

The Barossa Council



The Barossa Council

2024/25 Annual Report



Acknowledgement of Country

The Barossa Council acknowledges the traditional lands of the Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kurna people and we respect their spiritual relations with Country



Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	2
Contents	3
Our Vision	4
Messages from the Mayor	5
Elected Members	6
Our Council	21
Our Administration	23
OUR PILLARS	26
Our Council	27
Our Community	30
Our Volunteers	36
Our Economy	37
Our Environment	41
Our Places	44
Decision Making	47
Strategic and Business Planning	53
2024-25 Annual Budget & Business Plan	56
2025-26 Annual Budget & Business Plan	60

Appendix 1 - Freedom of Information Statement

Appendix 2 - Financial Statements and Subsidiary Reports





Photo credit - Tom Overall

Our vision

To create a vibrant and growing community where people support one another and come together to have fun and foster a sense of belonging, community spirit and connection to the Barossa.

Message from the Mayor



On behalf of Council, I'm proud to reflect on the performance and achievements of both our Council and community over the past year.

As far as big ticket projects go, 2024/25 will go down in history as the year we delivered Barossa Park, the largest and fastest infrastructure build Council has ever undertaken.

Built in under 12 months and co-funded by the Government of South Australia, the \$45.7 million venue made a spectacular debut when our region hosted AFL Gather Round for the first time. All eyes were on the Barossa and the nation-wide publicity generated was priceless.

Since then, the multi-use precinct has been embraced by our local community, with football, cricket, netball, tennis, little athletics and pigeon racing clubs all proudly calling the grounds home.

Barossa Park is now cementing its place as a new driver of the regional economy with potential for another 18,000 visitor stays in the Barossa each year through its role as an events and festival hub located in the heart of one of the highest profile tourism destinations in Australia.

We also officially opened the new \$2.95 million soccer clubrooms and changerooms, completing the \$6 million Nuriootpa Centennial Park Barossa United Precinct, which sets a new benchmark for the growing sport. The addition of gender-neutral changerooms gives female players more opportunities to be involved, to mentor, to coach, to volunteer, and to participate.

That's ultimately what investing in these venues is all about - community participation, connecting our communities and providing a place to belong.

These are also the reasons Council threw its support behind the AFL Gather Round - A Festival of Footy by bringing together the hugely successful Barossa Food and Wine Village at Tanunda. The economic benefit to our region pre, during and post Gather Round weekend is estimated to be between \$8 million and \$10 million. They're impressive figures.

And, as major sponsor of the 2025 Barossa Vintage Festival, we provided \$35,000 plus in-kind

support for a much loved event that celebrates our heritage, culture and community spirit, while offering another reason for visitors to stay, spend money and enjoy our region's famous hospitality.

Speaking of Barossa hospitality, we invested \$265,000 to renew the Mount Pleasant Community Kitchen at Talunga Park, making the local Farmer's Market experience even better by providing stallholders with facilities that meet the latest environmental health requirements for food safety.

Mount Pleasant also saw staged upgrades to Melrose Street, representing a \$725,000 investment. Our \$1.5m investment in rural road upgrades and resheeting resulted in the sealing of Neldner Road in Tanunda (\$350,000), making the school run easier and Stage 2 of Keyneton Road sealing (\$590,309). Meanwhile, upgrades to nearby Bethany Road have improved stormwater management and road safety, while \$965,000 was also invested to upgrade stormwater infrastructure in Baird Street, Nuriootpa.

I'm also pleased that after two years of community consultation, we now have a blueprint for growth in the region, with phase one of the Barossa Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy given the go ahead. It's a holistic planning strategy for the next 30 years.

In closing, I am constantly amazed by the achievements of so many in our community. When you look at our Australia Day Award recipients and social inclusion programs, I'm humbled when I see Council staff, community groups and volunteers working so well together to support and benefit our community.

We have so much to be proud of, and so much more to look forward to, including our new Barossa Creative Industries Centre, as we continue to work on creating the place we all love to live.

Mayor Bim Lange OAM

Role of Elected Members

The role of an Elected Member is to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers. This role requires them to provide community leadership and guidance, and to facilitate communication between the community and Council.

In fostering good governance, it is important for an Elected Member to:

- Take part in discussions and decision making at Council meetings.
- Read Council agendas to prepare for meetings.
- Review strategic plans, policies and budget information.
- Represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers in the area.
- Provide community members with information, leadership and guidance.
- Facilitate communication between the community and the Council.
- Participate in Civic events.
- Represent Council on other bodies and at meetings.

The Mayor has a key role to help all Elected Members participate and work together in the best interests of the Barossa community.

The Mayor is the principal spokesperson of the Council with special powers to perform certain functions.



Our Elected Members



**Mayor
Bim Lange**
mlange@barossa.sa.gov.au



**Deputy Mayor
Jess Greatwich**
jgreatwich@barossa.sa.gov.au



**Former Deputy Mayor
Kathryn Schilling**
kschilling@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr John Angas
jangas@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr Jane Evans
jevans@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr Cathy Troup
ctroup@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr Heidi Thompson
hthompson@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr David de Vries
ddevries@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr Tony Hurn
thurn@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr Bruce Preece
bpreece@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr Rick Lane
rlane@barossa.sa.gov.au



Cr Don Barrett
dbarrett@barossa.sa.gov.au

Elected Member Allowances

The allowance, as set by the Remuneration Tribunal of South Australia on 5 July 2022, and applicable from 12 November 2023 at a rate adjusted by the Consumer Price Index, was as follows:

Elected Members	\$20,237	p/annum
Deputy Mayor	\$25,296.25	p/annum
Mayor	\$80,948	p/annum

From 10 November 2024, the allowance was adjusted by the Consumer Price Index and was as follows:

Elected Members	\$20,885	p/annum
Deputy Mayor	\$26,106.25	p/annum
Mayor	\$83,540	p/annum

Elected Member Travel

Mayor Bim Lange, as presiding and voting member attended the Australian Local Government of Australia (ALGA) Conference on 1 July to 3 July 2024 at a cost of \$2,422.

*Flights for the Mayor were funded from existing budget allocations in accordance with the Elected Members Allowances and Benefits Policy.



Elected Member Policies and Registers

We maintain several Elected Member policies and registers to enable accountability and transparency. The list of registers that we need to keep under the *Local Government Act 1999* or *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* is as follows:

- Elected Members' Training and Development Policy
- Elected Member Behavioural Management Policy
- Elected Member Behavioural Management Process
- Elected Member Behaviour Support Policy
- Elected Members Allowance and Benefits Policy
- Register of Interests Policy
- Elected Member Training and Development Register
- Elected Member Gifts and Benefits Register
- Elected Member Allowance and Benefits Register
- Elected Member Register of Interest

These documents are available on our website www.barossa.sa.gov.au.



Elector Representation

The Barossa Council is represented by the Mayor and 11 Councillors. Council's total representation quota (the number of electors for each Councillor) is 1:1,653 (19,839 Electors). The comparative table below compares local and similar sized councils to The Barossa Council.

Council	Electors	Councillors	Ratio
The Barossa Council	19839	12	1653
Town of Gawler	20912	11	1901
Light Regional Council	12410	10	1214
Adelaide Hills Council	31698	13	2438
Mid Murray Council	7317	9	813
Adelaide Plains Council	7984	10	798

Representation Review

The Barossa Council Representation Review commenced in April 2024 as instructed and Gazetted by the Minister.

On 24 March 2025, Council received the final determination from the Electoral Commissioner certifying the representation review conducted by The Barossa Council.

The determination endorsed that the composition and structure of Council be as follows:

- The name of the Council remains unchanged;
- The Council area will not be divided into Wards;
- 11 Area Councillors to be elected from the Council area as a whole; and
- A Mayor elected from the Council area as a whole.

Pursuant to *Section 12(18) of the Local Government Act 1999*, the representation arrangements for the Council apply for the first periodic election held after the publication of the notice in the Government Gazette which occurred on 27 March 2025. The Representation Review 2024-25 is complete.

Elected Member Accountability

During the 2024/25 reporting period, ordinary meetings of the full Council were held in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa on the third Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm, except for the January meeting which is held on the fourth Tuesday.

Council meetings are held to discuss and debate an agenda of items that require a decision and direction of the Elected Members. The Barossa Council is a corporate body; decisions can only be made by resolution of the Council. When a motion is put forward at a Council meeting, all Elected Members present must vote on that motion. A motion can only become an instruction, (a recommendation), passed by a majority vote.

The Mayor is responsible for chairing Council meetings, ensuring orderly discussions and decision making. All meetings are open to the public and Council agendas and minutes are available for public inspection and online at barossa.sa.gov.au.

Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, a total of **12 Ordinary** and **four Special Council** meetings were held.

Attendance at Council Meetings (1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025)

Elected Member	No. Ordinary Council meetings attended (12)	No. Special Council meetings attended (4)	No. Total Council meetings attended (16)	Leave of absence	Apology	Absent
Mayor Lange	12	4	16			
Cr Angas	11	4	15		1	
Cr Barrett	12	4	16			
Cr de Vries	12	3	15		1	
Cr Hum	12	1	13		3	
Cr Schilling	11	3	14		2	
Cr Troup	12	2	14		2	
Cr Greatwich	11	3	14		2	
Cr Lane	12	3	15		1	
Cr Evans	12	3	15			1
Cr Thompson	12	2	14		1	1
Cr Preece	12	4	16			



Council Meeting Policies and Registers

Council policies are publicly accessible decision-making resources. They guide activities and inform our customers and the community about the scope of decisions or actions relating to programs, responsibilities and services. We also operate under a suite of administrative policies that we manage internally and that do not require endorsement by the Council.

Policies are regularly reviewed under the framework against the following criteria:

- The policy content and its ongoing relevance.
- The need to update the policy to correspond with resolutions of Council or decisions of the Executive Leadership Team.
- Legislation changes that result in policy amendment and legislative criteria to be considered during a policy review.
- The existence of any customer complaints about policy content and whether these concerns should be considered when

reviewing the policy.

Departments review relevant Council policies, and the Executive Leadership Team confirms proposed amendments before forwarding the policies to Council for endorsement. Community members can ask the Customer Relations team about accessing and inspecting procedures related to our policy documents or administrative policies.

Policies

- Code of Practice for Public Access to Meetings and Meeting Documents
- Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures
- Internal Review of Council Decision Policy
- Internal Review of Council Decision Process
- Public Consultation Policy

Registers

- Register of Confidential Items



Elected Member Gifts and Benefits

For the purposes under Section 72A(4) - Register of gifts and benefits of the *Local Government Act 1999* and published in the Gazette on 29 August 2013, any gift or benefit received must also be registered if its value is higher than \$50.

