - Provision of financial and budgetary accounting services, treasury and investment services, management reporting, reconciliation and taxation services, asset accounting, internal control, accounts payable and receivable services

Legislative Requirements

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Monthly monitoring of financial performance ensures Council is in a position to ensure budget and expenditure are aligned to meet approved levels of service.

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

To enable Council to make effective and strategic decisions, a high-level monthly finance report is provided for Council's noting.

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community consultation was undertaken as part of the original budget adoption process for 2025-26, as required by the relevant legislation. This report is advising Council of the monthly finance position compared to that budget.

7.3 Infrastructure and Environmental Services
7.3.1 MOSS SMITH ROAD BRIDGE EDEN VALLEY - BRIDGE UPGRADE
25/54252

MOVED Cr Preece

That Council progress the proposal for replacement of the Moss Smith Road bridge with a cost-effective precast beam bridge construction methodology, and that this be developed to a level of detailed design and construction cost estimate for consideration by Council in a future financial year capital bridge upgrade budget.

SECONDED Cr Evans

CARRIED 2022-26/787

PURPOSE

A report was requested by Council on options for the upgrade of the Moss Smith Road bridge to be considered by Council in future budget deliberations.

REPORT

Background and Introduction

The existing Moss Smith Road bridge, constructed in 1937, traverses the Marne River and connects the rural area between Rhine Park Road and Shearers Road, Eden Valley. See general locality plan [Attachment 1](#).

With reference to The Barossa Council Bridge Audit performed by WSP, dated February 2018, the Moss Smith Road bridge is in poor condition with major structural defects and safety deficiencies. The main components of the structure have reached end of life and do not meet current bridge design standards for safe vehicular loading or road widths. As a result, there is a Bridge Load Limit of 3 Tonnes, which accommodates only up to equivalent car traffic loads.

A local area community meeting was held onsite on 5 September 2024 with strong community opinion expressed for retaining a bridge type structure for regular 42 tonne 19m semitrailer truck traffic at a 100-year Marne River flood level of service.

Within the 2023/2024 financial year budget, Council engaged Wallbridge Gilbert Aztec (WGA) consulting engineers to undertake concept design options for the upgrade of the Moss Smith Road bridge, with 11 possible bridge upgrade or replacement options determined.

Discussion

The land surrounding the Moss Smith Road bridge is primarily large acre grazing farmland with sparse rural residential land uses which is not expected to significantly change in the foreseeable future.

The average daily traffic count measured on Moss Smith Road at the bridge in 2023 was an average of 22 vehicles per day. There have been no recorded crashes at the bridge site. The land is classified as a high fire risk area, which will require area wide evacuation access and egress at times of catastrophic fire risk.

The Marne River has a significant upstream catchment with high flood levels experienced, as evidenced by the level of bridge abutment rock erosion. The anecdotal memory of the highest water level is approximately the existing bridge deck level. Empirical analysis of catchment hydrology and hydraulic flows and levels have not been investigated further.

A presentation at The Barossa Council Workshop held 2 March 2025 outlined the current bridge condition and upgrade options. Refer to the Council Workshop presentation Attachment 2.

At the Council Workshop, it was expressed that the following bridge replacement options warranted further review for consideration at a future Council meeting:

- "M-Lock Bridge System"
- Low profile box culvert crossing
- Low profile floodway with baseflow pipe

Council staff subsequently reviewed these options with the assistance of WGA consulting engineers and the quantity surveyor. Below is a summary of the benefits and concept construction cost estimates:

"M-Lock Bridge System". Refer concept plan Attachment 3.

The "M-Lock Bridge System" consists of modular precast concrete beams connected together to a compliant width for single lane 19 m semitrailer truck vehicles, with new concrete wing abutments and protective railing. This is of similar construction to the North Para River bridge on Research Road, Nuriootpa.

The new structure would be constructed southerly adjacent to the existing bridge within the existing road reserve without the need for land acquisition.

This option provides the most benefits in terms of cost-effective construction, design life, design loading, approximate 100 year high water level of service, minimal maintenance and low impact on the waterway.

The approximate construction cost for a "M-Lock Bridge System" is estimated to be \$1,085,000 with a 40% project contingency, excluding internal project management costs.

Low profile culvert crossing. Refer concept plan Attachment 4.

A lower cost option with less benefit is a low-profile multi-cell box culvert crossing, constructed southerly adjacent to the existing bridge within existing road reserve and again without the need for land acquisition. The construction would be to a compliant width for single lane 19 m semitrailer truck vehicles, with a concrete deck at least above the high pool level water level of the dam, new concrete wing abutments and protective railings.

