NOTICE OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday 18 August 2026
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa,
commencing at 5:30pm.

A recording of the meeting will be available to view on the Council's website.

Martin McCarthy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

A G E N D A

Welcome by Mayor

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

Apologies

Nil

Not Present

Nil

Leave of Absence

Nil

2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of previous meetings – for confirmation:

2.1.1 Council meeting held on Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 5:30pm

2.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

2.2.1 Twin Creek Windfarm Development - Withdrawal of Application 5

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

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Nil

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Nil

9. URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 5:30pm

11. CLOSURE

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.2.1 TWIN CREEK WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT - WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION

Author: Senior Manager Development Services
26/51551

In March 2025, Council made a submission to the State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) in relation to the Twin Creek Wind Farm and Energy Storage Project – RES Australia Pty Ltd.

Correspondence has now been received from the Department for Housing and Urban Development, advising that RES Australia (the proponent) has formally withdrawn the application from further assessment (Refer *Attachment 1*).

Should a similar development be proposed in the future, it would need to be lodged and considered under the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023*.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Advice from DHUD - Crown Development Application by RES Australia for Twin Creek Windfarm and BESS Project withdrawn

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

From: DHUD:Crown Impact Assessment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Crown Development Application by RES Australia for Twin Creek Windfarm and BESS Project
Date: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 12:56:50 PM
Attachments: image001.png

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

OFFICIAL

Dear Representor

Thank you for your public submission received in Mar-Apr 2025 in relation to the Twin Creek Windfarm and BESS project.

Since your submission was received, the proponent had been seeking to resolve several issues in relation to the development (with the assessment placed on hold).

On 27 July 2026, RES Australia (the proponent) advised the Department that it was formally withdrawing the development application from further assessment.

Therefore, the crown sponsored planning assessment commenced under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* **has concluded.** No further action is required on your part.

Due to legislative changes introduced in mid-2024, any similar proposal (for a renewable energy development) in the future, would need to be lodged and considered under the *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023*.

Kinds Regards

Crown and Impact Assessment
Planning and Building
Department for Housing and Urban Development
T 1800 752 664 • **E** DHUD.CrownImpactAssessment@sa.gov.au>
Level 10, 83 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5000 • PO Box 1815, Adelaide SA 5001

The Department for Housing and Urban Development acknowledges First Nation people as the Traditional Owners of South Australian land and waters and we extend our respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We value and recognise the ongoing cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship First Nations peoples have with these lands and waters and the continuing importance of this today.

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Mayor's Report - August Meeting 2026

26/50056

JULY AND AUGUST 2026

20/07/2026	Attended the Eden Valley Institute Business Meeting.
21/07/2026	Signing of the Social Infrastructure Deeds for the Concordia Development.

Pictured with CEO Martin McCarthy

David de Vries – 20 Years of Service to Local Government
David has served on The Barossa Council since 2003 and during this time served as Deputy Mayor. David has been a strong advocate for major local government projects such as the Big Project including Council's recreational facilities and other community initiatives. David has a strategic long-term approach to Growth & Infrastructure Planning to help coordinate long-term land-use and infrastructure priorities in the region. David is also well-known in creative circles as a filmmaker, comic artist, director and educator.

Pictured with Cr David de Vries

Suzanne Mann – Williamstown Memorial Hall – 10 Years

Suzanne participated in the first Community Council Meetings held at the Williamstown War Memorial Hall as a youth representative at the age of 16. Suzanne was one of the first members of the Williamstown Amateur Players Theatre Group and has been a member for almost 36 years. Suzanne became an active participant in the Hall meetings roughly 30 years ago, progressively taking on more responsibility within the hall and took over as the official caretaker, assuming responsibility for the cleaning at first and then also the booking process on behalf of Council.

Louise Mason – Barossa Bushgardens – 10 Years

Louise is the legend behind the Barossa Community Labyrinth. She brought together a group of local people, advocated, raised funds, planned and designed until the completion of the labyrinth was achieved in 2018. The 9-year project was full of many twists and turns, but it was worth the effort.

Many people visiting the Bushgardens enjoy a relaxing walk or can join one of the facilitated walks, organised by Louise or one of her volunteer helpers. Louise is also part of the Barossa Bushgardens Section 41 Committee, contributing her wealth of knowledge, ensuring the Barossa Bushgardens follows the path to a bright future.

Pictured with Suzanne Mann

Pictured with Louise Mason

22/07/2026 Attended an event for Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement signing between 1847 Winery (SA) Pty Ltd and Tangshan Haitai New Energy Technology Co., Ltd.

Pictured with Owner and Chairman Australian 1847 Winery (SA), Arthur Wang
and
Chairman China Tangshan Haitian New Energy Technology Co, Wang Yong

25/07/2026 Attended the SA v WA Country Match Presentations at Barossa Park.

27/07/2026 A meeting was held with SA Water, featuring representatives from SA Water and CEO Martin McCarthy. This meeting provided an opportunity to discuss major projects and programs undertaken by SA Water, including the Concordia Development. This meeting covered critical path linkages between the three reservoirs and discussed tourism opportunities with future eco-tourism development at the Williamstown Oval.

Radio Interview with ABC Radio regarding the signing of the Concordia Social Infrastructure Deeds.

Attended the Eden Valley Institute Annual General Meeting. Deputy Mayor Jane Evans and Councillor Don Barrett were also in attendance. Whilst the Eden Valley Institute is not Council owned, it was interesting to attend and gain an understanding of the challenges and issues facing the local community.

31/07/2026 Trail ride through the Southern Barossa from Mount Pleasant to Williamstown as part of mapping work being undertaken by the

Economic Activation portfolio to update costings for the Great Australian Wine Trail sections within The Barossa Council by Tredwell Management Services. Economic Development and Strategy Lead, Heidi Helbig also attended the ride.

1/08/2026 Attended Stars of Barossa which was another extraordinary fundraising event and raising over $119,000 for the charity *Spoke to a Bloke*.

4/08/2026 Attended the Tanunda Bowling Club with Principal Engineer, Steve Kaesler and club representative for discussion around the layout of the carpark and timing for construction.

7/08/2026 Meeting with Minister for Tourism and Climate, Environment and Water, Emily Bourke MLC and SA Tourism CEO, Emma Terry with

Senior Manager Economic Activation and Strategy, Elaine Burridge, Manager Visitor Economy and Events, Jo Seabrook and Economic Development and Strategy Lead, Heidi Helbig. We took the group to Trial Hill Lookout to emphasise the importance of the project's scenic tourism and further eco-tourism development opportunities. We also discussed opportunities for Barossa Park linkages between the reservoirs and an eco-tourism strategy for Williamstown Oval. Other discussions focused on the Council's tourism role and how we can further drive economic tourism benefits for the region.

Pictured with Minister for Tourism and Climate, Environment and Water, Emily Bourke MLC at Steingarten Lookout.

10/08/2026

Invitation to attend the VIP Collingrove Hill Climb to promote up to $1m in facility upgrades where media and other VIP guests had the opportunity to try out the track.

Pictured with General Manager of the Sporting Car Club of SA, Chris Frith

Interview with Channel 9 regarding upgrades to Collingrove Hill Climb.

Attended the Williamstown Action Group, along with Manager Assets and Capital Delivery, Matt Parkin and Senior Manager

	People and Culture, Narelle Lane which gave an opportunity to present some of the future direction of some of the small town groups. Councillor Don Barrett was also in attendance.
11/08/2026	Invitation to attend the Sporting Car Club of SA launch of their new brand and the future vision for Collingrove including facility upgrades, the proposed clubhouse and opportunities to expand the venue beyond traditional motorsport. This event included a media panel session with discussion around the future direction and opportunity for tourism and major events the sporting club is investigating in the Barossa. Senior Manager Economic Activation and Strategy, Elaine Burridge was also in attendance.

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 'BIN THERE, CHECKED THAT' - WASTE EDUCATION INITIATIVE CLOSURE REPORT

Author: Sustainability Officer
26/48213

At the 18 March 2025 Council Meeting, Council endorsed a grant funding agreement with Green Industries SA (GISA) to undertake visual inspections of red and green bins at the kerbside of 200 households and test the effectiveness of different feedback loops in maximising food waste diversion (2022-26/653).

The initiative was branded to community as 'Bin there, checked that' and it ran for 10 months from mid-August 2025 – early June 2026. Over this period, bins were inspected four times with feedback about what was observed and education about the green organics bin provided in letter boxes. A dedicated webpage was also developed for the initiative.

KESAB delivered the program with the methodology and outcomes detailed in Attachment 1. The 200 households were selected from 2 townships. 3 households (1.5%) asked to opt out during the program.

Both Townships showed improvement in food waste disposal with less visible food waste in red waste bins.

There was a good response to the survey delivered at the end of the program with a return rate of 27.5% and mostly positive responses.

53% of respondents indicated that they are putting more food waste in the green organics bin since the start of the program and 52% are now more aware of what food they throw out. A copy of the written comments from the survey are in Attachment 2. All households selected for the initiative were sent a thank you letter at the end of the program to close the communication loop (Attachment 3).

The grant will be acquitted when the final part of this funding agreement is finalised, which is to facilitate a local campaign (print and social media) with local people showing how they use their green organics bins for food waste to encourage their neighbours to do the same. The assets for this campaign are in development now and will be delivered in August and September 2026.

There are many benefits to getting food waste out of landfill including reduced waste disposal costs. A 5% reduction equates to about $20,000 per annum in saved Solid Waste Levy fees. Food waste placed in the green organics bin is turned into compost for reuse instead of being sent to landfill, where it decomposes and produces methane, a greenhouse gas and community carbon emissions.

The Sustainability Officer is currently reviewing what actions might best build on positive outcomes from this initiative and will be presented to the Executive Leadership Team for consideration soon.

The total program cost was $17,710, shared 50/50 by Council and Green Industries SA ($8,855 each).

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1	KESAB final report 'Bin there, checked that' food waste in the green bin education initiative ⇩
Attachment 2	Record of 'Bin there checked that' survey comments ⇩
Attachment 3	Letter to residents - closure of bin there checked that waste education initiative ⇩

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Bin there, checked that • The Barossa Council

KESAB environmental solutions

The Barossa Council

Measuring FOGO Interventions

‘Bin there – checked that’

August 2025 – June 2026

Report

Contacts

The Barossa Council

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KESAB *environmental solutions*

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Acknowledgements

KESAB *environmental solutions* expresses thanks to the staff at The Barossa Council and SOLO for their support in planning and logistical arrangements.

Document Verification

DATE	VERSION	TITLE	PREPARED BY	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY
21/06/2026	V1	Measuring FOGO Interventions 2025/2026 - Report	Eloise Quihampton	Henry Bowesman	Henry Bowesman
29/06/2026	V2	Measuring FOGO Interventions 2025/2026 – Report V2	Eloise Quihampton	Henry Bowesman	Henry Bowesman

Disclaimer

While all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the contents and data detailed in this report are factually correct, KESAB environmental solutions does not accept responsibility for the completeness of the contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of, or reliance on, the contents of this report. This report may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the permission of The Barossa Council.

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Background and Methodology

To encourage diversion of organic materials from landfill, The Barossa Council introduced a mandatory green organics collection[1] (FOGO: Food Organics Garden Organics) in township areas in July 2021[2]. This followed an audit conducted by KESAB in 2019, which compared the quantity of organic materials sent to landfill between households with and without organics bins. Alongside provision of FOGO bins to all residents within townships, KESAB recommended FOGO-targeted education to reduce contamination rates and remove food scraps and other compostable materials from landfill bins.

Green Industries SA's Food Waste Strategy, *Valuing Our Food Waste,* states that 'food waste [is…] up to 40% of materials presented in residual bins'[3] (by weight), indicating that there is an ongoing need for education about appropriate food waste disposal.

The 2025/26 Measuring FOGO Interventions project aimed to test the impact of household education interventions on resident behaviour relating to use of kerbside collections for food waste within townships. The program included two intervention areas, each containing approximately 100 households. The selected areas were chosen by The Barossa Council for their demographic similarity and distinctly separate geographical locations.

Area	**Intervention**
Township A	4 rounds: Bin tagging and feedback letters – FOGO and landfill bins
Township B	4 rounds: Bin tagging and feedback letters – FOGO and landfill bins
	2x face-to-face community education opportunities

[1] Households can apply for an exemption if they have home composting or other systems for processing organic waste. These households should not put any organic materials into FOGO bins.
[2] Angaston, Cockatoo Valley, Eden Valley, Lyndoch, Mount Pleasant, Moculta, Nuriootpa, Penrice, Sandy Creek, Springton, Stockwell, Tanunda, and Williamstown.
[3] Green Industries SA: *Valuing Our Food Waste (2020-2025)*, https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/resources/valuing-our-food-waste

Inspections

Inspections took place over a 10-month period[4] to measure whether sustained (rather than short term) behaviour change could be achieved through the trialled engagement methods. During each inspection, presented bins were tagged with a generic information tag and one of four tailored feedback flyers was provided via letterboxes.