Date gift offered/received	Date of registration	Name	Description of gift	Value (approx)	Received from/research for	Accepted
6/08/2024	29/11/2024	Mayor Lange	Dinner	\$55	Barossa Light and Gawler Football Association – Schluter Medal Count	Yes
8/08/2024	29/11/2024	Mayor Lange	Dinner	\$60	Barossa, Light & Gawler Umpires Association Grand Final Dinner and Presentations	Yes
8/09/2024	8/09/2024	Mayor Lange	Corryton Burge Wine	\$56	Attendance at BBBFM AGM as guest speaker on Barossa Creative Industries	Yes
9/09/2024	22/09/2024	Mayor Lange	AFL Football tickets – Second Semi Final	\$300	Working with AFL with Barossa Park Project	Yes
9/09/2024	29/11/2024	Mayor Lange	Tickets	\$50	2024 Gawler Cup	Declined
10/09/2024	24/09/2024	Mayor Lange	Lunch at Chateau Yaldara and Tawny Port	\$100	Lunch at Chateau Yaldara to meet Mr Gow, Chairman of Great Wall, COFCO Wine & Spirits, China	Yes
16/09/2024	29/11/2024	Mayor Lange	Dinner	\$50	2024 Nurihannham Wine Launch	Yes
30/09/2024		Mayor Lange	Dinner	\$100	2024 SANFL Community Volunteer Awards	Yes
2/10/2024	15/11/2024	Mayor Lange	Tickets to Vailo ADL500	\$200	Invitation to Vailo ADL500 from Premier Peter Malinauskas	Yes
08/04/2025	15/04/2025	Jess Greatwich	Footy Show – carparking and VIP ticket	\$100	Deputy Mayor attendance at Gather Round pre-show – Footy Show	Declined
12/04/2025	15/04/2025	Jess Greatwich	SANFL game & carparking	\$75	Deputy Mayor attendance at SANFL game	Declined

Elected Member Gifts and Benefits

Date gift offered/received	Date of registration	Name	Description of gift	Value (approx)	Received from/research for	Accepted
13/04/2025	15/04/2025	Jess Greatwich	VIP tickets to attend Gather Round	\$250	Barossa Park Facility for AFL Gather Round 2025	Yes
13/04/2025	13/05/2025	Kathryn Schilling	VIP tickets to attend Gather Round	\$250	Barossa Park Facility for AFL Gather Round 2025	Yes
13/04/2025	13/05/2025	Bruce Preece	VIP tickets to attend Gather Round	\$250	Barossa Park Facility for AFL Gather Round 2025	Yes
13/04/2025	13/05/2025	David de Vries	VIP tickets to attend Gather Round	\$250	Barossa Park Facility for AFL Gather Round 2025	Yes
13/04/2525	27/05/2025	Tony Hurn	VIP tickets to attend Gather Round	\$250	Barossa Park Facility for AFL Gather Round 2025	Yes
28/04/2025	12/05/2025	John Angas	Gifted glassware and donated to The Barossa Council for Sister City display in foyer of Council	Un-known	City of Grapevine - gift for delegation visit	No
29/04/2025	12/05/2025	John Angas	Auction from fundraising for Nuri High School Agriculture students, raising funds to travel to Grapevine, TX	\$100	City of Grapevine - gift for delegation visit	Yes

Elected Member Behaviour

There were five contraventions of Chapter 5 (Members of council) Part 4 (Members Integrity and Behaviour) Division 2 (Member Behaviour) during the relevant financial year.

Council incurred **\$43,865.25** in costs inclusive of internal resources and external legal support in relation to dealing with complaints alleging contravention of Chapter 5 Part 4 Division 2 and any referrals of such complaints to the Behavioural Standards Panel during the relevant financial year.

Council incurred \$0 costs in relation to dealing with complaints alleging contravention or failure to comply with section 75G and any referrals of such complaints to the Behavioural Standards Panel during the relevant financial year.

Elected Member Training and Development

Elected Members are provided with training and development opportunities through the Local Government Association and other bodies which they undertake on an as-needs basis. The total cost of training and development for Elected Members in 2024-25 was **\$14,887.80**.

Elected Member	Date of training	Training name	Provider	Cost
Mayor Lange	1/07/2024	Australian Local Government Association Conference	ALGA	\$2,422
	28/08/2024	LGA Roads and Works Conference - Adelaide Hills	LGA SA	\$500
	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr Angus	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr Barrett	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr de Vries	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr Hurn	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr Schilling	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr Troup	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr Greatwich	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$1,700
	21/02/2025	Deputy Mayor Forum: Adaptive Leadership	Local Government Association SA	\$670.00
Cr Lane	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr Evans	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$269.50
Cr Thompson	11/09/2024	Elected Member - Mid-Term Refresher	Kelley Jones Lawyers	\$1,700

Council keeps a register of Training and Development activities attended by Elected Members during their four year term (2022 to 2026) which can be viewed on the website.

Confidential Items

A Council or Committee may order that the public be excluded from attendance at a meeting to the extent (and only to the extent) that the Council or Committee considers it to be necessary and appropriate to act in a meeting closed to the public in order to receive, discuss or consider in confidence any information or matter.

The table below details the number of times that each section of the *Local Government Act 1999* was used as the basis to consider confidential matters in private.

CATEGORY	REASON TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC FROM COUNCIL MEETING PURSUANT TO SECTION 90(3)	NO.
90(3)(a)	Information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)	8
90(3)(b)	Information the disclosure of which – (i) Could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and (ii) Would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.	3
90(3)(h)	legal advice;	3
90(3)(i)	Information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the council or council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place, involving the Council or an employee of the Council;	8
90(3)(j)	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	10
90(3)(k)	Tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works	2
90(3)(o)	Information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of the award	4

Confidential Council Meetings - Date and Subject of Matters

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

Through the period of 2024–25, there were **38** instances in which Council, or Committee was satisfied of the necessity to consider an agenda item in confidence. These items were considered in accordance with Section 90(2) and Section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999*. In all 38 instances, Council resolved under Section 91(7) of the *Local Government Act 1999* that these documents were to remain confidential for either a specified period or until an event occurs.

Meeting	Meeting Date	Title of Report	Reason / Section No.
Council	16/07/2024	Supreme Court Case Matter Update	Section 90(3)(i)
Council	17/09/2024	Concordia Quarterly Update	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	17/09/2024	Barossa Creative Industries Centre - Managing Contractor Tender	Section 90(3)(k)
Council	17/09/2024	Barossa Assessment Panel - Correspondence from State Planning Commission	Section 90(3)(a)
Council	17/09/2024	Barossa Caravan Park - Lyndoch	Section 90(3)(h)
Council	15/10/2024	Supreme Court Legal Case - Quarter 2 of 2024 Update	Section 90(3)(i)
Council	15/10/2024	Concordia - Vision and Policies Review	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	15/10/2024	Third Party Funding Opportunity - Barossa Park Lyndoch	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	15/10/2024	Barossa Assessment Panel - Follow up matter from Council Meeting of September 2024	Section 90(3)(a)
Council	19/11/2024	Concordia - Planning	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	19/11/2024	Barossa Park Development State and Council Project Agreement	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	19/11/2024	Waste Management Services - Contract Extension Proposal	Section 90(3)(b)
Special Council	19/11/2024	Australia Day Awards 2025 - Citizen of the Year	Section 90(3)(o)
Special Council	19/11/2024	Australia Day Awards 2025 - Young Citizen of the Year	Section 90(3)(o)
Special Council	19/11/2024	Australia Day Awards 2025 - Community Event of the Year	Section 90(3)(o)
Special Council	19/11/2024	Australia Day Awards 2025 - Award for Active Citizenship	Section 90(3)(o)
Council	17/12/2024	Supreme Court Case Matter - Quarterly Update	Section 90(3)(i)
Council	28/01/2025	Pre-Action Notice of Claim - Residents of 18a Elizabeth Street Tanunda	Section 90(3)(i)
Council	28/02/2025	Town Of Gawler Boundary Proposal - Extract of Consultants Report for Council Comment	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	28/02/2025	Supreme Court Case Matter - Quarterly Update	Section 90(3)(i)

Meeting	Meeting Date	Title of Report	REASON / SECTION NO.
Council	28/02/2025	Concordia Growth Area Quarterly Update	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	18/03/2025	Geber Super Pty Ltd Versus The Barossa Council Assessment Panel - Settlement of Costs	Section 90(3)(h)
Council	18/03/2025	Community Battery Initiative	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	15/04/2025	Concordia Policies	Section 90(3)(j)
Council	15/04/2025	Elizabeth Street Drainage Easement and Service Level - Pretrial Conference Report	Section 90(3)(i)
Council	15/04/2025	Sale of Land for Non-Payment of Council Rates	Section 90(3)(a)
Council	15/04/2025	Tender - Caravan Park Management Services	Section 90(3)(k)
CEO Performance Review Committee	20/05/2025	CEO Performance Targets and Accountability Report 2024-2025	Section 90(3)(a)
CEO Performance Review Committee	20/05/2025	Survey Questions and Recipient List	Section 90(3)(a)
Council	20/05/2025	Claim of Defamation against Council	Section 90(3)(h)
Council	20/05/2025	Enterprise Resource Planning Solution Business Case	Section 90(3)(b)
Audit & Risk Committee	2/06/2025	Concordia Growth Area Presentation	Section 90(3)(j)
Audit & Risk Committee	2/06/2025	Enterprise Resource Planning Solution Business Case	Section 90(3)(b)
CEO Performance Review Committee	17/06/2025	CEO Remuneration Determination - Norman Waterhouse Lawyers Update	Section 90(3)(a)
CEO Performance Review Committee	17/06/2025	CEO Performance Review 2025 Outcomes	Section 90(3)(a)
CEO Performance Review Committee	17/06/2025	CEO Remuneration - Advice from Kelledy Jones Lawyers	Section 90(3)(a)
Council	17/06/2025	Supreme Court Case Matter - Quarterly Update	Section 90(3)(i)
Council	17/06/2025	Negotiation of Social Infrastructure Deed with Landowners - Concordia Growth Area	Section 90(3)(b)

Barossa Assessment Panel - Date and Subject of Confidential Matters

Barossa Assessment Panel	5/11/2024	Development Application 23035013 - Lot 4 Duck Ponds Road Stockwell	Regulation 13(2) of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2016.
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Other Confidential Order Information for Council under Section 91(7)

Other confidential order information for Council

Number of orders that remained operative at the end of the financial year	148
Number of orders that expired, ceased to apply, or were revoked during the financial year	36
Number of matters where the documents were also kept confidential	148

Other confidential order information for Audit and Risk Committee

Number of orders that remained operative at the end of the financial year	5
Number of matters that are to remain confidential for a certain period of time	5
Number of orders that expired, ceased to apply, or were revoked during the financial year	0
Number of matters where the documents were also kept confidential	5

Confidential Items Percentage

Council/Committee	No. agenda items	No. confidential items	% confidential
Council	325	31	12.7%
Barossa Assessment Panel	28	1	2.8%
Audit and Risk Committee	27	2	7.4%
CEO Performance Review Committee	11	5	45.54%
Building and Fire Safety	29	0	0%
Community Assistance Scheme Committee	29	0	0%
Barossa Bushgardens Committee	56	0	0%
Sister Cities Advisory Committee	39	0	0%

Review of Confidentiality Orders

Council, or the Chief Executive Officer if delegated, reviews orders annually or on an as-required basis as items are due for review. The confidential register is assessed for orders that require review.