This option provides a reduced level of service, with the culvert crossing closed in frequent storm events due to high water levels over the road carriageway. The alternative detour route at times of high-water level is up to 15 km distance via Rhine Park Road or Shearers Road, and Eden Valley Road.

The approximate construction cost for a low-profile culvert crossing is currently estimated to be \$706,000 with a 40% project contingency, excluding internal project management costs.

Low profile floodway with baseflow pipe. Refer concept plan at end of Council Workshop presentation Attachment 1.

Additional investigation was requested on feasibility for construction of a low-profile concrete floodway crossing with a base flow pipe. This would be of similar construction to the culvert crossing on Memorial Drive, Nuriootpa; Jane Place, Tanunda, and at numerous other locations in the region.

The low-profile floodway would need to cross the river either upstream, outside of the dam storage extent, or downstream, well clear of the damaging high energy overflow of the concrete weir. Either placement would be problematic and would require considerable land acquisition and extensive road realignment / reconstruction works.

This option provides a further reduced level of service, with the ford crossing closed more frequently than the above low profile culvert option, due to more frequent high-water levels. The alternative detour remains up to 15 km distance.

The complexity of this option is compounded further by the extensive surface level granite rock in the area making cut construction works very expensive and the need for major Telstra communication relocation costs.

A detailed costing for the low-profile floodway with baseflow pipe has not been pursued further due to the inherent difficulties in feasibility, construction cost and community expectation.

Summary and Conclusion

The Moss Smith Road bridge warrants replacement, as expressed at the September 2024 community meeting and the March 2025 Council Workshop.

A replacement bridge option was considered to provide the most benefits in terms of cost-effective construction, design life, design loading, high water level of service, minimal maintenance and low impact on the waterway. The most effective construction methodology was found to be the "M-Lock Bridge System", consisting of modular precast concrete beams, with new concrete wing abutments and protective railing.

After significant investigation, Council staff recommend that Council progress the proposal for replacement of the Moss Smith Road bridge with a cost-effective precast beam bridge construction methodology, and that this be developed to a level of detailed design and construction cost estimate for consideration by Council in a future financial year capital bridge upgrade budget.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1	Moss Smith Road Bridge, Locality Plan and detour route 
Attachment 2	Moss Smith Road Bridge - Powerpoint Presentation - Council Workshop 2 April 2025 
Attachment 3	Moss Smith Road Bridge - WGA240306-SK-ST-0010_A-M-Lock 15% Design Sketch - 6 June 2025 
Attachment 4	Moss Smith Road Bridge Upgrade - WGA240306-DR-CV-Low Level Culvert 15% Design Drawings - 6 June 2025 

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

CS3	Assets - Planning, construction, maintenance and operation of Council's assets (Transport, Bridges, Community Wastewater Management System, Community, Cultural, Recreation and Stormwater)
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Legislative Requirements

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

The Moss Smith Road bridge serves as a rural local area access route. There is strong community support for retaining a bridge type structure for 19 m semitrailer truck traffic at a 100-year flood level of service for farm and emergency vehicle access.

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

The proposed bridge option least impacts the local watercourse, relative to the other culvert options, although the watercourse is already significantly impacted by the existing dam structure.

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

Nil

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A letter was sent to landowners soliciting feedback regarding the bridge, future upgrade and level of service options.

A local area community meeting was held onsite on 5 September 2024 with strong community opinion expressed for retaining a bridge type structure for regular truck traffic at a 100-year flood level of service.

7.3.2 REVISED CEMETERY MANAGEMENT POLICY - ADOPTION POST PUBLIC CONSULTATION
25/54272

MOVED Cr Preece

That Council:

- (1) Receives and notes two submissions received from the community during the public consultation period.
- (2) Having considered the submissions, endorse the revised Cemetery Management Policy as per Attachment 1.

SECONDED Cr de Vries

CARRIED 2022-26/788

PURPOSE

To receive and consider submissions received during public consultation and to seek Council's endorsement to adopt the revised Cemetery Management Policy.

REPORT

Background

A Cemetery Management Policy was first adopted in June 2021 and provides a framework to guide Council and its officers in the management of the seven operational cemeteries under Council care and control.

At the June 2025 meeting of Council, a revised Cemetery Management Policy was endorsed for public consultation.

Introduction

The Burial and Cremation Act 2013 places responsibilities on Council to ensure that the cemeteries and other interment sites under direct or indirect Council control are properly managed and that appropriate records are kept.