Bin inspection dates

Item	Date
Inspection #1 (Baseline data)	
Township A	Tuesday 5th August 2025
Township B	Thursday 14th August 2025
Inspection #2	
Township A	Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Township B	Thursday 11th September 2025
Inspection #3	
Township A	Tuesday 25th November 2025
Township B	Thursday 4th December 2025 (additional inspection on 18th December)[5]
Inspection #4 (final inspection)	
Township A	Tuesday 26th May 2026
Township B	Thursday 4th June 2026

[4] The planned 12-month period was reduced due to a delayed project start and completion constraints.
[5] For 30 households at which landfill bins were collected pre-inspection on Thursday 4th December.

Bin tags and information flyers

Content for bin tags and educational flyers was developed by The Barossa Council, through consultation with KESAB. The graphics were designed by Green Industries SA to align with Which Bin messaging.

Two generic (no feedback) bin tags were used:

- Tag for FOGO bins with FOGO information on the back.
- Tag for landfill bins presented without an accompanying FOGO bin, blank on the back[6].

Four tailored feedback flyers were provided:

- Contamination in FOGO bin
- Food in landfill bin
- Food in FOGO bin
- 'Hello' – no bins presented OR no food found in bin/s[7]

Where appropriate, additional information was handwritten to provide extra information about disposal of compostable materials (e.g. if compostable paper was the only organic material in the landfill bin). Where mostly positive behaviours were demonstrated, with only some minor opportunities for improved waste management, staff favoured positive reinforcement, providing 'Thank you' or 'Hello – no food' letters.

Bin tags and flyers can be seen in Appendix B.

Face-to-face community education: Township B

Two face-to-face community education opportunities were planned for Township B. These sessions targeted residents from one intervention area only in an attempt to assess whether these additional engagement opportunities would see an increase in any positive behaviour change when compared to Township A (inspection feedback only).

1. Coffee and FOGO chat invitation – Friday 17th October
2. Conscious Cooking and Which Bin Presentation – Thursday 30th April

Note that the second opportunity was cancelled due to low registration numbers. More details are provided in the 'Results' section of this report.

[6] The back of these was left blank to avoid any potential confusion about disposal or organic materials in landfill bins.
[7] The wording of this flyer was changed partway through inspections due to resident feedback that the message 'We didn't find any food in your bins' was unclear and could be suggesting that this was a negative finding (whereas some resident may produce very little food waste, or have home composts, worm farms, or chickens).

Summary

Four rounds of bin inspections were conducted in each selected Township area. During each inspection, households were provided with tailored feedback letters related to FOGO (Food Organics Garden Organics) material disposal.

Two face-to-face community education sessions were planned for residents of Township B. Two residents attended the first session: a free coffee with a KESAB Resource Recovery Officer and an opportunity to ask green organics bin questions at a local cafe. The second session, a Which Bin Presentation and Conscious Cooking Demonstration was cancelled due to low registration numbers. Given the limited engagement, it is unlikely that these sessions contributed to the improved performance observed in Township B. Limited engagement with these sessions is likely impacted by the initial restriction of engagement to residents from the Township B inspection area[8]. While harder to track any resulting behaviour change, face-to-face education provided at existing community events or in spaces already frequented by high numbers of residents would show better results in terms of engagement numbers.

This project included a small sample size of approximately 200 households (100 from each Township). Bin inspection data is limited as it reflects only the materials that are visible in the top layers of material[9], providing a less detailed breakdown of waste disposal behaviours than is achieved through a detailed bin materials audit[10]. One clear benefit of bin inspections is that they enable direct and immediate provision of feedback to individual households, facilitating immediate positive behaviour change rather than acting solely as a data collection exercise. The data collected provides an indicative picture of bin use behaviours in the areas involved, at a lower cost than a kerbside audit but is less comprehensive.

Both Townships showed improvements in food waste disposal over the course of the program. The most significant change followed the first round of inspections, after which positive behaviour was largely maintained across the extended intervals between inspections. While food waste diversion was the focus, impact on diversion of other compostable materials varied across the inspection dates and areas. In both Township areas, the percentage of FOGO bins containing contamination decreased.

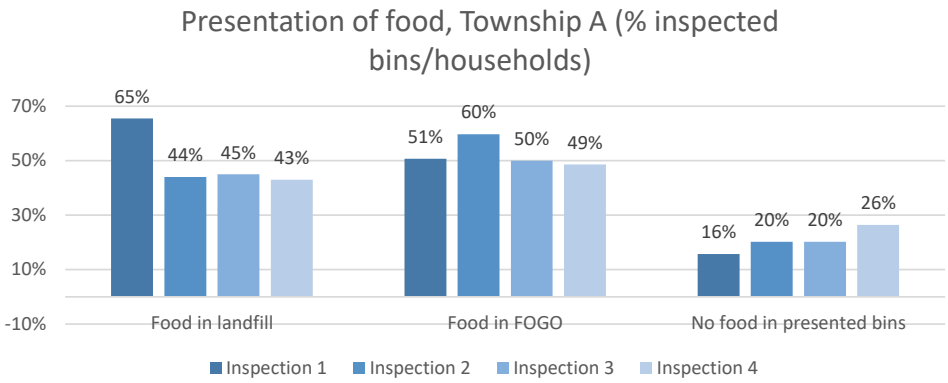
Various data sets are included in the following analysis, including:

- Bin use based on feedback letters provided (includes whole sample size, including households that did not present bins)
- Bin use based on inspection observations (includes inspected bins/households only)

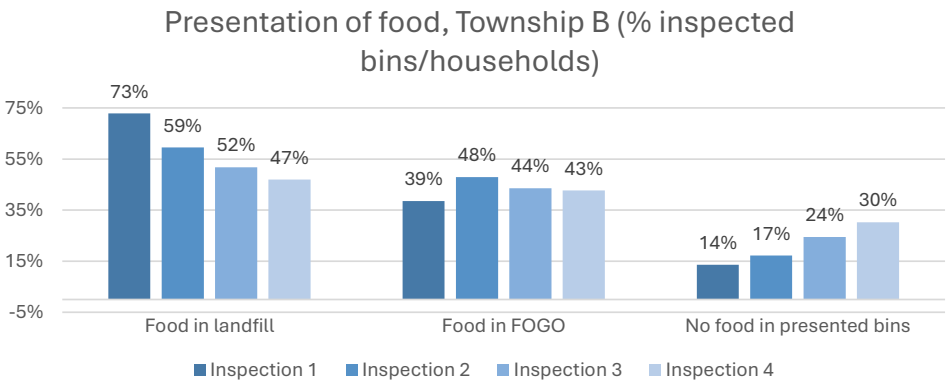
The inspection observation data will differ somewhat to the feedback letter data as the former includes observation of smaller amounts of divertible organics or contamination in FOGO bins that did not warrant provision of a ‘negative’ feedback letter. In these instances, a handwritten note was added to the letter provided (either ‘Thank you’ or ‘Hello – no food’) to reinforce the mostly positive behaviour change.

[8] Residents from the wider community were also invited to register for the second engagement session.
[9] Inspection staff used tongs to move material, without removing materials from bins. Materials presented further down in a bin may not be identified. E.g. food waste may be cover with garden waste.
[10] Involving collection of waste from a selected sample of households and manual sorting of materials into categories to determine weight and volume data.

Graphs 1 and 2 present food disposal trends in each Township across the inspection project[11]. In both areas, the percentage of households presenting food in landfill bins decreased significantly, while households with food in FOGO bins remained relatively consistent, after an initial increase following the first round of inspections and feedback letters. Both areas observed an increase in the percentage of households with no food in presented bins.



Graph 1: Presentation of food, based on bin use observations, % of inspected bins/households - Township A



Graph 2: Presentation of food, based on bin use observations, % of inspected bins/households - Township B

Survey data collected by The Barossa Council indicated that 53% of respondents are putting more food waste in the FOGO bin since the start of the program and that 52% are now more aware of what food they throw out. This latter point is potentially linked to an increase in the percentage of households presenting no food waste. Survey responses and kerbside conversations with residents indicated that some households have alternative systems for disposing of food waste (home compost, worm farm, chickens) and don't use the FOGO bin for this material. Others mentioned having very minimal amounts of food waste. Overall response to the program was positive, with only 1.5% of households opting out during the program.

[11] Food in landfill = % of inspected landfill bins containing food. Food in FOGO = % of inspected FOGO bins containing food. No food in presented bins = % of households that presented one or more bins and had no visible food waste (households presenting no bins are excluded from analysis).

Recommendation and Next Steps

The 2025/26 Measuring FOGO Interventions program showed that targeted kerbside inspections and tailored feedback can deliver measurable improvements in food waste diversion and FOGO contamination at relatively low cost. Both townships improved across most measures, with the largest change following the first round of feedback and most of that change maintained through to the final inspection. KESAB recommends the following options to build on these results. Grant funding, such as through Green Industries SA's Council Modernisation Grants, may be available, and KESAB is open to working with the Council on grant applications for further work in this space.

Testing the most cost-effective inspection frequency

Because this program delivered feedback at all four rounds, it shows that improved behaviour was sustained over ten months but cannot isolate how much of that depended on the repeated mid-program contact. A useful follow-up would compare the four-round model against a two-inspection model, with feedback at an initial inspection and a single follow-up ten to twelve months later, and no contact in between. If behaviour holds without the intervening rounds, councils could achieve comparable outcomes at close to half the cost, which matters for applying the approach across larger areas. Running this in a different part of the council, or alongside variations in messaging, would test how well the method transfers.

Changes to future FOGO servicing

KESAB understands the Council is considering a review of its FOGO collection servicing and alternative service models. This kind of program complements that review. A service review models collection options and costs, while KESAB supplies the community evidence to sit alongside it. This includes a baseline of current bin use and contamination, resident attitudes to different collection frequencies, and the engagement needed to support a transition. Gathering this early would de-risk any change and strengthen the case for it.

One area worth including is rural FOGO coverage. Collection is currently available in townships and on request in some rural areas, leaving other rural households without a kerbside organics option. Examining how often food waste appears in rural landfill bins, and comparing this with township presentation, would show how much organic material is being lost to landfill and help the Council weigh the case for extending the service to harder-to-reach areas.

Revisiting face-to-face engagement

The limited turnout at this project's community sessions reflects the restricted sample area rather than the value of face-to-face engagement itself. KESAB's experience is that in-person contact can be highly effective, but inviting only residents from a single area of around 100 households made it difficult to attract numbers. Engagement stalls at established council events, where turnout is already high, would reach far more residents. These could also gather data on resident knowledge, asking after each conversation whether anything was new to the resident or whether they would change any waste habits as a result. This offers a simple measure of whether the interaction raised awareness, which is otherwise difficult to track.

Results

Township A

Residents in this area received targeted information flyers following four kerbside bin inspections of presented FOGO and landfill bins conducted over a 10-month period. Face-to-face engagement was limited to chance conversations with residents on inspection mornings.

101 households were included in the initial sample, with two opting out of the education program following Inspection Round 2. Presentation rate of FOGO bins was highest during the inspections conducted at the end of Spring, appearing to follow seasonal trends rather than being influenced by the education program. Landfill bin presentation rates remained steady throughout the program duration, between 79% and 87%. See Table 1 for more details on presentation and inspection rate data across the four inspection dates.

2025/26 bin inspections: Township A								
	Organics bin				**Landfill bin**			
Inspection round	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
# Households	101	101	99	99	101	101	99	99
Presentation rate	66%	71%	83%	73%	83%	79%[12]	81%	87%
# Bins emptied pre-inspection	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
# Bins inspected	67	72	82	72	84	75	80	86
Season	Winter	Spring (start)	Spring (end)	Autumn (end)	Winter	Spring (start)	Spring (end)	Autumn (end)

Table 1: Sample size, presentation rates, bins inspection – Township A

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the percentage of households that received the respective feedback letters during the four inspections. In some cases, households received two letters. For example, if there were equal amounts of food in landfill and FOGO bins, 'Thank you' and 'Oops - food in landfill' letters were provided.

The percentage of households receiving a 'Hello – no food' letter increased by 10 percentage points between Inspection Rounds 1 and 4.

The biggest improvement in households receiving a 'Thank you' letter was seen between Inspections Rounds 1 and 2, with an increase from 32% to 40% (including houses that received both a 'Thank you' and an 'Oops – food in landfill'). 35% of houses received a 'Thank you' letter in Inspection Round 4.

Levels of 'non-landfill' material in landfill bins were recorded for each inspected bin, noting that this included recyclables and other non-compostable divertible materials/items (e-waste etc.). The rate of no 'non-landfill' material increased from 5% at baseline to 19% in final inspections.