Items that require review by Council are presented in the Council agenda. Items that expire or cease to apply and do not require further review are released.

Freedom of Information Requests

Council remains committed to complying with the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*, facilitating public access to official documents and records under its control, and enabling correction of those records where appropriate. Council's Freedom of Information Statement is reviewed and updated annually (refer Appendix 1).

The total number of applications received during the reporting period in accordance with Section 13 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* was nine (9).

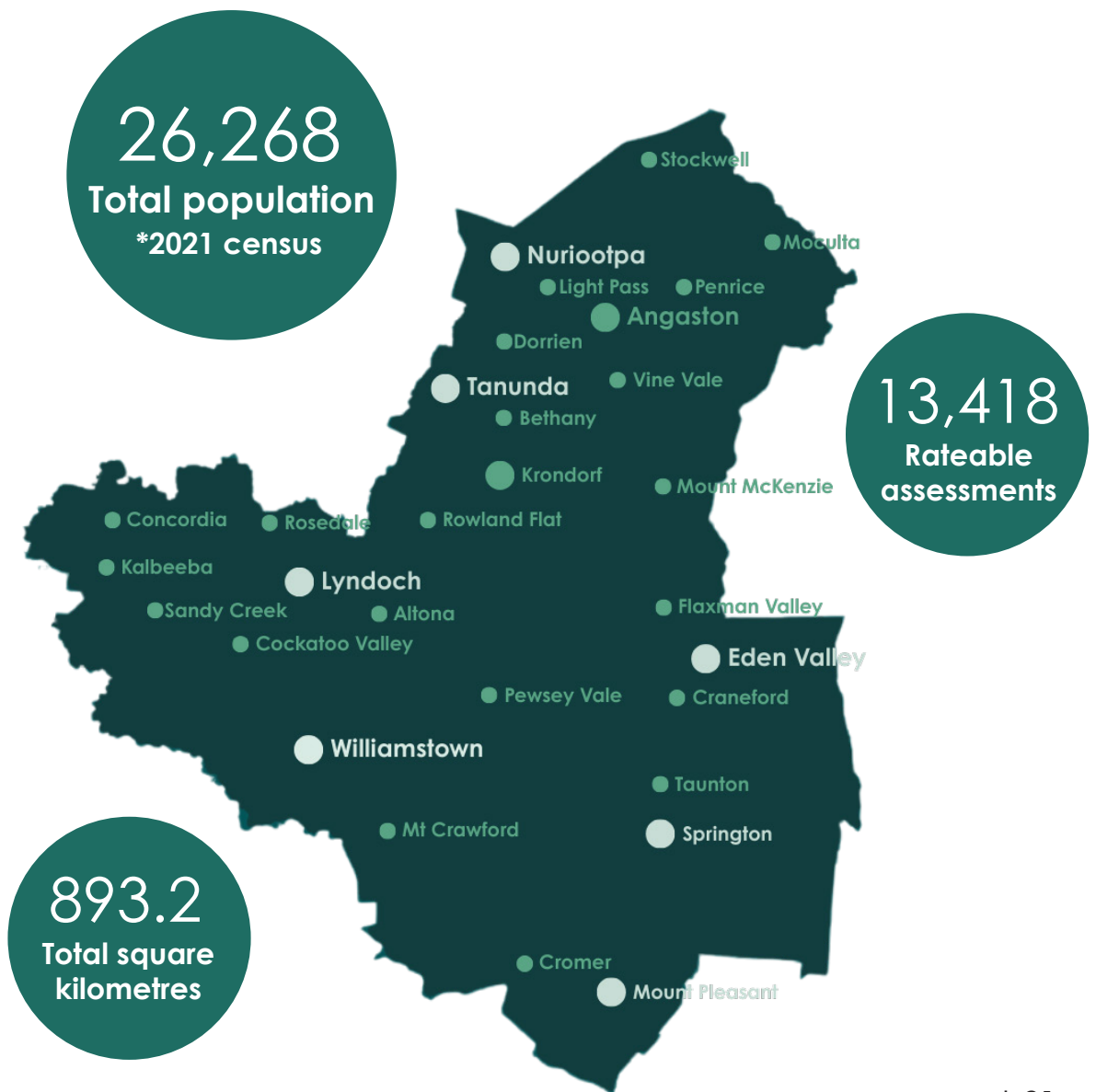


The Barossa Council is one of the largest regional Local Government authorities in South Australia.

Local Government plays a vital role in Australia's democratic system, serving as a key link between communities and higher levels of government. We deliver essential economic, social, cultural, and environmental services that support and enrich our community.

Towns within The Barossa Council

Altona, Angaston, Barossa Goldfields, Bethany, Cockatoo Valley, Concordia, Cranford, Cromer, Dorrien, Eden Valley, Flaxman Valley, Kalbeeba, Krondorf, Light Pass, Lyndoch, Moculta, Mount Crawford, Mount McKenzie, Mount Pleasant, Nuriootpa, Penrice, Pewsey Vale, Rosedale, Rowland Flat, Sandy Creek, Springton, Stockwell, Tanunda, Taunton, Vine Vale and Williamstown.



26,268
Total population
*2021 census

13,418
Rateable assessments

893.2
Total square kilometres

Functions of Council

All Councils are required by legislation to deliver certain services. These include:

- Acting as a decision-maker on behalf of the community.
- Delivering services and infrastructure in an equitable and sustainable manner.
- Advocating for the community's interests to State and Federal governments.
- Undertaking local planning to support future growth and development.
- Supporting the welfare, wellbeing, and best interests of the community.
- Protecting, enhancing, and responsibly managing the natural and built environment.
- Determining the appropriate financial contribution made by ratepayers



Councils Decision Making Structure

Council's principal power to make decisions is delegated through the *Local Government Act 1999*. A significant number of other Commonwealth and State Acts also provide Council with the power to make decisions.

The Local Government Act 1999 (South Australian legislation) covers how councils are elected and their power to make and enforce local laws, known as by-laws.

A by-law is a form of delegated legislation because the State Government delegates (gives) to councils the authority to make laws on specific matters. As Councils derive their powers from state parliaments, Council by-laws may be overruled by State laws.

Our Administration

Executive Management and administration functions



Martin McCarthy
Chief Executive Officer

Office of the Mayor and CEO
Strategic Planning



Ben Clark

Director, Infrastructure and Environmental Services

Operations – Open Space, Arboriculture, Civil Infrastructure and Town Maintenance

Environmental Services and Land Use Management

Assets and Infrastructure Engineering Management

Capital Projects

Building and Facility Maintenance

Community Wastewater Management



Joanne Moen

Deputy CEO and Director, Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation

Business Transformation

People and Culture

Corporate Services – Risk and Safety, Property and Procurement, Governance and Information Services

Enterprise Technology and Innovation

Financial Services

Economic Activation, Strategy and Customer Relations



Jake McVicar

Director, Development and Community Services

Health Services

Development Services – Compliance and Building and Planning Assessment

Sustainability

Community Safety Services

Library Services

Community Services – Community Development, Volunteering Services, Community Transport and Home Assist, Arts and Culture

Administration responsibility

Council's administration is responsible for the coordination, implementation and management of Council decisions, services and activities according to the current Community Plan.



Human Resources

Staff profile by gender	Male	Female	TOTAL	FTE
CEO	1	0	1	164.79
Executive Directors	2	1	3	
Managers	5	7	12	
Employees	74	94	168	
Total headcount	82	102	184	

Human Resource Framework

Pursuant to Section 107 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Chief Executive Officer has implemented, maintained and reviewed the human resource framework of the organisation on an ongoing basis including the management, training and induction of employees. Policy and processes of the organisation promote sound practice including recruitment, performance appraisal, equal opportunity, grievance and disciplinary matters.

Register of remuneration, salaries, gifts & benefits

Pursuant to Section 105 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council maintains a Register of Salaries and Register of Gifts & Benefits which is available for inspection at the Principal Office and barossa.sa.gov.au, with extracts available for a fixed fee.



Salary Band Range

Pursuant to Section 105 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council maintains a Register of Salaries which is available for inspection at the Principal Office and barossa.sa.gov.au, with extracts available for a fixed fee.

The Chief Executive Officer and Directors receive a package of base salary in the range of **\$177,500** and **\$302,209**, plus superannuation and leave entitlements in accordance with their contracts of employment, access to appropriate portable computer technology, provision of a mobile phone and a motor vehicle for private use (in lieu of overtime).

Employee Travel

Manager, Library Services attended and presented at *Now and for their Futures: Libraries brain building in the early years* national forum. Accommodation was paid for by Council \$489, with staff hours to attend.

Manager, Library Services attended the National Early Years Policy Summit – no cost to Council, in kind support with staff hours to attend.

Credit Card Expenditure

Purchasing via credit cards is used as one of the various forms of procurement of goods and services by Council and as an efficient and effective procurement methodology for expenses.

All purchases, be it from credit cards, store accounts, purchase orders, contracts or via other account arrangements, are approved in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy, expenditure authority and approved budget.

Total expenditure incurred using credit cards provided by Council for use by members or employees of Council during **2024-25** was **\$274,409** including GST. This excludes bank fees.



What are our pillars?



We strive to be a leader in regional Local Government and are committed to delivering effective, efficient, and valued services to the community.