A Cemetery Management Policy was endorsed in 2021 to provide a framework to guide Council and its officers in the management of the seven operational cemeteries under Council care and control.

Discussion

In accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy, a phase of community consultation was undertaken inviting written submissions from the community. The consultation phase commenced on 25 June 2025 and concluded on 16 July 2025.

One response was received via Your Say Barossa, and another via letter to the CEO. A third response was received outside of the consultation period.

Submitter	Submission	Response	Action/Recommendation
Anonymous	"In reference to point 3.9.6, this information ... In all children sized grave sites there may be a maximum of one (1) child	Noted	Without specific details of the grave mentioned staff are unable to provide a response to this question.

	aged under 10 years burial, well in the Nuriootpa Cemetery, there is 1 grave that is where 2 children are buried, is that allowable?"		No change to the Policy is recommended.
David Mahlo (reference made to the existing policy not the revised version)	Questions related to the maintenance of memorials and volunteer participation specific to pioneer/respected citizen sites	Noted	Management of all memorials is clearly defined in the Burial and Cremation Act 2013 Division 4. No change to the Policy is recommended.

Summary and Conclusion

Officers recommend that Council endorse the revised Cemetery Management Policy as a Policy of Council and schedule the next review for four years' time.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Revised Cemetery Management Policy - June 2025 

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Our Places

Our places and spaces enhance the liveability, retain rural and regional character and diversity of our communities.

Strategic Outcome

- Our places are planned, managed, and sustainable.

Corporate Plan

CS5 Cemetery - The efficient and effective management and maintenance of Council cemeteries in a caring and equitable manner in line with community expectations

Legislative Requirements

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. **SERVICE DELIVERY**

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services,

including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Nil

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

The majority of the routine cemetery management matters are operational and accounted for in existing annual budgeting processes.

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

A Policy is not a legal requirement but is considered best practice. It is based on existing approaches to cemetery management and provides formal guidance to Council and Council officers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy, the community were invited to provide written feedback and submissions in relation to the draft document.

Consultation commenced on 25 June 2025 and concluded on 16 July 2025. Engagement methods included Council's yoursay.barossa.sa.gov.au consultation platform, Council's website and Facebook page, a Public Notice in the local newspapers and hard copy documents available on request.

7.4 Development and Community Services

7.4.1 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS - BAROSSA BUSHGARDENS 25/54915

MOVED Cr Schilling

That Council receives and notes the minutes of the Barossa Bushgardens S41 Committee meeting held on 6 August 2025 as per Attachment 1.

SECONDED Cr Barrett

CARRIED 2022-26/789

PURPOSE

The Minutes of Council Section 41 Committees are presented here for consideration and adoption by Council.

REPORT

Discussion

The consideration and adoption of recommendations of Council Committees to Council requires assessment by Council to ensure compliance obligations under section 6(a) of the *Local Government Act*. The relevant minutes received in the past month are therefore presented to Council.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Minutes - Barossa Bushgardens Committee Meeting - 6 August 2025
- pdf 

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Supporting a sustainable Barossa.

Strategic Outcome

- We support actions that manage our environment for future generations.
- We sustainably manage our resources and encourage sustainable practices.

Corporate Plan

CS17 Natural Resources - Regional development and management of the environment including natural resource management to ensure the region is managed sustainably and the environment is protected and enhanced

- BS4 Council and Committees - Provision of support to Council and Committees through the provision of required information, agendas, and minutes. Council and Committees are provided with support to enable informed decisions

Legislative Requirements

Local Government Act and Regulations

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Nil

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

Nil

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

Expenditure identified in the body of the minutes is included within Council's endorsed budget.

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Nil

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Nil

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required.

7.4.2 DRAFT AMENDED BAROSSA WATER ALLOCATION PLAN**25/54955**

Pursuant to Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1999, Cr Evans disclosed a Conflict of Interest in the matter Item number 7.4.2 - Draft Amended Barossa Water Allocation Plan as she sits on the Water Allocation Plan Advisory Group. Cr Evans advised the Chamber that she does not feel that this item will be a material conflict and as such advised that she would remain in the room.

MOVED Cr de Vries

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the draft submission in respect to the Draft amended Barossa Water Allocation Plan as contained within Attachment 1.
- (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer or delegate, to make minor technical or typographical amendments to the submission.

SECONDED Cr Evans**CARRIED 2022-26/790****PURPOSE**

To present a draft submission for Council endorsement in respect to the Draft amended Barossa Water Allocation Plan (WAP).