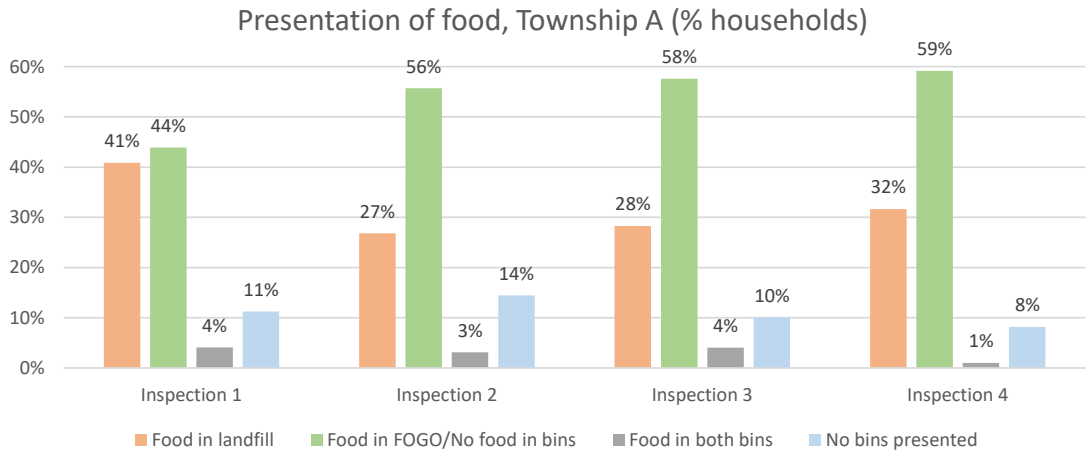
[12] During this week, a portion of one street was collected before inspections could be conducted. Some residents may have removed their bins from the kerb before presentation rates were recorded. As such, this recorded landfill presentation may be slightly lower than the actual rate.

Feedback letters provided (% households): Township A				
Inspection round	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Hello - no bins	11%	14%	10%	8%
Hello - no food	14%	17%	21%	24%
Hello - unspecified	0%	4%	0%	0%
Thank you - food in FOGO	28%	37%	36%	34%
Oops - food in landfill	38%	25%	27%	30%
Oops - contamination in FOGO	1%	0%	0%	0%
Thank you + Oops - food in landfill	4%	3%	4%	1%
Oops - food in landfill + Oops - contamination in FOGO	2%	1%	1%	1%
No flyer	3%	0%	0%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 2: Feedback letters provided - Township A

Graph 3 details the presentation of food in landfill and FOGO bins, based on feedback letters that were provided to residents.[13]

Between baseline and final inspections, the percentage of households receiving a 'Thank you' only letter or a 'Hello – no food' letter increased by 15 percentage points, indicating a positive change in food waste disposal behaviour. This was supported by a decrease in the percentage of houses receiving an 'Oops – food in landfill' letter (41% to 32%). Inspection Round 2 had the lowest percentage of 'Oops – food in landfill', but also the highest rate of non-presented bins.



Graph 3: Presentation of food, based on feedback letters provided (% households) - Township A

[13] Note that some additional houses contained minor amounts of food in landfill bins but received a 'Thank you' or 'Hello – no food' feedback letter to emphasise positive behaviours being displayed. A handwritten note relating to specific food types was provided where appropriate (meat, egg shells, etc.)

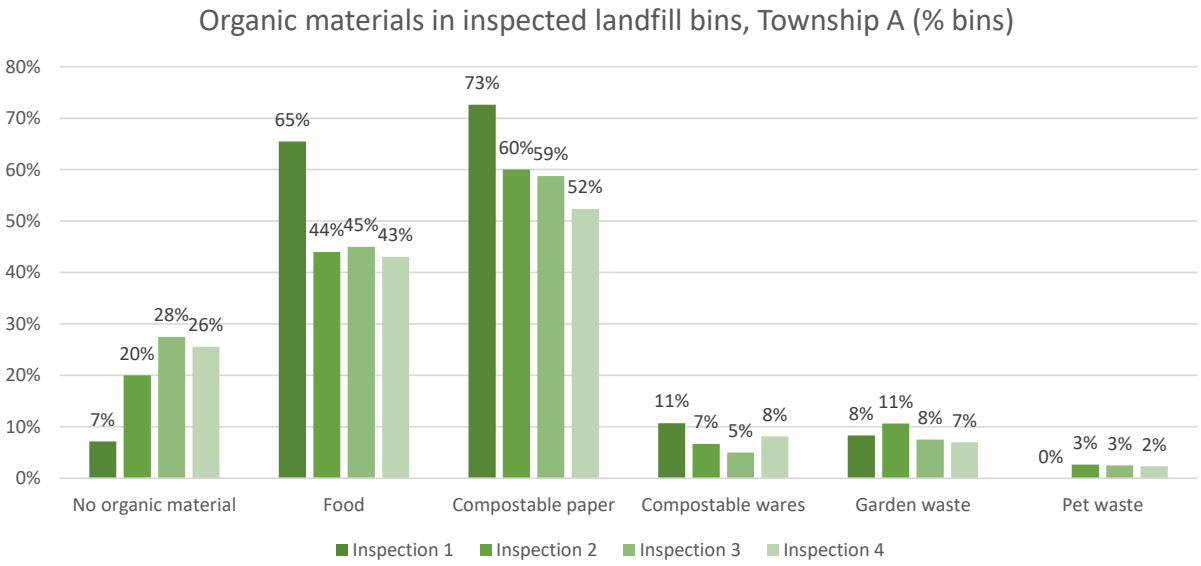
FOGO materials in landfill bins

Graph 4 presents types of compostable materials observed in landfill bins. Note that the percentage figures for food waste will differ to those presented in Table 2 and Graph 1 as the data in Graph 4 includes presence of any food in bins[14] and calculates the percentage of inspected bins rather than the percentage of all households included in the sample area.

The percentage of inspected landfill bins containing no organic materials increased from only 7% in Inspection Round 1 to 26% in Inspection Round 2.

The presence of food waste and compostable paper decreased across the program duration. Additional notes about composability of tissues and paper towel were frequently provided on feedback letters and these were commonly found in landfill bins at the beginning of the education program.

The percentage of houses disposing of compostable wares (pizza boxes, disposable coffee cups, etc.), garden waste, and pet waste in landfill bins remained relatively consistent. Pet waste was not included among the 'acceptable' icons on the FOGO bin education letters.



Graph 4: Presence of compostable materials in landfill bins (% inspected bins) - Township A

[14] Minor quantities of food observed in landfill bins are not reflected in the feedback letter data as KESAB Resource Recovery Officers focussed on providing positive feedback where possible.

Contamination and non-garden organics in FOGO bins

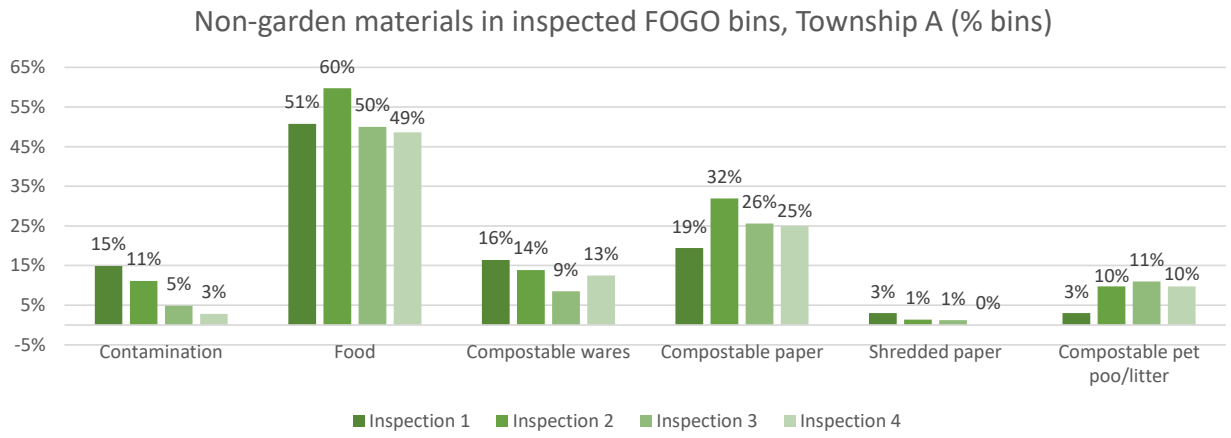
Graph 5 presents contamination and non-garden (good) organics materials observed in FOGO bins.

Food was presented loose, in compostable bags, and (less frequently) wrapped in newspaper or other compostable paper-based packaging. After an increase of nine percentage points in Inspection Round 2, the percentage of FOGO bins containing food returned to a steady rate of approximately 50%. It is worth noting that several residents mentioned during conversations that food scraps go into home composting or worm farm systems or are fed to chickens or dogs. This was confirmed by survey data collected by The Barossa Council, with 14.5% of respondents mentioning using alternative food waste disposal systems.

Little change was observed in disposal of compostable wares and shredded paper. Compostable paper and pet waste disposal via FOGO bins increased between baseline and final inspections.

The percentage of inspected FOGO bins containing contamination dropped from 15% to 3% in Inspection Round 4.

Note that in cases of minor contamination, an 'Oops – contamination in FOGO' letter was not provided. Instead, a handwritten note was left on the alternative appropriate letter to maintain focus on positive behaviours already in practice. As such, data presented in Graph 3 will differ to that of Table 2. Some FOGO bins also contained more than one contaminant type.



Graph 5: Contamination and non-garden organics in FOGO bins (% inspected bins) - Township A

Contaminant types and number of times observed are provided in Table 3. Contamination instances consistently reduced over the program period.

Soft plastic packaging, food in non-compostable packaging or bags (either left in original packaging or collected in non-certified compostable liners), and packing tape left on cardboard were the most frequently observed contamination types.

Clean, recyclable cardboard was more commonly observed in FOGO bins than has been found in bin inspection projects in other South Australian councils. KESAB Resource Recovery Officers noted that cardboard is listed as an acceptable material on the FOGO bin lid in The Barossa Council.

Contaminant types in FOGO bins (number of times observed): Township A				
	Inspection 1	**Inspection 2**	**Inspection 3**	**Inspection 4**
Food in non-compostable packaging/bag	2	2	1	
Milk carton			1	
Mixed material item			1	
Pet waste in plastic bag		1		
Polystyrene	1			
Puppy training pad	1			
Recyclable glass	1			
Recyclable plastic			1	
Soft plastics	4	1		1
Tape/plastic on cardboard	2	4	1	1
Textiles			1	
Treated timber	2			
TOTAL	13	8	6	2

Table 3: Types of contamination found in FOGO bins (number of instances) - Township A

Township B – Results

In addition to bin use feedback provided during the four bin inspection rounds, residents in Intervention Area B were also invited to attend two face-to-face community engagement opportunities. The first was held after Inspection Round 2, the second was scheduled to occur before the final inspection but was cancelled due to low registration numbers.

Inspection Round 3 includes data from re-inspections for 30 bins that were collected pre-inspection on the initial inspection date.

2025/26 bin inspections: Township B								
	Organics bin				Landfill bin			
Inspection round	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
# Households	98[15]	98	98	98[16]	100	100	100	98[17]
Presentation rate	71%	72%	87%	69%	81%	79%	87%	85%
# Bins emptied pre-inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0	30[18]	0
# Bins inspected	70	71	85	68	81	79	87	83
Season	Winter	Spring (start)	Summer (start)	Winter (start)	Winter	Spring (start)	Summer (start)	Winter (start)

Table 4: Sample size, presentation rates, bins inspection – Township B

Table 5 provides a breakdown of the percentage of households that received the respective feedback letters during the four inspections. In some cases, households received two letters. For example, if there were equal amounts of food in landfill and FOGO bins, 'Thank you' and 'Oops - food in landfill' letters were provided.

The percentage of households receiving a 'Hello – no food' letter increased by 18 percentage points between Inspection Rounds 1 and 4. Most addresses (93%) who received this letter in Round 4 presented a landfill bin for collection, indicating that landfill presentation rate has not influenced this outcome.

Inspection Rounds 2 and 3 had the highest percentage of households receiving a 'Thank you' letter (sometimes alongside a second letter), at 32% compared to 24% in Round 1 and 25% in Round 4.

Levels of 'non-landfill' material in landfill bins were recorded for each inspected bin, noting that this included recyclables and other non-compostable divertible materials/items (e-waste etc.). The rate of no 'non-landfill' material remained consistent (6% at baseline, 7% at final inspection). The highest rate was in Round 3, at 11% of inspected landfill bins.