Creating a safe and connected community where people have access to sustainable services and service levels and infrastructure they need and feel a sense of belonging.



Implementing economic development strategies to support future growth opportunities and a diversified and resilient economy showcasing the Barossa rural and regional character.



Supporting a sustainable Barossa.



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

Consultation and how we engage with the community

Each year members of the community are provided with opportunities to put forward their views and have their say on particular issues and projects before Council.

During the reporting period, Council has consulted with the community and sought feedback on the following matters and projects:

- **Draft Tree Management Policy**
- **Draft Graffiti Policy**
- **Draft Cemetery Management Policy**
- **2025-26 Annual Business Plan and Budget**
- **Elected Member Behaviour Support Policy**
- **Barossa Representation Review**
- **Draft Early Childhood Strategy**
- **Draft Infrastructure Asset Management Plan 2024-2034**
- **Draft Event Management Policy**
- **Barossa Wellbeing Project**

Written request

Community members can write to Council on any Council policy, activity or service.

Staff Members

Community members can contact Council staff to discuss any issue relevant to Council.

Social Media

Community members can engage on The Barossa Council's Facebook page and Instagram

Elected Members

Community members can contact their Elected Members of Council to discuss any issue relevant to Council.

Your Say Barossa

Community members can provide feedback on specific Council engagements and consultations via our online engagement platform, Your Say Barossa at yoursay.barossa.sa.gov.au

Our engagement methods





Our Council

Communications and Marketing

In an ever evolving world we strive to connect with our community through various channels. These channels include Council's newsletters, printed newsletters, media releases, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, website, posters and flyers as well as physical signage throughout townships.

The Barossa Council Facebook page saw a **16.59%** increase in followers from the 23/24 financial year, with a total of **396 posts** over 24/25.

6,256
Facebook
followers

3,104
E-newsletter
subscribers

165,000
Website
Visitors

Over the 24/25 financial year we recorded **334,000** individual website visitors. Those visitors downloaded **45,700** documents and submitted **593** website forms.

Risk Management

We received **18** motor vehicle claims with an incurred cost of **\$172,539**.

Liability claims in relation to persons totalled **18** over the 24/25 financial year with an associated cost of **\$925**.

7 Property claims were received totalling **\$22,052**.

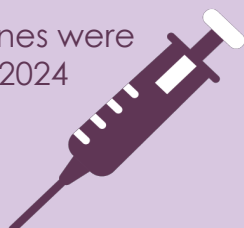
Customer request management

12,318
Requests
completed

606
Facility
Bookings

Immunisations

1,171 Student vaccines were administered in the 2024 calendar year.





Our Council



Animal management

Council is committed to responsible animal management to support the wellbeing of our community, pets, and local environment.

Our responsibilities include dog and cat registration, managing stray and wandering animals, investigating nuisance complaints, and promoting responsible pet ownership through education and compliance.



661

Dog customer requests



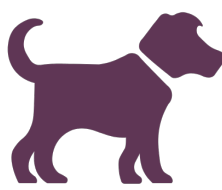
151

Dogs found and returned



1,088

Cats registered



6,028

Dogs registered



Community Microchipping Event

In March, Council partnered with Chipbliz to deliver a low-cost microchipping event.

The initiative supported responsible pet ownership by giving residents the opportunity to have their furry companions microchipped locally.

The event was well-received, with **40 dogs** successfully microchipped on the day, helping to improve pet safety and ensure lost pets can be reunited with their families more easily.

Love for libraries

Barossa Libraries continue to be a hub for community connection, offering workshops, education programs, craft groups, author talks and more in a safe, welcoming space. With 443 programs attracting 7,868 participants across all ages and interests, the libraries bring people together and strengthen community ties.

Library Members

6,885
active
library
members

1,003
new
library
members



177,966
collection loans

96,146
people
visited a branch

63,914
digital
loans





Our Community

Community Transport and Home Assist

A new series of community service handbooks were developed to provide up-to-date information for new and future participants. Covering Community Transport, Social Support, Home Assist and Domestic Assistance, the handbooks clearly present available services in an easy-to-read format for those seeking support.

6,861

Community Transport Volunteer Hours

5,609 community car trips

Home Assist

442 Home Assist clients

5,302 Home Assistance hours

1,488 shopping bus trips

256,767 volunteer driver kms

1,488 shopping bus trips

77 disability access trips



Community Assistance Scheme and Youth Grants

Council proudly supported a variety of community-based and youth-led projects that strengthened local connection and belonging.

The successful applicants including, community groups, sports clubs and organisations, delivered initiatives from new signage and tourism projects to events, equipment and education programs.

10
Community
Grants
\$20,766.59

15
Youth
Grants
\$3,000

Contractors Who Care

A campaign inspiring people to discover why being an Independent Contractor is "more than just a job", highlighted the value and opportunities of being part of the sector.

The campaign concluded with an information and networking session that drew a full house and inspired attendees to explore a job that not only offers flexibility for work-life balance, but also makes a positive difference in people's lives.



Talent on display

Barossa Community Men's Shed showed their skill and generosity of spirit following a request by the Barossa Vintage Festival committee.

Members created custom crates to hold food, produce, and wine for the historic Ziegenmarkt and built boxes presented to the Young Ambassadors.

The beautiful wine boxes were made from timber recycled from a 100-year-old cabinet donated by a local resident, the character and history of the wood making the final products even more special.



2,866
Community
Men's Shed
Hours



Our Community



Australia Day

Hundreds gathered at the Tanunda Show Hall on January 26 to reflect, respect and celebrate what it is to be Australian.

The community event had a strong focus on youth, with young people playing leading roles in making the morning a success.

From former Young Citizen Award recipients Ryan Walker Kluske, who performed the

Welcome to Country, and Casey Miles, who helped present Citizen of the Year Award; to Nuriootpa High School Grapevine Texas Sister City Study Tour participants helping to cook breakfast and young singer, Chayse Larsen entertaining the crowd, we were proud to shine a light on the next generation.

Citizen of the Year Awards

Our Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards again recognised the outstanding contributions made by members of our community.

Recipients for 2025 included Citizen of the Year, Bruce Hancock; Young Citizen of the Year, Jaimee Mustard; Award for Active Citizenship, Lyn and Geoff Hansen and Community Event of the Year, "Stars of Barossa", accepted by organiser, Charmaine Reimann.



Citizenship ceremonies

In line with our commitment to building a strong sense of community pride and participation in community building activities, we hold citizenship ceremonies at various times throughout the year, including Australia Day and Harmony Day.

As the authorised person to receive the pledge, Mayor Bim Lange was honoured to welcome new Australian citizens originating from far and wide, including India, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland, Sudan, Philippines, Uzbekistan, Mauritius, Peru, Zimbabwe and Hong Kong.



4
Public ceremonies

32
New Australian Citizens





Our Community

Barossa Regional Gallery

As preparations began for the construction of the Barossa Creative Industries Centre on Basedow Road, a re-imagined version of Barossa Regional Gallery found a new Tanunda location.

The Barossa Museum shopfront has been the venue for a pop-up Gallery and Shopfront since April, thanks to the generosity of Barossa Valley Archives & Historical Trust.

With both the Museum and Gallery dedicated to preserving and showcasing the Barossa's rich history and heritage, it has proven to be a fitting location to continue sharing Barossa stories and traditions.



Cookbook legacy continues

A new chapter in Barossa's food story was celebrated with the launch of Rolling Up Their Sleeves - a companion to the region's most enduring cookbook, 'The Barossa Cookery Book'.

With a tangible link to the Tanunda Soldiers' Memorial Hall and Roll of Honour, the new cookbook reconnects old and new, while highlighting the community value and legacy of the original volume.

79
events &
workshops

2,515
event &
workshop
attendees

4,777
visitors

1,257
items
sold



Volunteering Barossa and Light

Volunteering Barossa and Light is a collaborative community service in partnership with Light Regional Council. We match volunteer roles to align interests and skills to create a greater sense of connection within our communities.

During the 2024/25 financial year our volunteers provided a massive **24,166 hours**, which is equivalent to **\$1,376,253** in benefit to The Barossa Council and surrounding community. Our volunteers contribute to many areas of the organisation, support the wider community and bring with them diverse skill sets and experience.

National Volunteer Week recognition

A thank you event for National Volunteer Week celebrated the tireless efforts of those who contribute to Council led programs.

The theme of "Connecting Communities" was never more evident when over 130 people sat down together at Barossa Park to enjoy lunch and each other's company.

261

Registered
Council
volunteers



Tourism Services

Tourism is the backbone of our local economy, driving growth, opportunity and vibrancy across the Barossa. Council is committed to supporting events that not only celebrate our culture and community but deliver tangible economic benefits and position the region as a destination of choice.

In April, the Barossa took centre stage with Gather Round and the Barossa Vintage Festival, showcasing our world-class food, wine and hospitality. Gather Round alone generated an estimated \$8 million economic injection, while Council's Barossa Food and Wine Village (Festival of Footy) event transformed Tanunda's main street into a thriving festival hub with 7,000 attendees. Together, these events strengthened our economy, enhanced brand awareness, and positioned the Barossa as a must-visit destination.

\$192,709.15

accommodation
+ experience
bookings

50,780

face-to-face
enquiries

4,722

phone, email,
livechat
enquiries

430

business
supported through
membership
agreements

2852.75

Volunteer
Hours

Markets and Sales

80

Barossa Makers
supported

5

Barossa Made
Markets

\$206,910.20

Barossa Made Wares &
Food Pantry sales



Barossa Park a game-changer

The landmark \$45.7 million Barossa Park made a spectacular debut in 2025 AFL Gather Round, reinforcing the Barossa as a premier events destination.

Around 20,000 fans flocked to Barossa Park in April for two AFL blockbusters, set against the stunning backdrop of the Barossa's iconic rolling hills and vineyards. Initial estimates put the economic benefit to the Barossa at over \$8 million as 45 venues across the region celebrated the inaugural Festival of Footy and official launch of Barossa Park.

The joint initiative between The Barossa Council and the State Government has seen Lyndoch Recreation Park transformed into a multi-use destination in the heart of the world-renowned wine region.

The main building features a light-filled 300 seat event space, commercial kitchen, clubroom, change facilities and gym. The architecture includes a unique roofline and takes advantage of panoramic views through thoughtful orientation and expansive windows. The main oval, illuminated by 750 lux lighting, is complemented by a second oval and recreation green, new netball courts, nature-inspired playground and extensive landscaping.