REPORTBackground

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board has advised that it will be amending the Barossa Water Allocation Plan (WAP) pursuant to the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

The Landscape Board and the Department for Environment and Water are working in partnership to consult on, and finalise, the draft amended Barossa Water Allocation Plan. Consultation is currently open until 31 August 2025.

Introduction

The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Barossa Prescribed Water Resources Area (PWRA) was adopted in 2009.

The 2009 WAP was developed by the former Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board. Since 2020, the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board has continued the process of updating and amending the Plan and public consultation on the draft amended WAP is now underway.

Discussion

The draft amended Barossa Water Allocation Plan takes into account the high level of water use and storage that, combined with a changing climate, is placing pressure on the availability of water resources for all users, including the environment. Preliminary results of recent modelling indicate a reduction in resource capacity of at least 25%.

Some water users across the Barossa are being advised to prepare for reduced water allocations in the next water use year, as new surface and groundwater data shows that the supply is under serious threat.

The Plan incorporates new science, greater flexibility, and updated risk triggers to safeguard the long-term water security for the region.

The partially unbundled licensing model introduced in the Plan will allow annual allocations to be adjusted independently of long-term entitlements – providing flexibility to respond to seasonal conditions while protecting the overall integrity of the resource,

Water monitoring data collected across the Barossa will continue to be collated and assessed between December and February each year.

Summary and Conclusion

Council's draft submission on the Barossa Water Allocation Plan has been prepared and is contained at [Attachment 1](#).

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Submission - Draft Water Allocation Plan - August 2025 

Supporting references

Nil.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan



Our Environment

Supporting a sustainable Barossa.

Strategic Outcome

We sustainably manage our resources and encourage sustainable practices.

Legislative Requirements

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

These statements are qualitative in nature and designed to provide an indication of Council's general position when deciding to take or retain risk in pursuit of its objectives.

1. SERVICE DELIVERY

Refers to the delivery of services to the community, which includes the systems and physical assets that enable provision of these services, including structures (such as roads, buildings and facilities) as well as IT infrastructure, plant, vehicles & other equipment.

Not applicable

2. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

Relates to measures to preserve, protect and minimise impact on the natural environment, including sacred and indigenous lands, flora, fauna, heritage, water, waste, hazardous materials and pollution.

The submission supports the balancing of community water usage needs and the need to protect the source into the future.

3. FINANCIAL

Refers to planning and control of Council's budget to align with the sustainable achievement of the desired outcomes articulated in its Community Plan.

Not applicable

4. PEOPLE

Relates to recruitment, retention, wellbeing and safety of employees and volunteers and engagement and management of contractors as well as the wellbeing and safety of the community.

Not applicable

5. REPUTATION

Relates to policy, decisions, actions and circumstances that may cause Council to lose credibility with the community, ratepayers, key stakeholders, other levels of government and its own employees and contractors.

Council should be seen to be advocating for responsible usage and availability of water.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No consultation is required regarding the draft submission. Consultation on the amendment to the WAP will be conducted by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board in accordance with State legislation.

8. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

8.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

8.1.1 SUPREME COURT CASE MATTER - QUARTERLY UPDATE 25/52760

There is strong public interest in enabling members of the public to observe Council's transparent and informed decision-making. This helps to ensure accountability, maintain transparency of public expenditure, facilitate public participation, assist public awareness and allow for the scrutiny of information. Attendance at a Council meeting is one means of satisfying this interest. The public will only be excluded from a Council meeting when the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the public interest of open decision-making.

In this matter, the reasons that receipt, consideration or discussion of the information or matter in a meeting open to the public would be contrary to the public interest are that it contains information that is related to the Supreme Court Case between Councils and TTEG

On balance, the above reason which supports the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the factors in favour of the public interest of open decision-making.

MOVED Cr de Vries

That Council:

- (1) Under the provisions of Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, make an order that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Acting Director Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation, Director Development and Community Services, Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services and the Minute Secretary, in order to consider in confidence a report relating to being information that must be considered in confidence pursuant to:

Section 90(3)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1999*:

information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the council or council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place, involving the council or an employee of the council;

- (2) Accordingly, on this basis, Council is satisfied that public interest in conducting meetings in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential in order that it contains information that is related to the Supreme Court Case between Councils and TTEG.

SECONDED Cr Preece

CARRIED 2022-26/791

The meeting moved into confidence at 5.41pm

MOVED Cr de Vries

That Council:

- (1) Council resolution.
- (2) Having considered this matter in confidence under Sections 90(2) and 90(3)(i) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, makes an order pursuant to Section 91(7), that the minutes, agenda report and attachments other than the minutes relating to this confidentiality order of the Confidential Council Meeting held on 19 August 2025 in relation to item 8.1.1 Supreme Court Case Matter - Quarterly Update be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until annual review of confidential orders and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to review and revoke the order.