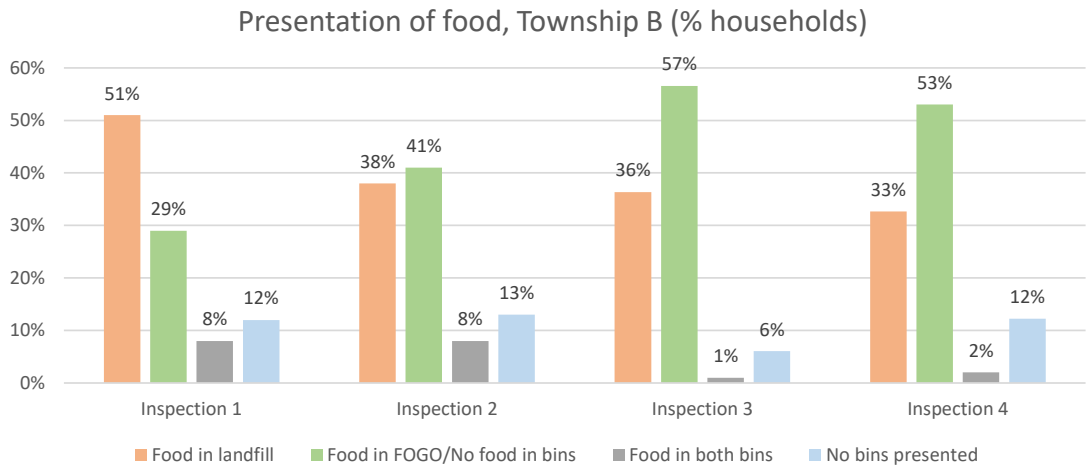
[15] Two houses in Township B have FOGO bin exemptions.
[16] One house opted out following Inspection Round 3. One house listed as having a FOGO bin exemption presented a FOGO bin on this inspection date.
[17] One house opted out following Inspection Round 3. A second house with a FOGO bin exemption was omitted following conversation with resident during a previous inspection round.
[18] These households were inspected the following fortnight and this data is included in the data analysis.

Feedback letters provided (% households): Township B				
Inspection round	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
Hello - no bins	12%	13%	6%	12%
Hello - no food	12%	15%	24%	30%
Hello - unspecified	0%	0%	0%	0%
Thank you - food in FOGO	15%	23%	28%	22%
Oops - food in landfill	49%	36%	35%	33%
Oops - contamination in FOGO	1%	2%	1%	0%
Thank you + Oops - food in landfill	8%	8%	1%	2%
Oops - food in landfill + Oops - contamination in FOGO	2%	2%	1%	0%
Thank you + Oops - contamination in FOGO	1%	1%	3%	1%
No flyer	0%	0%	1%	0%
TOTAL	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 5: Feedback letters provided - Township B

Graph 6 details the presentation of food in landfill and FOGO bins, based on feedback letters that were provided to residents.[19]

Between baseline and final inspections, the percentage of inspected households presenting food in FOGO bins or no food in either bin increased by 24 percentage points, indicating a positive change in food waste disposal behaviour. This was supported by a decrease in the percentage of houses with food in their landfill bin only, not in their FOGO bin (51% to 33%). The percentage of houses presenting food in both bins also decreased by the end of the program.



Graph 6: Presentation of food, based on feedback letters provided (% households) - Township B

[19] Note that some additional houses contained minor amounts of food in landfill bins but received a 'Thank you' or 'Hello – no food' feedback letter to emphasise positive behaviours being displayed. A handwritten note relating to specific food types was provided where appropriate (meat, egg shells, etc.)

FOGO materials in landfill bins

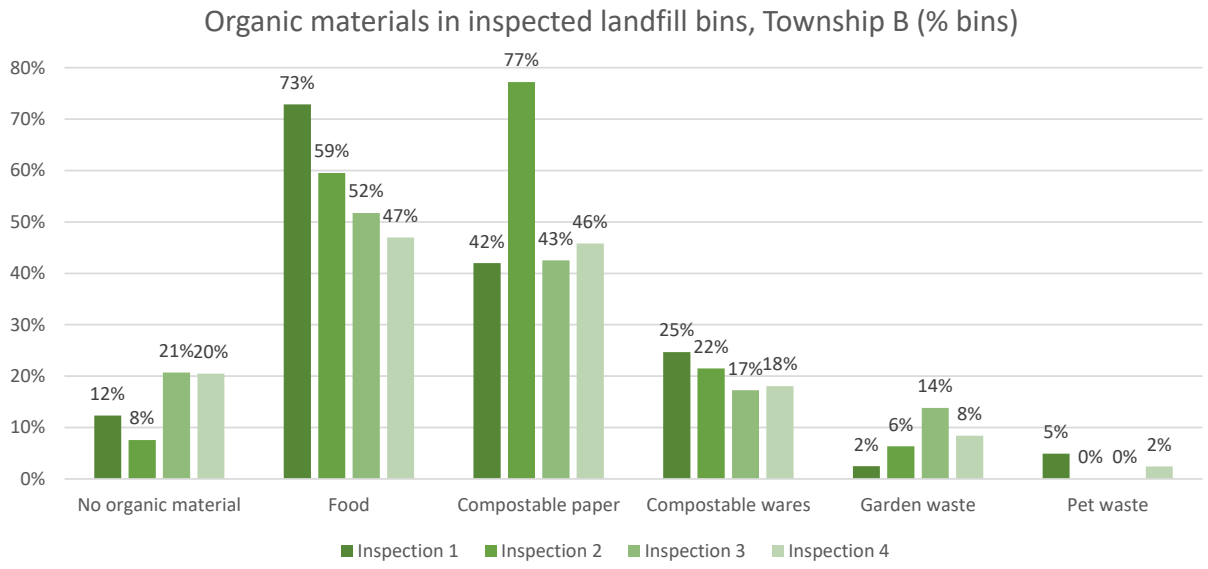
Graph 7 presents types of compostable materials observed in landfill bins. Note that the percentage figures for food waste will differ to those presented in Table 5 and Graph 6 as the below includes presence of any food in bins[20] and calculates the percentage of inspected bins rather than the percentage of all households included in the sample area.

The percentage of inspected landfill bins containing no organic materials increased from 12% in Inspection Round 1 to 20% in Round 2. The highest rate was in Round 3 (21%).

The presence of food waste decreased significantly across the program duration. A smaller decrease was observed in disposal of compostable wares and pet waste.

Compostable paper disposal remained consistent, apart from a peak in Inspection Round 2, during which 77% of inspected bins contained tissues and/or paper towel (compared to 42% and 46% at the beginning and end of the program respectively).

The increase in garden waste observed in inspected landfill bins in Inspection Round 3 coincides with the highest FOGO bin presentation rate of the inspection rounds. All households with garden material in their landfill bins also presented a FOGO bin for collection, 67% of which were 75% or more full.



Graph 7: Presence of compostable materials in landfill bins (% inspected bins) - Township B

[20] Minor quantities of food observed in landfill bins are not reflected in the feedback letter data as KESAB Resource Recovery Officers focussed on providing positive feedback where possible.

Contamination and non-garden organics in FOGO bins

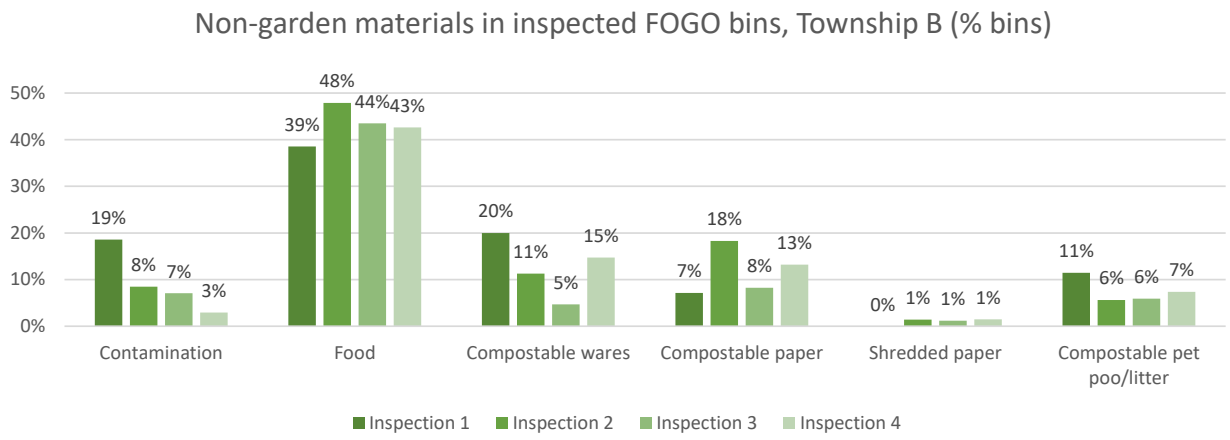
Graph 8 presents contamination and non-garden (good) organics materials observed in FOGO bins in Township B.

Food was presented loose, in compostable bags, and (less frequently) wrapped in newspaper or other compostable paper-based packaging. The percentage of inspected bins containing food increased from 39% to 43% over the course of the program. The highest rate was observed in Inspection Round 2, 48%. Disposal of compostable paper also increased marginally, again with a peak in Round 2.

The highest percentage of bins containing compostable wares was observed in Inspection Round 1.

The percentage of inspected FOGO bins containing contamination dropped from 19% to 3% by Inspection Round 4.

Note that in cases of minor contamination, an 'Oops – contamination in FOGO' letter was not provided. Instead, a handwritten note was left on the alternative appropriate letter to maintain focus on positive behaviours already in practice. As such, data presented in Graph 6 will differ to that of Table 5. Some FOGO bins also contained more than one contaminant type.



Graph 8: Contamination and non-garden organics in FOGO bins (% inspected bins) - Township B

Contaminant types and number of times observed are provided in Table 6. As in Township A, contamination instances reduced over the program period.

Food in plastic bags or packaging and soft plastics were the most common contaminant types and were found across all inspection rounds.

Contaminant types in FOGO bins (number of times observed)				
	Inspection 1	**Inspection 2**	**Inspection 3**	**Inspection 4**
Bagged landfill	1			
Cigarette butts and packet	1			
Florist foam	1			
Food in plastic/non-compostable packaging	4	3	4	1
Pet waste in plastic bag		1		
Polystyrene	1			
Recyclable (unspecified)	3		1	
Recyclable metal	2			
Recyclable plastic	1			
Soft plastics	2	2	3	1
Textiles	1			
Treated timber	2			
TOTAL	19	6	8	2

Table 6: Types of contamination found in FOGO bins (number of instances) - Township B

Community education opportunities

In addition to the four rounds of feedback provided during bin inspections, residents in the targeted Township B area were also invited to attend two community education sessions.

The planned face-to-face community engagement opportunities did not engage a significant number of residents from the target area (100 households). The success was likely limited by the requirement to restrict engagement to residents within the Township B inspection area. Face-to-face education promoted to a broader group/area or delivered at existing community events would likely have more impact, although this impact is challenging to measure without an opportunity to assess bin use behaviours before and after engagement. Residents from other areas of council were invited/able to register for community education session 2.

Feedback letters provided through bin inspections have the advantage of supplying information to residents even when not home at the time of inspections but lack the opportunity to answer clarifying or supplementary questions in most cases.

Community education session 1:

The first community education session was a 'coffee and chat with KESAB' morning, held at Bean Addiction Coffee Roasters in Nuriootpa. During Inspection Round 2, residents in Township B were provided with an invitation for a free coffee on Friday 17th October, between 8am and 11am. Residents were encouraged to attend if they had any questions about use of their kerbside bins. Two residents attended the session.

GISA magnets, The Barossa Council waste collection calendars, and other waste-related information was available to attendees.

Attendee conversations: Township B	
Conversation 1	Resident received feedback about food in plastic liners disposed of in the FOGO bin and has since sourced certified compostable bags. Resident freezes smelly food scraps before putting in the FOGO bin. Reminded resident that pizza boxes, paper towel, and tissues can go in FOGO. Resident asked whether cans and containers need to be rinsed before they go in the comingled recycling bin. Provided GISA magnets and a collection calendar.
Conversation 2	Resident didn't know that all food scraps could go in the FOGO bin and will now do this. Discussed batteries and other hazardous waste types as resident mentioned putting batteries in the landfill bin. Suggested calling the Which Bin Hotline if ever in doubt about which bin to use. Resident uses the newspaper wrapper as a landfill bin liner.

Table 7: Conversations with residents from Township B during Community education session 1

Community education session 2:

The second scheduled face-to-face education opportunity was a combined Which Bin presentation and Conscious Cooking demonstration to be held at the Nuriootpa Library on Thursday 30th April, 5.30-7.30pm. The session was promoted through:

- Letters provided during Inspection Round 3 encouraging residents in Township B to express their interest in the session.
- A second letterbox drop in the month leading up to the session with specific date and session details.
- Broader invitations to Council residents via online platforms and at council facilities.

Due to low registration numbers, the session did not go ahead as planned.

Education impact – comparison

The data in Table 8 represents materials observed in FOGO and landfill bins during inspections, including those found in quantities too small to warrant a 'negative' feedback letter (in these cases, a handwritten note was left on the letter provided). Green highlighted figures in the 'Change' columns represent positive behaviour changes.

Township A showed improvements in all listed improvement areas, except for percentage of inspected FOGO bins containing food which reduced from 51% to 49%. Given the slim change margin, it is worth noting that bin inspection data only reflects materials that are visible in the top layers of material. Materials may be present but undetected in additional bins.

Township B showed improvements in all listed areas.

In both cases, the percentage of inspected households presenting food in landfill bins decreased significantly. A less significant, but still positive, decrease was observed in disposal of overall compostable materials. In both Township areas, contamination observed in FOGO bins reduced.