Co-designed with local sporting and community groups, the precinct supports a wide range of users representing football, netball, tennis, little athletics, bowls and pigeon racing. Beyond AFL Gather Round, Barossa Park will be a regional destination that is much more than a sports venue, delivering a multi-use precinct that will bring attract events and festivals, and drive visitation to the State.

The benefits of the development - including as a conference venue - will significantly boost the regional economy, with potential for an additional 18,000 visitor stays in the Barossa each year.



\$4 million
invested in local
trades through
Barossa Park

Over 97% of all
works were supplied
by SA businesses

15,000 tubestocks
were grown at
Barossa
Bushgardens to
green the site

Clever design principles and energy efficient systems throughout the precinct are another drawcard for visitors who care about sustainable tourism.

"This landmark upgrade and new precinct will live on well beyond AFL Gather Round and I'm excited to see how it will benefit the community, and our great state, for years to come," said Premier Peter Malinauskas.

"My government was determined to include the Barossa in the AFL Gather Round experience, and thanks to this seriously impressive development, that is now of course a reality."

Barossa Mayor Bim Lange said Barossa Park represents Council's largest and fastest infrastructure build ever, constructed in under 12 months.

It benefited the regional economy through the use of local trades to the value of approximately \$4 million, with more than 97% of all works supplied by SA businesses.

"I couldn't be prouder of what has been achieved at this site in 11 short months in partnership with the Malinauskas Government, which will be a game-changer for our community and the regional economy," Mayor Lange said.

"We couldn't have scripted a better outcome for the Barossa, with two AFL games, A Festival of Footy and tens of thousands of footy fans enjoying the best the Barossa has to offer.

"What's more, our community will be the custodians of this marquee venue, ensuring recreation, social and tourism benefits for generations to come."



Our Economy

Texas Touchdown

What better way to renew the bonds of friendship with our Sister City, Grapevine Texas, than by showcasing our traditions, culture and hospitality during their visit to the Barossa, 24–30 April 2025, which coincided with the Barossa Vintage Festival.

The delegation immersed themselves in the architecture, art, history and culture of the region with visits to Barossa Museum, Hill & Son Grand Organ and Langmeil Lutheran Church; as well as enjoyed the fun of Ziegenmarkt and Vintage Festival Parade.

The delegates visited Nuriootpa High School to learn about unique programs, including wine and agriculture before visiting the Barossa Bushgardens, where Ngadjuri elder, Quenten Aguis welcomed them to country and provided a heartfelt insight into our First Nations heritage.

Paul W. McCallum, Executive Director of the Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau, praised the Sister City initiative's success and its potential for the future.

Key highlights included:

An interest in youth development and education, in particular the Barossa Young Ambassadors Program saw Grapevine Texas delegates present a \$3,000 cheque to 2025 Barossa Young Ambassador, Amber Perry to attend the 2025 Grapevine Grapefest, as part of a study tour.

The Barossa Vintage Festival Touch Down and Taste off, where American Football SA presented an exhibition match at the new Rugby Precinct, home of Barossa Rams Rugby Club.

Meet the Makers Trade Show at The Barossa Cellar showcasing amazing and diverse products, unique to the Barossa, with an opportunity for Grapevine Texas delegates to meet business owners, taste their goods and make valuable connections with trade and tourism.

ANZAC Day commemoration and wreath laying during the Dawn Service at Nuriootpa RSL, before touring regional historical sites and watching Aussie Rules in the ANZAC Day clash between Nuriootpa Rover Football Club and Angaston Football Club.



Barossa Bushgardens

Council continued its mission to build diversity in backyards through the Barossa Bushgardens' Native Plant giveaway with **2,000** plants given away as part of the annual initiative.

Eden Valley couple, Kevin and Debbie Davey won the title of Barossa's Best Native Garden. The couple reinvigorated their property, which was an 'empty acre', with native plants to create a sanctuary for wildlife.



More than 100 First Nations students from the Mid North gathered at the Barossa Bushgardens for a powerful day of learning and environmental action as part of Reconciliation Week.

Fast Facts

47,294

plants produced from seed

7,560

plants produced from cuttings

2,742

plants donated to schools, community groups and ratepayers

237

total species of plants in the Barossa Bushgardens

174

events hosted & delivered

4,348

event attendees

46

volunteers

11,107

volunteer hours

10,400

annual visitors





Our Environment

Waste Management

Council continues to encourage residents to take the 'waste less, recycle more' challenge with initiatives and incentives.

The "Declutter and Save" residential program encouraged people to dispose of unwanted and larger household items at a reduced cost with a kerbside collection service or waste voucher.

Over 1,000 local residents participated in the Garage Sale Trail initiative across 37 garage sales/stalls with 2,375 items sold or reused (42% of these items would have otherwise gone to landfill).

2,953
green waste
(tonnes)

2,007
recycling
(tonnes)

5,153
general waste
(tonnes)

Bins Serviced

161,774
green
waste
bins

256,448
recycling
bins

547,726
waste bins



Inspections

Wastewater Inspections	302
Litter Control	197
Food Inspections (routine)	141
Graffiti and Vandalism	32
Odours, fumes, spray drift, dust	28
Animals and insects	24
Food Complaints	16
Smoke Complaints	11
Non Fixed Machine Noise	10
Unsanitary Conditions	9

Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016

Three offences under the Act were expiated*

One Nuisance Abatement Notices or Litter Abatement Notices issued

One offence under the Act were prosecuted

*Under the Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016 there were **three** expiation notices issued for disposal of up to 50L of General Litter.



Fire Prevention

14,000 properties
 1 Fire permit application
 59 Customer Requests
 160 Caution Notices
 572 Compliance Notices issued

Investing in community facilities

Contemporary facilities, including new soccer changerooms and clubrooms at the Nuriootpa Centennial Park were completed as part of Council's ongoing investment in recreation and community facilities.

The \$6 million redevelopment of the precinct, directly benefits the Barossa United Football Club as well as other users. The redevelopment included \$1,034,562 million funding as part of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grant program.

The new facilities meet Football SA standards ensuring the regional-level precinct can meet both current demand and future growth of the sport.

\$2.95M

Barossa United Football Club Clubrooms construction

Valued project partners included Football SA, Nuriootpa Centennial Park Authority and Barossa United Football Club



Other projects include:

\$965,000 Baird Street Stormwater upgrade

\$725,000 Melrose Street Streetscape upgrade

\$220,000 Talunga Park lighting upgrade

\$265,000 Mt Pleasant Farmers Market kitchen renewal



Our Places

Sealing the way

Stage two of the multi-year Keyneton Road project was successfully completed in partnership with Mid Murray Council. A 2.4km gravel section of road was sealed, completing the next step in the multi-stage project which will create a continuous sealed link between Eden Valley and Keyneton areas to Moculta, Truro and Sturt Highway.

The sealing of Neldner Road, Tanunda has improved safety and traffic flow around the neighbouring school while also supporting access to the expanded recreation precinct. This successful project highlights the road's vital connectivity role for the Tanunda community.

\$1.85M
road
resealing



\$540,000
footpath
renewal

\$1.5M
rural road
resheeting



Planning and Development

\$165M
development
applications

1,308
Planning
Customer
Requests

154
Building
Customer
Requests

807 Development Applications

33 Land Division Applications

7 Crown Land Applications

Inspections

79 Compliance Inspections

33 Swimming Pool Inspections

130 Building Inspections (including
19 Building Fire Safety Committee
Inspections)



Customer Requests

Street maintenance **146**

Road and Footpath **554**

Park and Gardens **500**

Drainage **127**

Open space maintenance **168**

10
Heritage Grants
\$5,540

Council responsibility

Council is responsible for the administration of many Acts of Parliament (or parts of Acts), that impact on local residents and their properties. Council also has by-laws that regulate various matters, and impact local residents and their properties. In addition to legislation, Council's Development Plan has legal powers in determining types of development and how land is used.

A full list of by-laws can be viewed on Council's website www.barossa.sa.gov.au.

The Council decision making structure consists of:



The Chief Executive Officer has, in turn, sub-delegated certain powers and functions to qualified Council staff to make decisions. Council has made direct delegations to the Barossa Assessment Panel under the *Development Act 1993* and *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. The delegations and sub-delegations are listed in Council's Delegation Register and are reviewed by Council, as required under Section 44 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Act

Matters of corruption, serious and systemic misconduct and maladministration must be reported by Public Officers, which includes all Elected Members, Council employees and contractors, to the Office for Public Integrity for investigation. All new staff receive instruction in ICAC reporting.

Public Interest Disclosure

Council remains committed to the principles of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and encourages the disclosure of information in the public interest, in line with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*. Disclosures of Public Interest Information, which consists of Environmental and Health Information or Public Administration Information, can be made to a relevant authority, including Council's responsible officers.

Protections are provided to those who make a disclosure, including:

Immunity from liability

Protection of the person's identity

Protection against victimisation

Protection against hindering, obstructing or preventing persons from making a disclosure

Details of Council's responsible officers and Public Interest Disclosure policy and process is publicly available at barossa.sa.gov.au

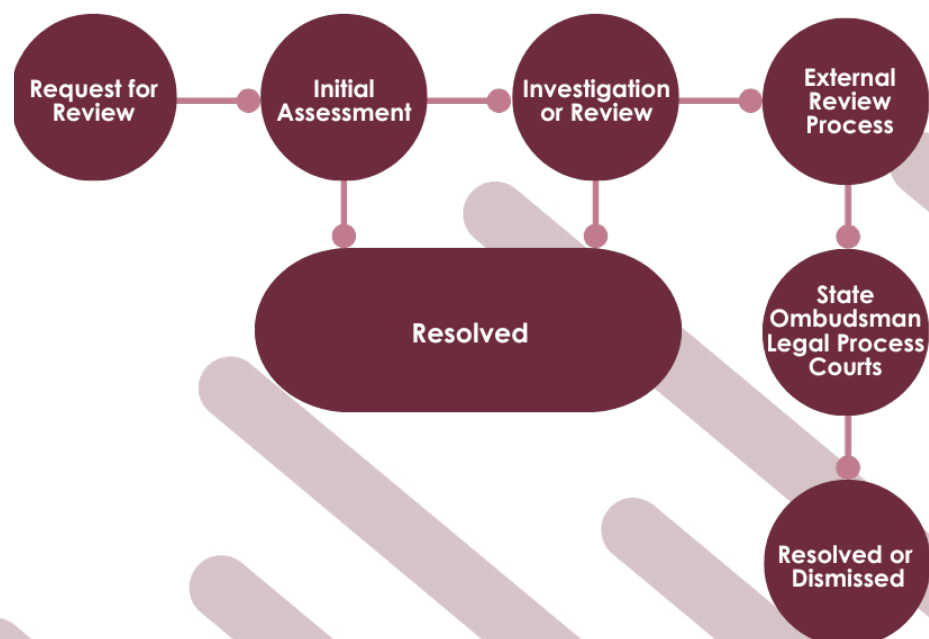
Internal review of Council decisions

Council is committed to transparent decision-making processes and to providing access to a fair and objective process for the internal review of its decisions.