SECONDED Cr Troup**CARRIED CO 2022-26/792***Resumption of open council meeting at 5.42pm*

8.1.2 CONCORDIA SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE - UPDATE **25/54990**

There is strong public interest in enabling members of the public to observe Council's transparent and informed decision-making. This helps to ensure accountability, maintain transparency of public expenditure, facilitate public participation, assist public awareness and allow for the scrutiny of information. Attendance at a Council meeting is one means of satisfying this interest. The public will only be excluded from a Council meeting when the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the public interest of open decision-making.

In this matter, the reasons that receipt, consideration or discussion of the information or matter in a meeting open to the public would be contrary to the public interest are that it contains information pertaining to the negotiation of a social infrastructure deed, including legal advice and feedback from parties.

On balance, the above reason which supports the need for confidentiality pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Act outweighs the factors in favour of the public interest of open decision-making.

MOVED Cr Preece

That Council:

- (1) Under the provisions of Section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, make an order that the public be excluded from the meeting with the exception of the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Acting Director Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation, Director Development and Community Services, Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services. Senior Strategy Advisor and the Minute Secretary, in order to consider in confidence a report relating to being information that must be considered in confidence pursuant to:

Section 90(3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 1999*:

commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which-

- (i) could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and
- (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest; and

Section 90(3)(h) of the Local Government Act 1999:

legal advice; and

Section 90(3)(j) of the Local Government Act 1999:

information the disclosure of which-

- (i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official (not being an employee of the council, or a person engaged by the council); and
- (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;

- (2) Accordingly, on this basis, Council is satisfied that public interest in conducting meetings in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential in order that it contains information pertaining to the negotiation of a social infrastructure deed, including legal advice and feedback from parties.

SECONDED Cr Hurn

CARRIED 2022-26/793

The meeting moved into confidence at 5.42pm

MOVED Cr de Vries

That Council:

- (1) Council resolution.
- (2) Having considered this matter in confidence under Sections 90(2) and 90(3)(d), (h) and (j) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, makes an order pursuant to Section 91(7), that the minutes, agenda report and attachments other than the minutes relating to this confidentiality order of the Confidential Council Meeting held on 19 August 2025 in relation to item 8.1.2 Concordia Social Infrastructure - Update be kept confidential and not available for public inspection until the annual review of confidential orders and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to review and revoke the order.

SECONDED Cr Angas

CARRIED CO 2022-26/794

Resumption of open council meeting at 5.49pm

9. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Lange advised the Chamber that he will be an apology for the 17 September Council meeting and Deputy Mayor Jess Greatwich will assume the Chair to preside over this meeting.

10. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 5.30pm

11. CLOSURE

Mayor Lange declared the meeting closed at 5.49pm.

Confirmed at Council Meeting on 16 September 2025

Date:.....

Mayor:.....

APPENDIX 1



August 8, 2025

Mayor Michael (Bim) Lange
The Barossa Council
43-51 Tanunda Road,
Nuriootpa SA 5355

Dear Mayor Bim:

Greetings from Grapevine, Texas — an internationally recognized city known for its vibrant festivals and events!

It is with great pleasure that I extend a formal invitation to the official Barossa delegation, and students from Nuriootpa High School to visit Grapevine as honored guests in our city and to participate in the 39th Annual GrapeFest, taking place September 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2025.

This year's GrapeFest promises to be especially memorable as we will be hosting delegates from our sister cities of Parras, Mexico, and West Lothian, Scotland. We are excited about the opportunity to welcome Barossa to this distinguished gathering.

The 2025 festival theme, *The Grape Gatsby*, will be celebrated throughout the event in a variety of creative and engaging ways. In addition to enjoying the festival, we have collaborated with Grapevine Independent School District to develop an educational itinerary tailored for the visiting students. Furthermore, your civic delegation will have the opportunity to meet with our city leadership, department directors, and participate in tours showcasing historic Grapevine.

Your visit has been thoughtfully coordinated by Mr. Paul W. McCallum, Executive Director of the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau, along with his dedicated team members, Ms. Naomi Saenz and Ms. Lori Sarmiento. You will be in excellent hands throughout your stay.

We are truly looking forward to welcoming you and your delegation to Grapevine. It will be a pleasure to share our city's hospitality, culture, and community spirit with our friends from Barossa.

Warm regards,

Mayor William D. Tate

WDT:ns

c: Paul W. McCallum – Executive Director, Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau



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