Note that this data is inclusive of only presented and inspected bins. Bins that were either not presented or couldn't be inspected (due to early collection) are not included in the analysis.

FOGO behaviour change: Inspection observations						
	Township A			**Township B**		
	Baseline	**Final**	**Change**	**Baseline**	**Final**	**Change**
Food in landfill	65%	43%	**-22%**	73%	47%	**-26%**
Any compostable materials[21] in landfill	93%	74%	**-19%**	88%	80%	**-8%**
Food in FOGO	51%	49%	**-2%**	39%	43%	**+4%**
Food in neither bin[22]	16%	26%	**+10%**	14%	30%	**+16%**
Contamination in FOGO	15%	3%	**-12%**	19%	3%	**-16%**

Table 8: Comparison of food disposal and FOGO bin behaviours, based on bin use observations

It is unlikely that any differences in the success of the program in the two areas were influenced by the face-to-face community education sessions offered due to the low attendance rate of the first session and cancellation of the second.

Accounting for the number of residents engaged through face-to-face education opportunities, the delivery of feedback and educational material through bin inspections is potentially more cost effective and time efficient. Community engagement at an existing community event or in a space already frequented by a high number of residents could present better face-to-face engagement opportunities, although the impact of this engagement is challenging to measure.

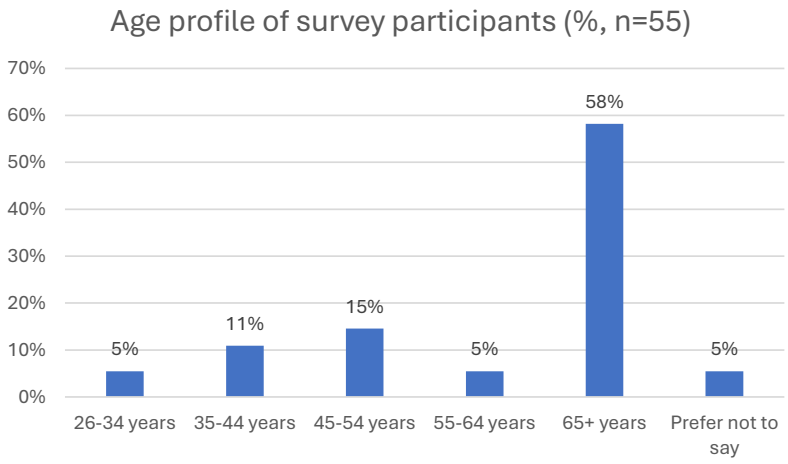
[21] Includes food, compostable paper, wares, and pet waste, and garden materials.
[22] When one or more bins were presented. Analysis excludes houses that didn't present bins or which were not included in that inspection round for another reason.

Survey data

The Barossa Council issued a survey to residents participating in the program which could either be completed online or on paper and provided to Council.

Residents began completing the survey following Inspection Round 3 and were provided a survey reminder during Round 4.

There were 55 responses, a response rate of 27.5%. The 65+ years age range was the most represented by survey participants, making up 58% of respondents.



Graph 9: Age profile of survey participants

While most responses were positive, 2 residents mentioned that the inspections felt invasive (3.6% of survey group).

74.5% of respondents indicated that they were already using their FOGO bin prior to the bin tagging program, while 14.5% suggested that they had alternative systems for managing food waste at home (e.g. compost bins, worm farms, chickens). Conversations with residents during bin inspections confirmed that a number of residents have alternative systems which reduce reliance on FOGO bins for disposal of food scraps.

53% of respondents confirmed that they are now putting more food waste/ food scraps in the FOGO bin than they were before the bin tagging program. 52% responded 'Yes' to the question, 'Do you feel like you're more aware of what food or food scraps are being thrown out in your household compared to before the bin tag program?' 4% responded 'Maybe' to the same question.

In additional comments, 5 respondents mentioned that they had been previously unaware that food scraps (or certain types of food scraps) could go in the FOGO bin.

Appendices

Appendix A – Inspection methodology

Methodology was determined via consultation between KESAB and The Barossa Council.

Inspection process

- Bins were inspected before collection on their usual presentation day. KESAB communicated with the waste collection contractor, SOLO, to arrange delayed collection on relevant streets.
- Inspections were conducted at the kerbside, with no materials removed from bins.
- Tongs were used to move the top layer of material, and to open bagged material.
- Volume data was recorded, including non-garden materials in FOGO bins, and non-landfill material in landfill bins.
- Some photos were taken to record instances of contamination, divertible materials, or good FOGO behaviours.

Safe inspection procedures

- KESAB staff conducted bin inspections in pairs, each with a working phone should an emergency occur.
- A lead Resource Recovery Officer with a current first aid certificate was always onsite.
- All staff signed off on relevant WHS requirements for safe task conduct.
- Personal protective equipment was worn (gloves). Tongs were used to move materials in bins.
- No material was removed from bins, and no bins were lifted or removed from the kerbside (bins not presented at the kerbside were excluded from inspections).

Limitations and assumptions

The Measuring FOGO Interventions bin inspections project was impacted by the following limitations:

- Bin inspections are a useful tool for commenting on overall bin use but that data findings are not as exact as can be attained through a physical bin materials audit. Data reflects what is visible in the top layers of material in inspected bins. It is possible that other materials are present but not visible in some instances.
- During the third inspection round, 30 landfill bins were collected from one street in Township B before inspections could occur. These households received a 'Hello' flyer on this morning, providing them with FOGO bin use information, if not specific feedback. Houses on this street were then inspected the following fortnight, meaning that these households received an extra information letter. Comparison of data analysis including and excluding impacted households shows that this had little impact on the overall data set.
- There was limited success with the face-to-face community education opportunities for Township B, with only two people attending the first session, and the second session cancelled due to low registration numbers.

Appendix B – Bin tags and educational flyers

Image 1: Feedback letter A: "Oops - contamination in FOGO bin"

Image 2: Feedback letter B: "Oops - food in landfill"

Image 3: Feedback letter C: "Thank you - food in FOGO"

Image 4: Feedback letter D: "Hello" (updated)

Image 5: Feedback letter D: "Hello" (first iteration)

Image 6: Feedback letter: generic overleaf

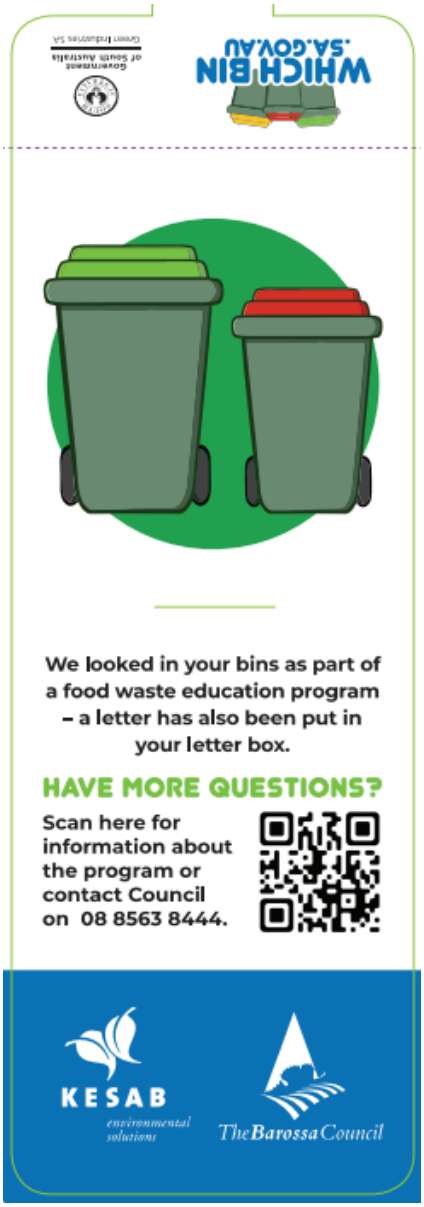


Image 7: Generic bin tag

Image 8: Back of bin tag used for FOGO bins

Appendix C - Definitions

1. Biodegradable: Currently undefined and loosely used term often associated with 'greenwash.' Generally relating to the breaking up of materials but this can be either into smaller fragments such as microplastics, or into organic matter, dependent on the base ingredients/inputs and environment.
2. Certified compostable: Compostable items that have been laboratory tested to ensure that they compost entirely in a composting environment leaving behind no toxic residue. (Three standards are currently accepted in Australia: Australasian, European & American, with the Australasian standard being favoured as it includes an extra ecotoxicity test to ensure health for living biota).
3. CDL (Container Deposit Legislation): Since 1977, South Australia has had a monetary system to reduce single-use beverage container litter. Eligible beverage containers are labelled denoting their value, currently 10 cents. These are separately collected for processing at various sites throughout Australia, providing a clean stream of valuable resources whilst assisting the environment and many community groups and individuals throughout the state.
4. Comingled recycling: A mixture of recyclable resources (recyclable in terms of the current commodity market). This currently includes metals, hard plastics, glass, paper, and cardboard. Items must be of a certain quality to make good value recycled products so resources in this stream must be relatively clean and dry and larger than a tennis ball or standard envelope for practical capture in processing. This service is not currently available for commercial operations, unless via a Council kerbside service.
5. Dry waste: A waste stream used in metro SA where commercial comingled recycling is currently not available/viable. To compensate for the lack of recycling, this stream allows for the collection of unclean but dry recyclable resources as listed above, as well as soft plastics. In South Australia, this material is processed into an alternative fuel (PEF) and utilised by local industry to displace natural gas and coal. It is lower value than recycling but higher value than landfill.
6. Greenwash: providing misleading information about environmental credentials.
7. Landfill: Unsorted waste resources that are compacted into the land and buried. This is a linear waste stream with no current benefits and multiple negative impacts.
8. Organics: In this context and within this industry, this term is used for any material that had a growing lifecycle, rather than how it has been grown. Anything that was once alive can go into the organics waste stream in most metropolitan areas of South Australia (FOGO: Food Organics, Garden Organics. In some rural areas, only garden organics can be captured in this stream).
9. Recoverable resources: materials disposed of via landfill that could be recovered for composting via organics or recycling via paper/ cardboard or comingled recycling streams.
10. Specialty collections/recycling: specially separated recyclables that do not have a large commodity market but do have smaller recycling avenues when appropriately collected and deposited.
11. Waste: Term that commonly refers to discarded resources. In this context, we are encouraging the term 'resources' for resources that can be utilised, and waste as the generation of discarded resources.

Appendix D - Inspection photos

Organics bins

Image 9: Florist foam in FOGO bin, Inspection Round 1, Intervention Area B

Image 10: '38% plants' pet waste bag in FOGO bin, Inspection Round 2, Intervention Area B

Image 11: Recyclable cardboard in FOGO bin, Inspection Round 1, Intervention Area B

Image 12: FOGO bin lid indicates that paper and cardboard are suitable for disposal in this bin.

Image 13: Cardboard with tape in FOGO bin, Inspection Round 4, Township A

Landfill bins

Image 14: Uneaten, packaging food in landfill bin, Inspection Round 4, Intervention Area A (1)

Image 15: Food in compostable bag in landfill bin, Inspection Round 4, Intervention Area A

Image 16: Uneaten, packaging food in landfill bin, Inspection Round 4, Intervention Area A (2)

Image 17: Food (uneaten and scraps) in landfill bin, Inspection Round 2, Intervention Area B

Appendix E – FOGO behaviour change: Feedback letters

The data in Table 9 represents the percentage of households in the two township samples that received feedback letters relevant to each category in the baseline and final inspections.

Township A and Township B both showed improvements in all listed categories, including decreases in the percentages of houses with food in landfill bins, food in both bins, and contamination in FOGO bins. There was an increase in the percentage of houses with either food in FOGO bins or no food in either bin.

Positive changes were more pronounced in Township B, where bin use performance was considered to be lower in baseline inspections. The two townships showed relatively consistent final rates of food disposal and contamination.

Note that this data is inclusive of all sampled houses, including those that didn't present one or both bins during the inspections.