Complaints may arise as a result of dissatisfaction with a decision about a policy, process, service or fee. All attempts will be made to resolve complaints quickly and efficiently without the need for formal applications for review to be lodged.

The processes are established under Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and provide guidance for dealing with formal requests for internal review of decisions of Council, its employees and other people acting on behalf of Council.

During this reporting period, Council received **no formal requests** for internal review of a decision. The following diagram demonstrates the processes available for the review of Council decisions:



Barossa Assessment Panel

The Barossa Council has established a Council Assessment Panel to be known as the Barossa Assessment Panel (BAP), for the purpose of acting as delegate of the Council in its role as a "Relevant Authority" pursuant to Section 83 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

The BAP has its own Terms of Reference and Operating Procedures. The BAP makes decisions independently from Council. Members of the BAP are appointed by Council as follows:

Members

Geoff Parsons – Presiding Member
Graham Burns – Independent Member
Rachel Knuckey – Independent Member
Sarah Elding – Independent Member
Jane Evans – Elected Member Representative

Deputy Member

Peter O'Dwyer – Deputy Independent Member
Tony Hurn – Deputy Elected Member Representative

Assessment Manager

Aaron Curtis

The Independent Members terms end on 31 December 2026. Assessment Panel Members can be appointed for up to two years and reappointed thereafter.

Audit and Risk Committee

Council maintains an Audit and Risk Committee to provide independent oversight of key governance functions. This includes monitoring the involvement of management and external auditors in the financial reporting process; reviewing the approach to business risk management; and making recommendations on how Council's corporate, financial, governance and legal responsibilities are fulfilled.

As part of a recent review, Council resolved at its August 2024 meeting to adopt a revised structure for the Committee, transitioning to a fully independent membership of four. At its meeting on 28 January 2025, Council endorsed the appointment of a fifth independent member. This change provides greater flexibility and expands the range of expertise supporting the Committee's work.

The Audit and Risk Committee now comprises five independent members, all appointed through a skills-based selection process.

Members

Mr Ian Swan
Ms Wendy Haydon
Mr David Paprzycki
Ms Christine Hahn
Ms Ellen Ewing (27 January 2023 - 27 January 2025)

Independent

Mr Peter Brass (Chair)

At the Council meeting held 28 January 2025 Council appointed, Ms Wendy Haydon, Mr David Paprzycki, Ms Christine Hahn and Mr Peter Brass for a two-year term with Ms Ellen Ewing concluding her term on the 27th of January 2025.

Meetings are held at least four times a year – timing dependent on work in progress - and have also been attended by the Chief Executive Officer, Manager Financial Services, Senior Accountant, Deputy CEO & Director, Corporate Services, Strategy & Innovation, Manager Corporate Services and representatives from Galpins Accountants, Auditors and Business Consultants.

Refer Appendix for the Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Auditor Independence

Audit fees paid/payable to the Council's external auditor Galpins totalled \$28,000 in 2024-25, including \$3,000 for the audit of the Nuriootpa Centennial Park Authority. No other services were provided by Galpins throughout the year.

National Competition Policy

Council is required to report on the extent to which activities of the Council have been subject to the National Competition Policy.

Council established a subsidiary under Section 42 of the *Local Government Act 1999* to undertake the management, care and control of the Nuriootpa Centennial Park Authority.

This is the only subsidiary of Council undertaking significant business activities. No new by-laws restricting competition were proposed during the reporting period, nor was any structural reform of public monopolies necessary. No complaints were received for the reporting period. The Subsidiary Board reviews competitive neutrality matters to the Authority.

Competitive Tendering Arrangements

Council is required to report on its use of Competitive Tendering Arrangements and other mechanisms that support the cost-effective delivery of services.

Council's procurement framework adopts a comprehensive, end-to-end approach to managing the procurement lifecycle. Central to this framework is the Procurement Policy, which provides principle-based guidance aligned with Section 49 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and recognised best practice standards in procurement.

The policy outlines key principles including probity, accountability, responsibility, fairness, equity, consistency, and the achievement of effective outcomes. It is publicly available for inspection at Council's Principal Office and online at barossa.sa.gov.au.

A range of administrative processes provide operational guidance for the practical implementation of the Procurement Policy including:

1
Procurement
Planning, Sourcing
and Selection
Process

2
Purchasing
Process

3
Contractor and
Contract
Management
Process



Procurement Methodology Thresholds

All purchases up to the value of \$250,000 can be procured via Council's Panel Contracts in the first instance. In the event that Goods, Works or Services are not serviced by Council's Panel Contracts, or it is deemed prudent to go out to the broader market, or the value of the purchase exceeds \$250,000, the following thresholds apply:

TABLE 1

Except where Table 2 applies

Value of Purchase	Method of Procurement	Approver
Up to \$20,000	Direct purchase based on advertised price or written quotation	As per Council Delegation Register
\$20,001 - \$100,000	Three written quotations or one written quotation from Panel	As per Council Delegation Register
\$100,001 - \$250,000	Open tender or select tender (minimum three tenderers) where justification exists or three written quotations from panel	Relevant Director, unless determined by the CEO that the tender is of commercial or community sensitivity whereby approval must be via the CEO
\$250,001 - \$1,000,000	Open tender or select tender (minimum three tenderers) where justification exists	CEO, unless determined by CEO that the tender is of commercial or community sensitivity whereby approval must be via Council
\$1,000,001 and above	Open tender	Council

TABLE 2

Procurement thresholds under The Big Project or other capital projects approved in the budget applies

Value of Purchase	Method of Procurement	Approver
\$1,000,001 - \$4,000,000	Open tender	CEO
\$4,000,001 and above	Open tender	Council



Community Land Management Plans

Under Section 193 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act), all local government land that is owned by Council or under Council's care and control (excluding roads) is classified as Community Land. Section 207 of the Act requires Council to develop and maintain a Community Land Register, which is available for inspection on Council's website barossa.sa.gov.au.

Section 196 of the Act requires Council to develop management plans for all Community Land. Categories of Community Land area are not specifically defined in the Act, but for the purposes of management plans, include areas that are set aside for community use or conservation purposes.

All queries about Council's Community Land can be referred to Council's Customer Support Team at barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au.

Current Community Land Management Plans are:

1. **Council Reserves and Gardens (Developed)**
2. **Council Reserves and Gardens (Undeveloped or with minor improvements)**
3. **Recreation Reserves**
4. **Institutes and Community Halls**
5. **Car Park Land**
6. **Cemetery Land**
7. **Established Trails, Walkways**



Community Plan

Council's Community Plan 2024-2044 is Council's twenty-year aspirational Strategic Management Plan. The Community Plan sets the long-term vision, mission and values of Council, and they are supported by goals and strategic outcomes.

The Community Plan also articulates the type of activity Council will be involved in which is to lead, provide/regulate, advocate or facilitate/partner to achieve strategies and goals of the plan. The plan aligns to the Environment, Social and Government strategic management framework.

The plan has five theme areas **Our Community, Our Economy, Our Environment, Our Places** and **Our Council**. The Community Plan is linked directly and informs our Corporate Plan which is Council's four year rolling administrative delivery, service level and planning document. The plan is fully reviewed within two years of a Council general election.

The Community Plan 2024-2044 was adopted by Council on 20 August 2024.

Corporate Plan

Council's Corporate Plan supports the Community Plan. It is not a strategic management plan under the *Local Government Act* but rather a critical plan outlining how Council and its administration will deliver the Barossa Community Plan 2024-2044.

The Plan connects our strategic directions to on-the-ground operations and service delivery in support of the achievement of Council's vision. The plan is reviewed annually. The Corporate Plan is a rolling four-year plan and is reviewed and updated annually. The latest 2025-2029 update was approved by Council at its 17 June 2025 meeting.



Asset Management Plans

Council's Asset Management Plans align the expected service levels for the maintenance and replacement of assets, which service the community, to the long term financing and annual program requirements.

The Asset Management Plans are critical to understanding the sustainability of Council's asset and financial base and that the levels of service are appropriately funded.

The plans are reviewed and updated as data and information are collected for asset classes on a rolling basis. The plan is fully reviewed within two years of a Council general election.



Long Term Financial Plan

Our Long-Term Financial Plan aligns the expected costs associated with our service levels, on all components of the organisation, with revenue expectations and determines if current policy settings are financially sustainable as measured by the prescribed financial indicators. These indicators reflect the operating position of Council, how it is performing against its asset management needs and plans and its debt levels for a 10-year period.

The plans are reviewed and updated as data and information are collected every year.

Local Economic Development Plan

The Local Economic Development Plan developed in 2022 is a key document that supports the Community Plan and is currently under internal review. It is not a strategic management plan under the *Local Government Act* but is critical to supporting our role in economic development outcomes.

A five-year Action Plan with a sharper focus on Council's investment, planning, facilitation, and marketing activities has been produced and is also under review with recent dedicated resourcing now in place to support the plans implementation.

The strategies and actions complement the strategies in the Barossa Community Plan 2024-2044.

Regional Public Health Plan

The Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan for the Councils of Adelaide Plains, Barossa, Gawler, and Light was reviewed and adopted in 2022.

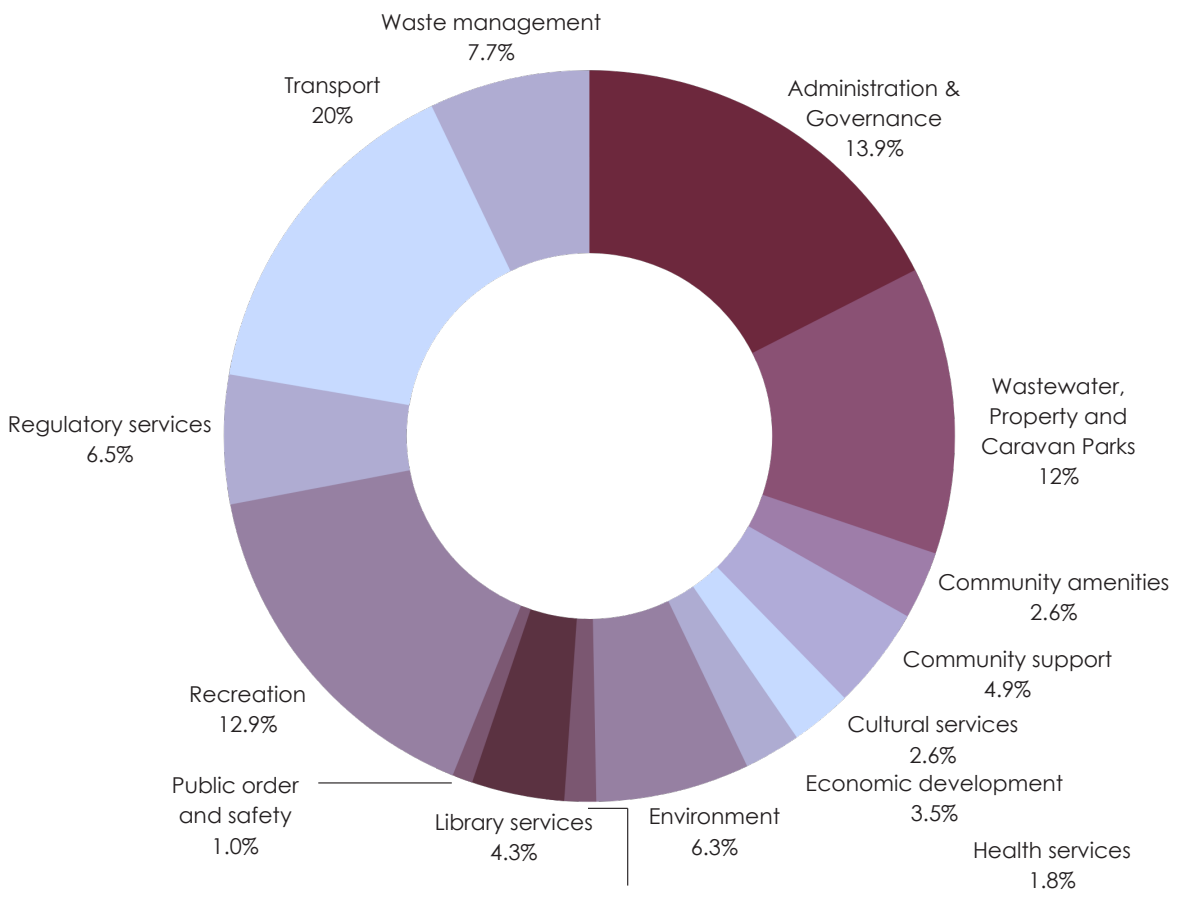
As a Strategic Management Plan, it aligns with Council's Community Plan by guiding investment and activities in safe, health, resilient and preventative health services. Activities of the plan are incorporated into the Corporate Plan and business as usual activities, or where applicable, to strategic actions.

The plan is fully reviewed within two years of a Council general election.

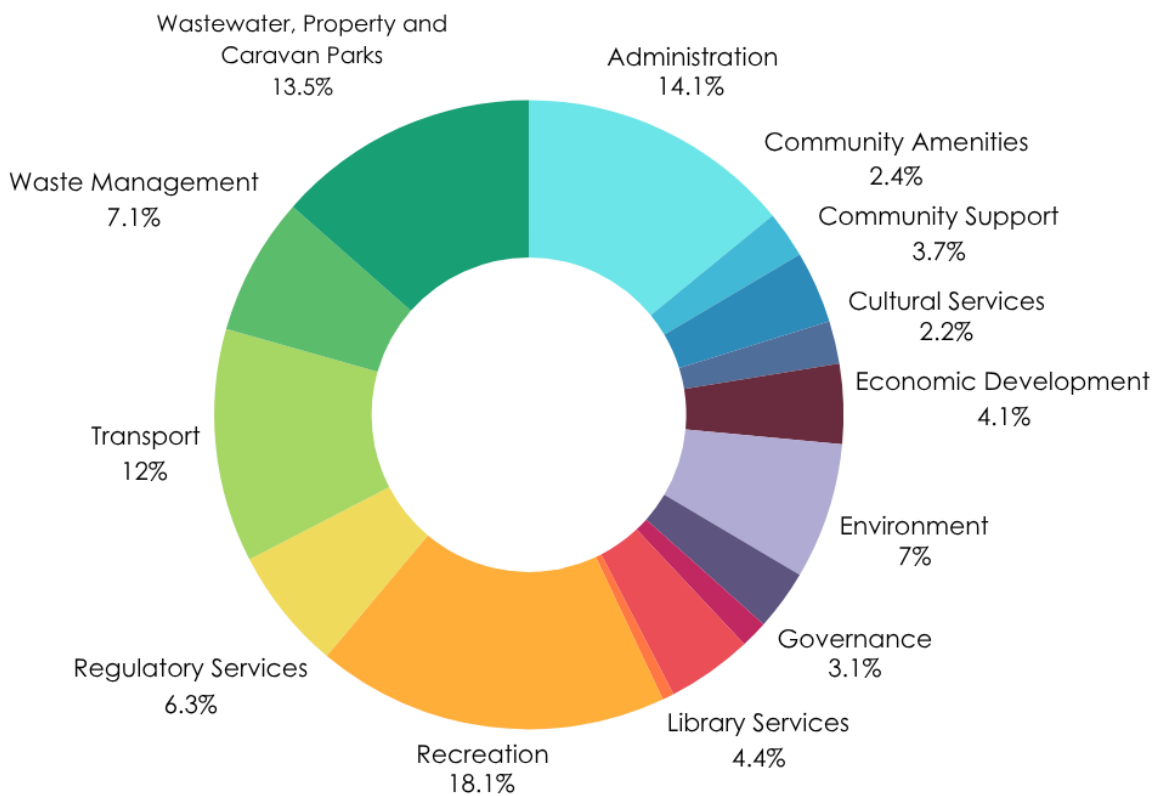


Initiatives Performance

2024-25 Target



2024-25 Result



2024-25 Key Activities Performance

Key Strategic Action	Service Area
Commence implementation of agreed structure and service review outcomes from 2023-24.	Underway
Complete the review of the statutory review of asset management plans	Completed
Undertake a review of Caravan Park service levels, policy settings and service delivery model – carried over from 2023-2024 financial year.	Deferred
Undertake review of land availability and determine future land needs.	Underway
Commence agreed implementation of outcomes of an adopted Community Wellbeing Plan.	Underway
Implement and adopt the Customer Surveying Strategy actions	Deferred
Commence implementation of agreed outcomes from review of Economic Development services including tourism and event services undertaken in 2023-24 – phase 1.	Completed
Commence implementation of adopted Council Event Management Framework.	Underway
Review the requirements for an electronic bookings management system and provide recommendations for future improvements – carried forward from 2023-24.	Completed
Commence 18-month review of community land management plans, registers and undertake engagement needs.	Deferred
Commence implementation of agreed Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy actions.	Approved Phase 1 Strategy implementation commencing 2025-26
Continue to plan and advocate for infrastructure provisions and development policies that align with Council's strategic vision for the Concordia Growth Area in the proposed Master Planning and Code Amendment.	Completed
Commence implementation of the outcomes of the Strategic Directions Review of the Barossa Character District Overlay Code Amendment.	Approved Phase 1 Strategy implementation commencing 2025-26
Undertake review of stage 2 of the Library Review outcomes for consideration by the Executive Leadership Team and Council.	Deferred
Commence implementation of high yield actions arising from the agreed Carbon Management Plan.	Deferred
Continue to partner with industry to achieve a long term sustainable water supply and security to the Barossa.	Ongoing
Continue to provide Social Inclusion training for all staff across the Organisation and coordinate a 'Whole of Organisation' approach to social inclusion.	Underway
Continue to develop ongoing relationships with Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kurna Nations and potential pathways for reconciliation and recognition.	Ongoing
Undertake review of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan to align with the new State level plan.	Underway

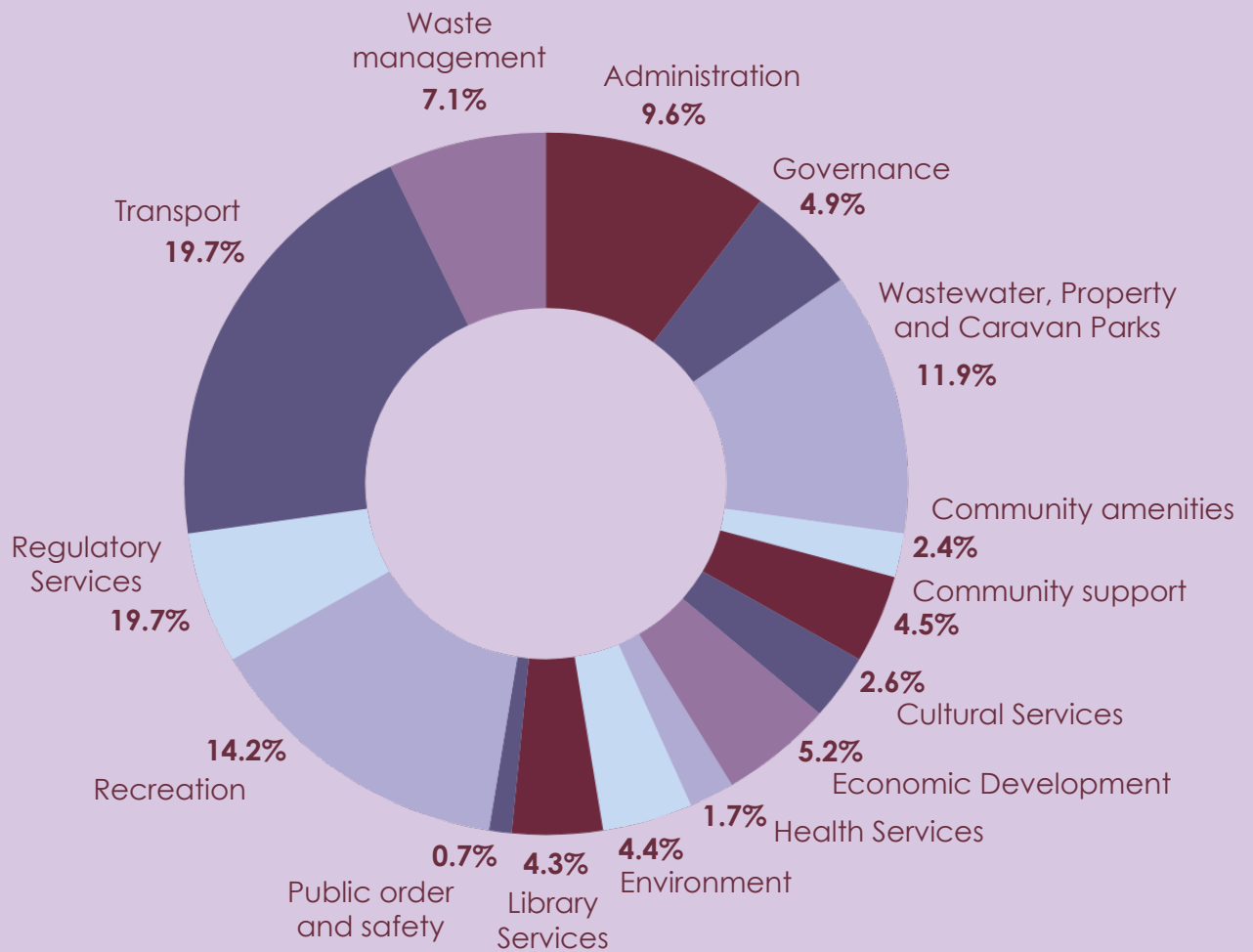
Undertake structural review of Volunteer Service model and delivery service.	Completed
Analyse, negotiate and execute a new waste management contract renew or commence market approach.	Completed
Continue to implement system, infrastructure, training and other needs to protect Council system and data through implementation of the Cyber Security plan and highlighted investments for 2024-25.	Completed
Modernise TechnologyOne through implementation of HR and Budgeting Systems.	Completed
Complete Elector Representation Review.	Completed
Implement Enterprise Budgeting module in TechnologyOne.	Completed
Complete a review of the Office of the Mayor and CEO function, structure, service delivery model (carried forward from 2023-24).	Completed
Complete automation of policy and process review systems and processes.	Not commenced
Implement outcomes of 2023-24 review of Contractor and Contract Register requirements and identify new software solution for electronic contract and contractor management.	Completed
Develop rolling Strategic Forward procurement plan for key areas of spend.	Completed
Implement and embed amendments approved by Council from the review of the Community Plan from 2023-24.	Completed
Continue to plan for, collaborate and advocate on matters related to the Concordia growth area development aligned with the State program and Council project plan.	Completed