FOGO behaviour change: Feedback letters						
	Township A			**Township B**		
	Baseline	**Final**	**Change**	**Baseline**	**Final**	**Change**
Food in landfill	41%	32%	**-9%**	51%	33%	**-18%**
Food in FOGO/No food in bins	44%	59%	**+15%**	29%	53%	**+24%**
Food in both bins	4%	1%	**-3%**	8%	2%	**-6%**
Contamination in FOGO	3%	1%	**-2%**	4%	1%	**-3%**

Table 9: Comparison of food disposal and FOGO bin behaviours, based on feedback letters

Were you already using your green bin for food waste/ food scraps before the bin tag program?
No 24 Unsure 2 Yes 28
N/A alternate system
Compost system
Home compost. I thought we had an exemption from having a green bin.
I have 2 compost bins for my garden
I have chicken and a worm farm
I have chickens
I have chickens and compost
I have chickens and use the garden
I have my own compost bin as I still grow most of my own veg and flowers. Also have a garden on which I use my own compost
No
I have only recently moved in to this property - I am delighted to participate in this program moving forward
I thought food scraps went in the red bin
Used to have a food waste bin on my kitchen bench but it got smelly and we stopped using it
We only moved to Nuri in December 2025 and didnt know about the program. After the first time of putting food scraps in red bin, we go a notice not to do that. Since then we put food scraps in the green bin.
Yes
I didn't know all food scraps could go in the green bin
I didn't know all food scraps could go in the green bin only been using it for garden waste and veg/fruit peels
I have a home compost system. Bread scraps and citrus peels go in my green bins because compost worms don't like them.
Sometimes my green bin is full so I put my food scraps in red bin
the food organic flyers helped us to know how much more we can put in the green waste bin

Are there things you now are putting in your green organics bin that you weren't before the bin tag program?
Other
All my food scraps
Bigger variety of food scrapes
Cardboard / paper

Citrus and meat
Compostable bags, Soiled pizza boxes
Dog fur
Egg cartons, hair, tea bags
Food contaminated paper + cardboard wrapping and containers
Food scrapes
Green waste garden material
I've cancelled my green bin
Leftover fruit, veg, egg shells
Meats and dairy products if waste
Newspapers and magazines
Oyster Shells
Paper food wrapping
Paper towels, tissues
Pizza boxes, other cardboard at times
Recyclable plastic bags, tissues paper towel cardboard
Shredded paper
Take away cardboard containers (Pizza etc). Food scraps, dog poo, cardboard
Tissues
Tissues, paper towel etc
We have always used the green bin for garden waste eg lawn clippings, prunings etc as well as food waste / scraps.

Some Councils are trialling weekly collection of green organics bins and fortnightly collection of red waste bins. If your red waste bin was upsized to the same size bin as your green organics bin now (240L), do you think fortnightly collection of red waste bin and weekly collection of green organics bin might work from your family?
No 15 Other 16 Yes 23
Other
Current sizes and collection works for us
Definitely! Have much more green waste then red would be happy to keep my red bin the same size as now
However no need to increase size if red bin

I feel I use the green bin more for pruning and hedges.
I feel we would not need the red to be bigger
I would be happy to have my red bin collection every fortnight
If we were a family of 4 or 6 residents in my family I would agree. We are only a family of 2 adults so we would not change!
In between green bin pick up in spring I would put excess green waste in bags in my shed until next green waste a fortnight later
It would possibly be a good idea considering in hot weather there could be an issue with maggots over a two week turn around
Keep the red bin the same size as it is and collected fortnightly. Keep the green bin the size as is and collected weekly
My waste bin (red) could be picked up fortnightly now. I usually only have 1 shopping bag full but i am a single household
No. We have a gardening business so drop green waste at Kuchel's regulary. Ot green bin rarely got used so weekly collection would be a waste. Red bin could go fortnightly
Our red waste bin would only need to be emptied monthly. Depending what is happening in the garden the green waste could be emptied weekly
Sounds like a great idea. Our green bin is always full
Strongly support increased green organics collection and reduce red waste collection
We have now 2 green bins as the service was not enough with 1 bin fortnightly. We would only require 1 small red bin, fortnightly. As we usually only have 1 small bag
No 15
Yes 24

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the kerbside bin service in general or the 'Bin there, checked That' program
1 green bin sometimes isn't enough so I use neighbours
A great initiative to get people thinking
Felt a bit invasive . Being a fully 2 parent working family , struggling to have enough food on table hard enough with out people judging bins ! Help proactively - free compost bins , a community food garden
Good Idea
Great behavioural tool.
I dont recall any information about this initiative or participating in it. However, we have been very proactive in ensuring only food scraps / waste and garden products go in the green bin. Our red bin most weeks has limited landfill products.
I first learnt about it when my bin was tagged
I honestly felt it was a waste of time and probably in-accurate. I had food waste under greenery, and it wasn't seen. I was given a note saying otherwise.

It felt invasive having people look through our bins
It is good to have these projects to make people more aware of how they discard the waste from their homes and gardens.
Keep the price down.
Keep up a good job. More education the better.
Larger red bin once a fortnight sounds great and green 1 every week sounds ideal
N/A
Never seem to fill red bin weekly maybe every two weeks for that, because recycling is spread between green & yellow. Weekly for green as we have a big garden. Regarding the bin there checked that program - it's a good idea as many people put all sorts in.
No
No Thanks
We would like weekly collection of yellow bin as well

Are there other ways you think Council could support the community to help you get the most out of your bin service?
?
Adequate now
As I have a gardener who comes every fortnight and takes all lawn clippings away on his trailer, I still require a larger bin weekly
Free green compostable bin bags every season. Or trial where those bags gets attached to the bin on collection day
Happy with bin service as is
Having a dump More free plants so people can grow own food Free/ subsidised compost bins
I am not sure if this possible in the Barossa Council. But prior to November 2022, we lived in the Mitcham Council area and I worked in education. The Mitcham Council had programs to promote these sustainable practices / environmental strategies through preschools and schools. if we can educate children on sustainability they can hopefully influence the practices at home.
I believe it was good to educate on what should go to the green bin, doing random audits, with the good job or how to improve to help the environment
I have found it hard to navigate your website. Often have to dig quite deep to find information
I would like to see out Council get much more involved with recycling so many other products, perhaps with Fathers Farm. I volunteer at Community Helpers Op Shop and have initiated recycling of CS's, DVD's and their cases. I take them to YCA recyclers when I have a load for the car, several times a year. There needs to be so much more done to reduce landfill.
Inside green waste bin - kitchen caddy
It is up to common sense for each home to use other things that are available

Maybe supplying compostable bin bags
No
No
No I am happy with the service, thank you
No, but I am VERY grateful for the green bin service. Thankyou.
No.
Not particularly
Send hard copies of what is allowed in each bin

Reference: 26/50293

27 July 2026

Dear Resident,

Thank you for actively participating in our food waste education initiative, 'Bin there, checked that'. You were one of 200 households, across two towns, who participated in the program, co-funded by Green Industries SA, Council and delivered by KESAB.

The program sought to research the best ways to encourage residents to use their green organics bin for food waste and saw KESAB visit the same properties four times over the duration of the program to undertake bin observations.

Following the program, we also sought feedback from you about your participation experience. We appreciate you taking the time to complete our survey which provided us with valuable information and insights into households' approach to recycling.

We're pleased to report that we have seen a sustained improvement in food waste disposal in the green bin over the course of the program, which is a fantastic result! Putting food waste in the green bin helps lower the impact of the Solid Waste Landfill Levy on service costs, supports a circular economy and contributes to a more sustainable environment.

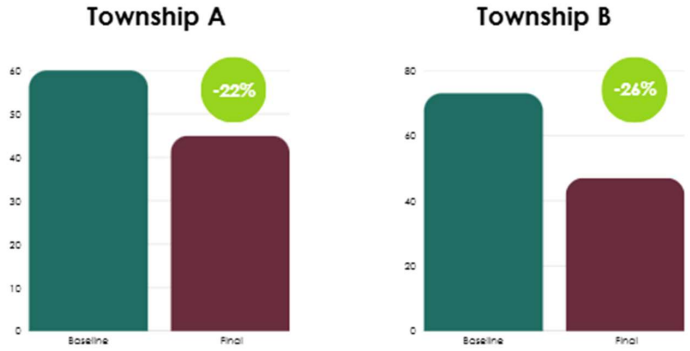
The survey results revealed:

- More people are now putting food waste in the green organics bin and have become increasingly aware of what food they throw out.
- Some people were unaware certain food scraps could go in the organics bin.
- 14.5% of survey respondents/households also use chickens, worm farms, or compost bins for food waste when they don't use the green bin.
- The majority of people found the education initiative a positive experience.

(08) 8563 8444 | barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au | barossa.sa.gov.au
43-51 Tanunda Road (PO Box 867), Nuriootpa SA 5355 | ABN: 47 749 871 215

KESAB bin observations support what the survey told us:

- A reduction in food waste visible in red waste bins.



- Green bins containing food waste also increased from the start of the initiative to the end.
- Contamination in green organics bins reduced in both townships by 3%.

On behalf of Council, thank you. We value your participation which will help inform Council's future waste and recycling education initiatives. All data has been grouped (aggregated), de-identified, and the participating street names remain confidential.

If you have any questions about the initiative, please don't hesitate to reach out on (08) 8563 8444 or wasteservices@barossa.sa.gov.au.

Sincerely,

Robyn Ridsdale
Sustainability Officer, The Barossa Council

(08) 8563 8444 | barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au | barossa.sa.gov.au
43-51 Tanunda Road (PO Box 867), Nuriootpa SA 5355 | ABN: 47 749 871 215

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.2 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS REPORT - QUARTER 2 - 1 MARCH 2026 TO 30 JUNE 2026

Author: Administrative and Technical Support Officer
26/48416

The following data provides a snapshot of development application activity for the second quarter of 2026, 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026 calendar year. The data includes numbers of development applications by category and the timeframes for assessment.

In total for the second quarter of 2026, there were 175 development applications submitted and 165 development applications lodged. Submitted refers to development applications that are received within the Planning SA Portal but not yet verified and fees paid.

Consent types with average number of days

Decision		
Consent Type	**Total Consent**	**Average Days**
Building	46	5.35
Land Division	0	0
Planning	135	13.81
Planning and Land Division	10	32.00
Total	**191**	**12.73**

Planning Consent by Development Category

Decision		
Consent Type	**Total Consent**	**Average Days**
Accepted	11	5.36
Deemed to Satisfy	22	4.77
Dev Category not assigned	0	0
Exempt	0	0
Other	0	0
Performance Assessed	158	14.34
Total	**191**	**12.73**

Average Days per development decision

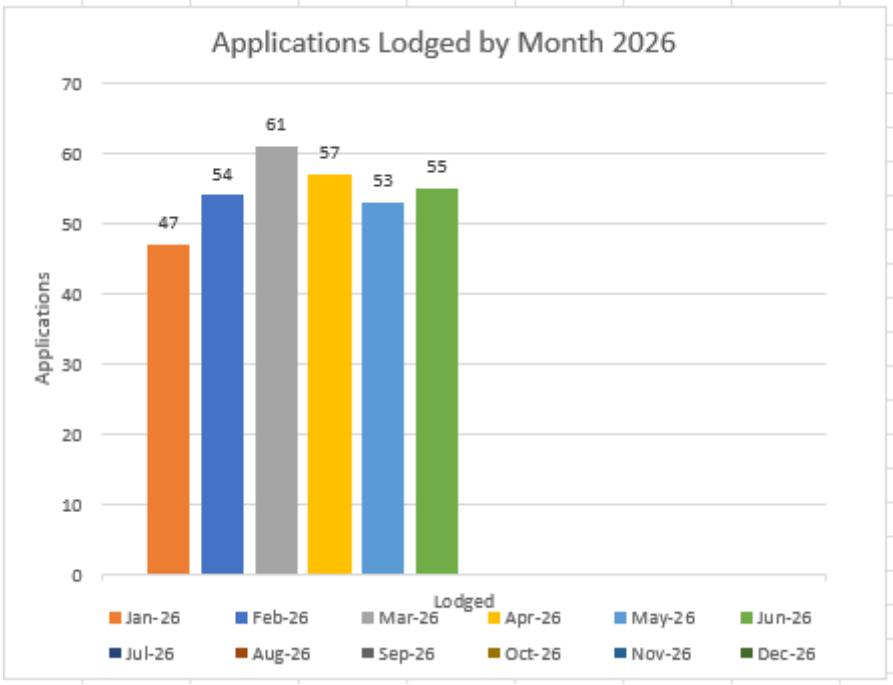
DA Status	Number of DAs	Average Days
Granted	191	12.73
Refused	0	0.00
Total	**191**	**12.73**

Total consents (inclusive of Development Act applications)

Consent Type	Total Consents Lodged	Total Consent Decisions
Planning	164	135
Building	59	46
Land Division	0	0
Planning and Land Division	11	10

The below graphs show the number of development applications lodged per month between 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026 and assessment timeframes for Planning and Building Consent expressed in average days.