2024-25 Non-Financial Measures

Indicator	Description	Target	Actual
Our Environment			
Development Performance	% of development applications decided within timeframe	90%	88.33%
Waste Disposal Rate	Percentage of waste disposed to landfill	Less than 65%	50.95%
Recycling Rate	Percentage of waste recycled	More than 35%	49.05%
Our Community			
Library Visits	The number of library visits and participation within the Barossa Council Area	5 visits per capita	3.6 visits per capita
Mutual Liability Claims	Number of successful Mutual Liability Claims against Council	3 or less per annum	4
Our Places			
Asset Spending Ratio	Ratio of asset expenditure on renewal, replacement and upgraded assets and maintenance on assets	Between 100% and 150% Depreciation	*data not available
Our Economy			
Tourism Customer Satisfaction with Visitor Information Services	Average Customer Satisfaction Rating	4 or above	4.7
Visitor Information Centre Bookings	Annual Booking Revenue (Accommodation/Tours/Tickets)	100% of Budget	80%
Strategic and Business Planning			
LGA KPI Audit Action Plan	Percentage of KPI Audit Actions Complete	90%	100%
LGA Risk Review	Percentage risk review conformance	90%	100%
Operational Expenditure Against Budget	Actual Operating Expenditure as a % of Budgeted Operating Expenditure	100%	100.8%
Capital Expenditure Against Budget	Actual Capital Expenditure as a percentage of Budgeted Capital Expenditure	90%	91.3%

*Data not available in 24-25. System report under reconstruction due to new financial system.

2025-26 Expenditure by function (\$53.078m)



2025-26 Key Activities

Key Strategic Action	Service Area
Support the build and prepare for commissioning of the new Creative Industries Centre and enact the approved strategic and operational plans including retention of local history and heritage.	CS2-1 and CS14-1 Arts, Culture and Heritage
Undertake a review of Caravan Park service levels, policy settings and service delivery model – carried over from 2024-2025 financial year	CS4-1 Caravan Parks
Implement approved Transition Plan for NCPA into Council operations	CS4-2 Caravan Parks
Commence implementation of outcomes of the Community Development and Governance Framework	CS6-1 Community
Continue to partner with industry to achieve a long-term sustainable water supply and security to the Barossa	S10-1 and CS17-1 Economic Development and Natural Resources

2025-26 Key Activities

Key Strategic Action	Service Area
Develop and identify market positioning for large event attraction based on Brand Barossa and infrastructure investment opportunities.	CS11-1 Events
Review the requirements for an electronic bookings management system and provide recommendation for future improvements – carried forward from 2024-25.	CS12-1 Facilities and Community Land
Development of Disaster Management Plan for Library and Gallery collections.	CS14-2 Heritage
Commence implementation of endorsed priorities and resourcing needs as agreed Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy actions commencing with employment land provision needs in 2025-26.	CS15-1 and BS13-1 Land Use and Development
Commence implementation of planning, infrastructure, land division and operational needs to support Concordia Growth Area.	CS15-2 Land Use and Development
Continue to advocate for implementation of the outcomes of the Strategic Directions Review of the Barossa Character District Overlay Code Amendment	CS15-3 Land Use and Development
Continue to develop ongoing relationships with Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kurna Nations and potential pathways for reconciliation and recognition	CS19-1 Social Inclusion
Complete business case for core system replacement and commence implementation of approved outcomes.	BS1-1 Business Technology
Commence preparation and implementation of legislative requirements for November 2026 Local Government Elections	BS4-1 Council and Committees
Complete final components of a review of the Office of the Mayor and CEO function, structure, service delivery model (part carried forward from 2024-25).	BS7-1 Governance
Implement the agreed training and development framework (carried over from 2024-25).	BS10-1 People and Culture
Develop rolling strategic forward procurement plan for key areas of spend.	BS11-1 Procurement



2025-26 Non-Financial Measures




Indicator	Description	Target
Theme 1 - Our Community		
Library Visits	The number of library visits and participation within the Barossa Council	5 visits per capita
Mutual Liability Claims	Number of successful Mutual Liability Claims against Council	3 or less per annum
Customer Request Completion Rate	Number of completed customer requests	90%
Community Support Program - Transport	Number of outputs - one way trips	Minimum 4477
Community Support Program - Domestic Assistance	Number of outputs - hours	Minimum 3058
Community Support Program - Home Maintenance and Repairs	Number of outputs - hours	Minimum 3509
Community Support Program - Sector Support and Development	Activity Work Plan	Completed
Community Support Program - Group Social Support	Number of outputs - hours	Minimum 5646
Community Support Program - Individual Social Support	Number of outputs - hours	Minimum 260
Theme 2 - Our Economy		
Tourism Customer Satisfaction with Visitor Information Services	Average Customer Satisfaction Rating	4 or above
Visitor Information Centre Bookings	Annual Booking Revenue (Accommodation/Tours/Tickets)	100% of Budget
Events	At least three key regional, state or national events hosted annually	3 or above
Theme 3 - Our Environment		
Recycling Rate	Percentage of waste recycled	More than 35%
Waste Disposal Rate	Percentage of waste disposed to landfill	Less than 65%
Theme 4 - Our Places		
Development Performance	% of development applications determined within statutory time frames	90%
Asset Spending Ratio Ratio	Ratio of asset expenditure on renewal, replacement and upgraded assets and maintenance on assets	Between 100% and 150% of depreciation
Theme 5 - Our Council		
LGA KPI Audit Action Plan	Percentage of KPI Audit Actions Complete	90%
LGA Risk Review	Percentage risk review conformance	90%
Operating Delivery	Actual Operating Expenditure as a percentage of Budgeted Operating Expenditure	95%
Capital Program Delivery	Actual Capital Expenditure as a percentage of Budgeted Capital Expenditure	92%

Key Financial Performance Indicators

Council has a number of Key Financial Performance Indicators (KPIs) which measure the impact of the annual budget in Councils financial position




Key Financial Performance Indicator 1: Operational Result (\$'000)

Council has set the following target - To achieve an operating break-even or better position, over a ten year period.

Year	2022/23 Actual \$'0'000	2023/24 Actual \$'0'000	2024/25 Q3 Forecast \$'0'000	2024/25 Actual \$'0'000
Result	949	(1,139)	(891)	NEED
Underlying Result	Adjusted for early financial grant payments made in 22/23 947			
Status				NEED




Key Performance Indicator 2: Operating Surplus/(Deficit) Ratio

Expresses the projected Operating Surplus/(Deficit) result as a percentage of general rate revenue. Council has set the following target - To achieve an operating surplus ratio of between -2% to 10%

Year	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Q3 Forecast	2024/25 Actual
Result	2.1%	(2.5%)	(1.8)	NEED
Underlying Result	Adjusted for early financial grant payments made in 22/23 2.0%			
Status				NEED




Key Performance Indicator 3-1: Net Financial Liabilities (\$'000)

Council has set the following target - Councils level of net financial liabilities is no greater than its annual operating revenue and not less than zero

Year	2022/23 Actual \$'0'000	2023/24 Actual \$'0'000	2024/25 Q3 Forecast \$'0'000	2024/25 Actual \$'0'000
Result	9,238	17,169	33,583	NEED
Status				NEED




Key Performance Indicator 3-2: Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

Expresses the projected Net Financial Liabilities as a percentage of total operating revenue for each year. It is Council policy (ad industry best practice) that this ratio shall not exceed 100%. Council has set the following target - Net financial liabilities ratio is greater than zero but less than 100% of total operating revenue.

Year	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Q3 Forecast	2024/25 Actual
Result	20%	37%	66.1%	NEED
Status				NEED

Key Performance Indicator 4: Asset Renewal Funding Ratio

Expresses the rate by which assets are wearing out and being replaced by comparing capital outlays on renewal/replacement to the Infrastructure Asset Management Plans. Council has set the following target - Capital outlays on renewing/replacing assets net of proceeds from sale of replaced assets is greater than 80% but less than 110% of Infrastructure Asset Management Plans

Year	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Q3 Forecast	2024/25 Actual
Result	108%	123%	107.5%	NEED
Status				NEED

How to contact us

43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa, 5355

PO Box 187, Nuriootpa

barossa.sa.gov.au

08 8563 8444

barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au



The Barossa Council