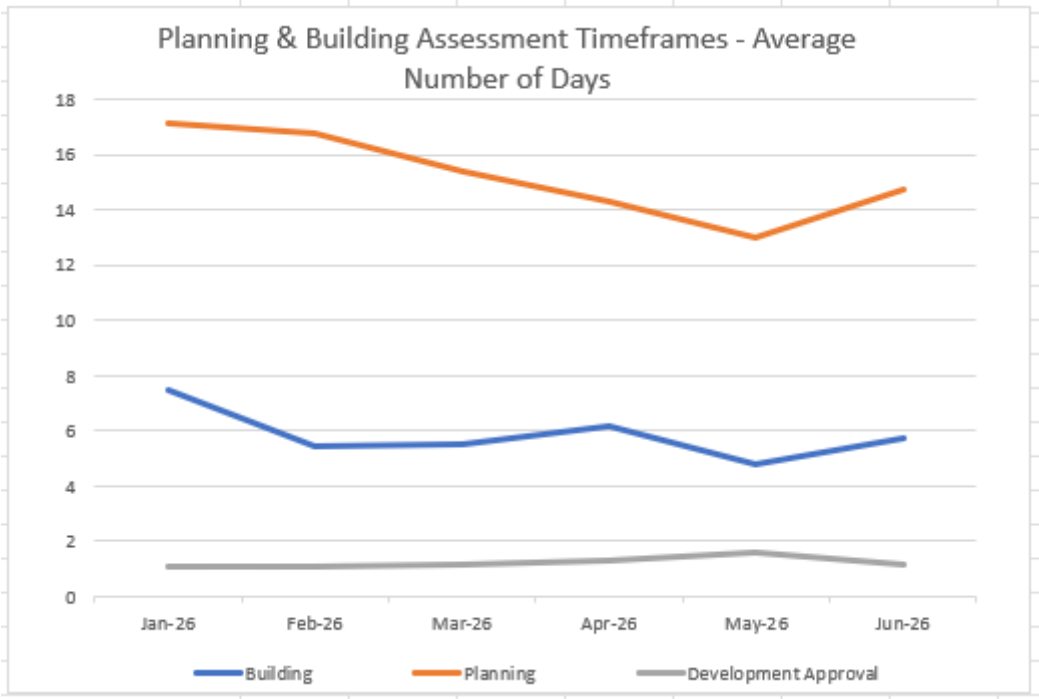
Number of Applications Lodged for the period 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026:



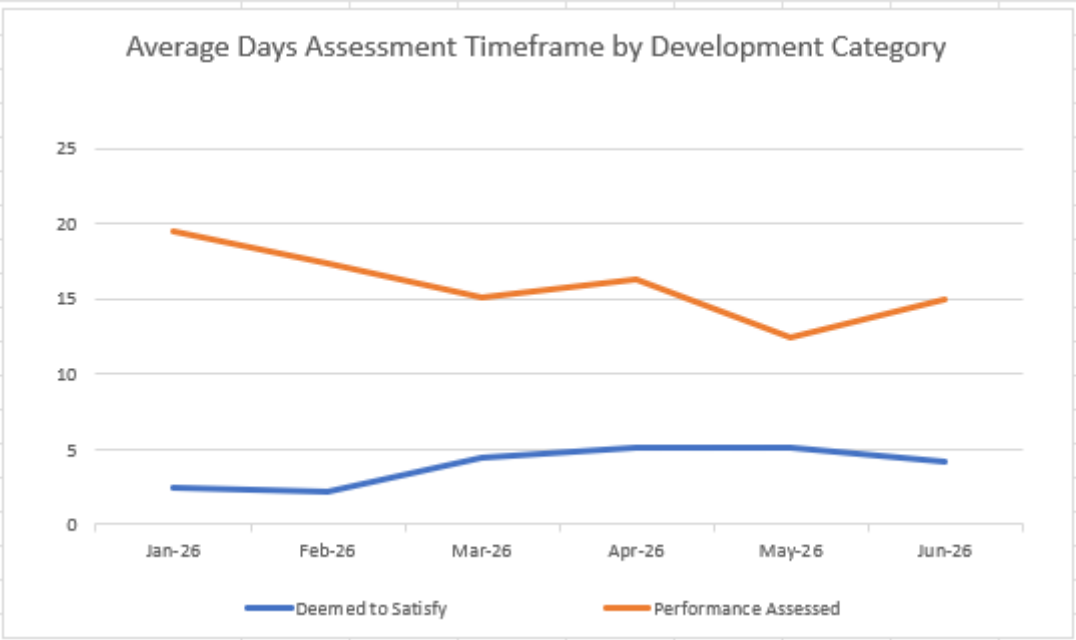
The statutory assessment timeframe for Planning Consent is 20 business days for straight forward applications, 20 business days for Building Consent and five business days for the granting of Development Approval.

Some applications for Planning Consent are subject to referrals or public notification. For applications involving public notification and/or referals, typically the referral timeframe is 70 business days.

Assessment Timeframe - Planning and Building Consent – average number of days:



Planning Consents – Average Days by Development Category



ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.3 ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND DIVISION - STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

Author: Senior Manager Development Services
26/48525

The State Planning Commission released draft Design Standard 1 – Engineering Requirements for Land Division for a second round of consultation in April and May 2026. Council endorsed a submission at the Council Meeting of 19 May 2026. The submission did not object to the draft but made a number of recommendations.

The main implication of the proposed Design Standard is that it will replace Council's Engineering Guidelines as it relates to Concordia. Currently, councils have adopted their own guidelines for infrastructure for land division development.

The Department for Housing and Urban Development has released a summary of the consultation feedback entitled "What We Heard", contained in *Attachment 1*. A total of 51 submissions were received from local and state government, community, special interest groups, industry bodies, planning professionals and an MP.

The key areas of feedback received included:

- Support for clearer requirements that enable local flexibility and place-based design responses;
- Opportunities to further strengthen stormwater and climate resilience requirements within the Design Standard;
- The role of the Technical Manual in supporting best-practice land division design and construction, including through encouraging walkable and cycle-friendly neighbourhoods;
- Opportunities to improve certainty around vesting of assets to Council;
- The need for clear guidance and transitional arrangements to support implementation of the new land division rules.

All feedback is now being collated and considered in greater detail in finalising the engineering design standard and associated documents.

A full engagement report is being prepared, which will include a summary of written submissions and feedback received during both stages of consultation, how these were considered and final proposed updates in response to all feedback received.

Once the engagement report has been adopted by the State Planning Commission and Minister for Planning, a final decision on the draft Design Standard will be made. A further update to Council will be provided upon the final decision being made.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Engineering Requirements for Land Division - Stage 2 Consultation - What we Heard ⇩

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Consultation open on engineering requirements for land divisions | SA Planning Commission

Government of South Australia
Department for Housing and Urban Development

What We Heard

Engineering requirements for land division – stage 2 consultation

About the draft engineering design standard

Proposed engineering requirements for land division aim to streamline assessment processes and enable more homes to be built faster across South Australia's growth areas.

The State Planning Commission prepared the final draft engineering design standard for land division, which provides technical guidance and builds on existing planning rules to deliver more transparent and consistent design standards, construction specifications and infrastructure costs for land division.

The draft Design Standard 1 – Engineering Requirements for Land Division applies to land division for large residential developments in Master Planned Zones, including constructing a public road or infrastructure that will become council property.

It specifies requirements for road and pavement design, stormwater design and quality, earthworks, service infrastructure and street landscaping, including trees.

Updates following the first stage of engagement

This was the second stage of consultation, following a comprehensive review of the initial draft engineering design standard and associated documents originally released for consultation in May 2025.

As a result of feedback received during the initial consultation, substantial changes were proposed, including:

- streamlining the draft engineering design standard to only specify requirements for matters assessed during land division consent and removing references to the technical manual to make it clear whether design requirements have been met
- updating Practice Direction 12 – Conditions to introduce mandatory conditions for land division consents (where the design standard applies), to reduce the need for detailed information up-front and enable negotiation with councils at the detailed design phase

- introducing draft PDI (General) (Land Division Design Standard) Amendment Regulations to make the design standard's role in land division assessment clearer, as well as amending land division requirements

- revising the draft technical manual and standard drawings, limiting their role in the assessment process to one of the ways to satisfy mandatory conditions and to provide best-practice guidance for land division design and construction.

Aspects such as climate resilient design and active transport have also been moved from the design standard and included in the technical manual to ensure updates can be made easily, in-line with contemporary best practice.

What we heard

South Australian community and stakeholders were invited to provide their feedback from 9 April to 21 May 2026 on the final draft engineering design standard, as well as the technical manual, standard drawings and associated changes to the regulations and Practice Direction 12 – Conditions.

A total of 51 submissions were received from local and state government, community, special interest groups, industry bodies, planning professionals and an MP.

The key areas of feedback included:

- support for the clearer requirements that enable local flexibility and place-based design responses
- opportunities to further strengthen stormwater and climate resilience requirements within the design standard
- the role of the technical manual in supporting best-practice land division design and construction, including through encouraging walkable and cycle-friendly neighbourhoods
- opportunities to improve certainty around vesting of assets to council
- the need to for clear guidance and transitional arrangements to support implementation of the new land division rules.

A range of other individual topics were also raised and will be carefully considered in finalising the draft engineering requirements for land division.

Engagement activities

A broad range of community and stakeholders made more than 90 submissions during the first stage of consultation and significant changes were made to the draft engineering requirements for land division.

While this second stage of consultation provided all interested community and stakeholders with an opportunity to provide feedback, engagement activities focussed on gaining feedback from key stakeholders on the updates made in response to initial feedback.

Letters providing information about the updated draft engineering requirements for land division and inviting feedback were sent at the launch of consultation to councils, the LGA, building and planning industry, utilities/service providers, Traditional Owners, special interest groups and MPs.

Notifications were sent to more than 300 PlanSA Eventbrite followers, and the consultation was promoted more broadly through PlanSA and DHUD Facebook, and the State Planning Commission and DHUD LinkedIn social media channels.

The YourSAy website provided information targeted at the broader community and stakeholders and included an online survey. The PlanSA website provided detailed information targeting key stakeholders and included an online form to submit feedback. A spreadsheet was also available on both websites to download and submit detailed feedback.

A series of online information sessions and presentations were held to share further details, including:

- 2 April: Planning User Forum presentation for planning practitioners to raise awareness of the upcoming public consultation and provide information about the updated draft engineering requirements for land division
- 14 April: Stakeholder information session for government, industry and utilities to provide detailed, technical information to stakeholders and answer questions
- 24 April: Planning Policy Forum presentation for council and industry planners to provide information and answer questions
- 29 April: Public information session, open to all interested community and stakeholders to learn more and ask questions.

Next steps

All feedback is now being collated and considered in greater detail in finalising the engineering design standard and associated documents.

An engagement report is being prepared, which will include a summary of written submissions and feedback received during both stages of consultation, how these were considered, and final proposed updates in response to all feedback received.

The engagement report will be provided to the State Planning Commission and Minister for Planning to assist with final decision making.

Once a decision has been made, the engagement report, including all feedback received during consultation, will be published on the YourSAy and PlanSA websites. Names and organisation details will be included with published submissions, but personal addresses, email addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

More information

Phone: 1800 752 664
Email: DHUD.PLUSStrategicProjects@sa.gov.au
Visit: yoursay.sa.gov.au/engineering-design-standard-stage-2

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.4 RESIDENTIAL HARD WASTE PROGRAM FINANCIAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 SUMMARY REPORT

Author: Sustainability Officer
26/48684

This report is provided to inform Council of the results of the Residential Hard Waste Program for Financial Year 2025 – 2026.

Two campaigns were facilitated that provided for both kerbside collections and vouchers.

Changes endorsed at the 17 March 2026 Council meeting (2022-26/934) to extend the kerbside collection service from a township only service to some rural properties were implemented for Campaign 2. Fourteen rural properties accessed the extended service availability for the first time. No complaints were received about reducing the number of contractors servicing the voucher system.

Table 1: Summary of the measures and results of Residential Hard Waste Program for financial year 2025 – 2026.

Measures	Campaign dates	Kerbside Collection	Vouchers
Redemption rate	25 October 2025 – 13 December 2025 (Campaign 1)	500 budgeted. 462 serviced. 92% utilisation.	500 budgeted. 347 claimed. 190 vouchers redeemed (55%).
	22 April 2026 – 30 June 2026 (Campaign 2)	600 budgeted (500 Township, 100 Rural). 381 serviced. 64% utilisation.	500 budgeted. 196 claimed. 115 vouchers redeemed (59%).
Cost of collection	25 October 2025 – 13 December 2025	$13,815	$4,398 Springton 2 extra opening days
	22 April 2026 – 30 June 2026	$12,670	$4,398 Springton 2 extra opening days
Disposal costs	25 October 2025 – 13 December 2025	$11,103 44 tonnes of material disposed.	$11,548 Includes Springton and other operators
	22 April 2026 – 30 June 2026	$9,796 33 tonnes of material disposed.	$8,394 Includes Springton and other operators
Sub total cost (ex. GST)		$47,384	$28,738
		Total cost (ex. GST)	**$76,122**
Marketing costs were additional. All costs incurred for The Program were within budget.			

The utilisation of the kerbside collection service compared to financial year 2024 – 2025 was up 40% (241 more services).

The percentage of vouchers on average presented for use remained consistent at about 55%, however the number of vouchers claimed was down 16% compared to the previous financial year.

The communications strategy from Campaign 1 in April 2026 is documented below, with the same approach executed for the October 2026 campaign.

- Notice in d'Vine magazine Autumn – Winter 2026 posted with rates notices.
- Notice in dvine the leader as part of the full-page spread April 2026.
- Media release for launch: 'Declutter and save is back with two waste incentives'.
- Paid advertising of program opening and additional Springton opening days in the Leader 22 April 2026.
- Socials posts, including paid boosted posts targeting Barossa post codes.
- Corflute signs at:
    - Tanunda - Gomersal Road/Barossa Valley Way on the caravan park fence straight ahead at the intersection.
    - Nuriootpa - Tolley Reserve roundabout, Tanunda Road
    - Angaston - Fence, Memorial Playground, Murray Street
    - Lyndoch - Fence, Lyndoch Oval on Barossa Valley Way
    - Mount Pleasant - Fence, Talunga Park, Melrose Street
- Hard copy posters displayed at all Council customer service centres and libraries. Nuriootpa Co-Op and Williamstown post office were also asked to display a poster.
- Dedicated web page pinned to the main Council webpage.
- Alerts on hard waste webpage and Springton transfer station webpage.

<u>Planning for 2026 - 2027</u>

The campaigns for financial year 2026 – 2027 will commence in November 2026, and again in March 2027, slightly earlier than previous years to avoid Barossa's April events season.

To complete the changes from decision 2022-26/934 17 March 2026,

- Vouchers issued in either campaign will have an expiry date of 30 June 2027 to align with end of financial year, and
- Voucher value will be increased to align with Springton Transfer Stations resident rate for *'Trailers, Utes & Tandem Trailers above water level (exceeding 6x4) with hurdle'* which is $101 including GST for financial year 2026 – 2027.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.5 FOOD ACT ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
26/50638

Section 93 of the *Food Act 2001 (the Act)* requires that Council provide a summary of activities related to the administration of the *Act*. The report (Attachment 1) is created from the template supplied (and required) by SA Health and was forwarded to their Food Standard Surveillance Branch prior to 15 July 2026 (to comply with their requested deadline).

Local councils, in their roles as enforcement agencies, have an essential role in the administration of this Act. The information provided by Local Government contributes an essential part of the required Annual Food Act Report to Parliament each year by the Minister.

Traditionally food businesses in The Barossa Council area are inspected using the *Australian Food Safety Assessment* (AFSA) system. Developed in SA, food businesses were given an overall risk classification (i.e low, medium, high) and routine inspection frequencies vary from six to twenty-four months (according to risk) to ensure compliance with the National Food Standards.

The *SA Food Business Risk Classification System* requires an in-depth assessment of the types of foods being provided, the food processes undertaken, determining the highest food risk, and categorising the business sector to arrive at an inspection priority (i.e P1, P2, P3 and P4, with P1 being the highest risk category). A consequence of this priority system is the disclosure of many premises identified as being of high risk, thereby requiring more frequent and longer inspections and, thus, more resourcing.

Food businesses which cater for vulnerable populations (e.g Child Care Centres, Hospitals or Nursing Homes) are required to have *Food Safety Plans* (FSP). Such premises are required to have their FSP independently audited (by external third party Auditors, from other councils or SA Health) and reports on these Audits are then forwarded to the local council by the Auditor. Council currently has one approved Food Safety Auditor on staff, and a second staff member will be approved in February 2027 upon completion of training. A fee is charged per Audit. Hospital FSP's are audited by SA Health. There were in total six businesses subject to a food audit in the period of 2025/26.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Food Act Annual Report 2025 2026 - Safe Drinking Water Act Annual Report 2025 2026 ⇩

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

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FOOD ACT 2001 - ANNUAL REPORT QUESTIONNAIRE

Purpose: To collect information on activities undertaken by Local Government under the *Food Act 2001* for the previous financial year period, as required under the Section 93 of the *Food Act 2001* (the Act). Note: When completing the questionnaire please do not delete or remove any formulas.

Council Name: The Barossa Council

1. Authorised Officers

An authorised officer (AO) is defined as a person appointed under Part 9, Division 3 of the Act. Under Division 3 councils are required to maintain a list of AOs appointed under the Act. The purpose of this section is to update the current list of authorised officers working in South Australia. Complete the table to provide the details of all AOs appointed under the Act for your council at 30th June 2026.

Explanatory notes:

- Where part time staff are employed by more than one council, please indicate the name of all other councils the officer works for.
- If at 30th of June 2026 council did not have an AO under the Food Act please write NIL in the first row of the table.
-** FTE = Full Time Equivalent and is calculated as part time working hrs per week/full time working hours per week. e.g. AO works 15 hours/week when fulltime hours for the week are 37.5. Therefore 15/37.5 = 0.4 FTE.

Name of Authorised Officer	Position title	Contact details			Full time or part time appointment	If part time record the **FTE	Does the AO work for more than one council?	If applicable name other councils worked for
		Phone	Mobile	Email				
Debra Harding	Senior Environmental Health Officer	8563 8379	0417 915 947	dharding@barossa.sa.gov.au	Full Time		No	
Fiona Hayter	Environmental Health Officer	8563 8419	0461 309 411	fhayter@barossa.sa.gov.au	Full Time		No	
Chetna	Environmental Health Officer	8563 8362	0476 376 055	chetna@barossa.sa.gov.au	Full Time		No	

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TOTAL full time employees	3	No. AOs that work for >1 council	0
TOTAL part time employees	0		

2. Audited Food Premises

2A. Number of food audits

The Food Act requires businesses that process food for service to "Vulnerable Populations" to implement a documented Food Safety Program which is audited to verify compliance with Standard 3.2.1. Explanatory notes:
- complete the following table for audits conducted in your council area only.
- if you conduct audits outside your council area, these details will be captured by the respective council.
- if audited businesses were also inspected by your council during the financial year, please indicate in the table.
- do not include audit statistics for public hospitals or not-for-profit delivered meal organisations as they are audited by SA Health and reported separately.

Business Type - Vulnerable Population	No. of Businesses	Routine audits (Standard 3.2.1, 3.2.2 & 3.2.3)		Inspections (Standard 3.2.2 & 3.2.3)	
		No. of audits conducted by **your council** (in your jurisdiction)	No. of audits conducted by **other councils** (in your jurisdiction)	No. of routine inspections conducted at audited businesses	No. of follow-up inspections conducted at audited businesses
Child Care Centres	4	3	1		
Aged Care Facilities	3	3			
Private Hospitals					
Others - e.g. central production kitchen for vulnerable pops					
TOTAL	7	6	1	0	0

Vulnerable Populations are those types of businesses as defined in Standard 3.3.1 and are required to be audited.

2B. Food audit fees

Councils are able to charge for audits conducted by AOs.
Does your council conduct Food Audits? Yes *If NO proceed to section 2C.*

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Does your council charge fees for conducting Food Audits? Yes *If NO proceed to section 2C.*

State the food audit fees currently charged by your council including specifying the unit per fee i.e. whether the fee is “per audit” OR “per hour”.

	Audit Activity Type				
	Desktop (offsite) audit	Routine (onsite) audit	Follow up audit	Travel costs	Other
Audit fee $$/unit*	$100 per hour	$210 per hour	$210 per hour	$100 per hour (if external to Council)	
Is there is a cap on the maximum cost of an audit? If yes, please specify.					

*Unit - please specify in your response, for example “per audit” OR “per hour”

2C. Food audit enforcement activities

Please complete the following table indicating the enforcement activities undertaken by your councils on businesses captured by Std 3.2.1 during financial year 2025-2026.

Reason for enforcement activity	Written warnings	Improvement notices	Prohibition orders	Expiations	Prosecutions
FSP not prepared, implemented, maintained and monitored					
FSP not audited at the frequency determined by the auditor					
FSP not revised so as to comply with the regulations					
FSP audit report not retained by business for four years					
TOTALS	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

3. Inspected Food Premises

3A. Number of inspections of food businesses

All food businesses in South Australia are required to comply with the *Food Act 2001* , the *Food Regulations 2017* and the Food Safety Standards. Please complete the following table with respect to your Council EXCLUDING businesses that service “Vulnerable Populations” that were reported in section 2A of the questionnaire. Note: Number of businesses includes all the businesses during the financial year including the ones that were closed or changed ownership.

Businesses Inspections per Risk Classification

OFFICIAL

Risk Classification	Number of businesses	Routine inspections	Follow up inspections	No. of inspections resulting from complaints
P1 (exc. "Vulnerable Pop" businesses)	130	43	19	4
P2	183	33	5	2
P3	232	45		
P4	15	2		
Total	560	123	24	6

3B. Food inspection fees

Councils are able to charge for inspections conducted by Authorised Officers.

Does your council charge fees for conducting food premises inspections? *If NO proceed to section 3C.*

State the fees currently charged by your council for inspections.

	Inspection Type				
	Routine Inspection	Follow up inspection	Complaint inspection	Home activity inspection	Other
Inspection charge ($)/unit*	as per Gazette	first follow-up no charge, subsequently as per Gazette	nil	half charge as per Gazette	

*Unit - please specify in your response, for example "per inspection" OR "per hour"

3C. Enforcement activities

OFFICIAL

Please complete the following table indicating the enforcement activities undertaken by your councils during financial year 2025-2026. Notes for completing this section:
- "No. of businesses" includes all businesses that are/were open within the financial year (inc. ones that changed ownership or closed by the end of the year). This column MUST be completed, even if no enforcement action has been taken.
- "No. of businesses inspected" must be recorded as the number of businesses that were inspected in the financial year NOT the number of inspections. e.g. a takeaway may be inspected twice a year, but as this is only one business, it would be recorded as 1 in this column.
- "No. of businesses requiring enforcement action" means the number of businesses that had any one or more of the following: improvement notices, prohibition orders, expiations or prosecutions. Only count the business once, even if multiple enforcement actions are undertaken.
-Only enter numerals as values. For Example, do not put in N/A or notes as the formula will not work.

Table 3C.1

Retail business sector	Risk classification	Total no. of businesses	No. of businesses Inspected	No. of business requiring enforcement action	No. of improve-ment notices issued	No. of prohibition orders issued	No. of expiations issued	No. of prosec-utions	Percent compliance per inspected businesses
TOTAL Retailer		**52**	**13**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	100%
Alcoholic beverages packaged	P4	2							#DIV/0!
Bakery products (low risk)	P3	1	1						100%
Bakery products Perishable fillings	P2	3	2						100%
Continental Type Delicatessen food	P2	3	2						100%
High risk food - perishable	P2	3	2						100%
Low risk packaged food	P4	13	2						100%
Low risk food unpackaged	P3	5	3						100%
Medium risk food - perishable	P3	22	1						100%
Raw meat & poultry	P2								#DIV/0!
Seafood (exc processing of bivalve molluscs)	P2								#DIV/0!
Other P2 - indicate in comments	P2								#DIV/0!
Other P3 - indicate in comments	P3								#DIV/0!
Other P4 - indicate in comments	P4								#DIV/0!

OFFICIAL

Comments:

Table 3C.2

Food service business sector	Risk classification	Total no. of businesses	No. of businesses Inspected	No. of business requiring enforcement action	No. of improve-ment notices issued	No. of prohibition orders issued	No. of expiations issued	No. of prosec-utions	Percent compliance per inspected businesses
TOTAL Food Service		**299**	**71**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**97%**
Catering offsite activity	P1	6							#DIV/0!
Catering onsite activity	P1	1							#DIV/0!
Medium risk foods perishable	P3	19	4						100%
Restaurants and takeaway RTE Food-Prepared in advance >4 hrs	P1	111	41	2	2		1		95%
Restaurants and takeaway food RTE food - express order <4hrs	P2	86	18						100%
Restaurants and takeaway food - RTE no raw preparation	P2	76	8						100%
Other P1 - indicate in comments	P1								#DIV/0!
Other P2 - indicate in comments	P2								#DIV/0!
Other P3 - indicate in comments	P3								#DIV/0!

Comments:

Table 3C.3

				No. of					Percent

OFFICIAL

Business sector	Risk classification	Total no. of businesses	No. of businesses Inspected	business requiring enforcement action	No. of improve-ment notices issued	No. of prohibition orders issued	No. of expiations issued	No. of prosec-utions	compliance per inspected businesses
TOTAL Processor/Manufacturer		**209**	**39**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	100%
Bakery products Perishable fillings processing	P1	9	2		1				100%
Baby Food processing	P2								#DIV/0!
Beverage processing	P3	58	4						100%
Beverage processing (small producer)	P3								#DIV/0!
Canned food processing	P2	2							#DIV/0!
Canned food processing very small producer & high acid food	P3	6	2						100%
Chocolate processing	P2								#DIV/0!
Chocolate processing (small producer)	P3	2							#DIV/0!
Cereal processing & medium/low risk bakery	P3	75	18						100%
Confectionary processing	P3	20	3						100%
Cook-Chill food Short shelf-life processing	P1	1							#DIV/0!
Cook-chill food Extended shelf life processing	P1	1							#DIV/0!
Cook-chill food Extended shelf life processing + aseptic packaging	P2	1	1						100%
Cook-frozen food processing	P2	3							#DIV/0!
Dairy processing (exc. soft cheese)	P2	1							#DIV/0!
Dairy processing - Soft cheese processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Egg Processing	P2								#DIV/0!

OFFICIAL

Fruit and Vegetables processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Fruit and vegetable processing frozen	P2								#DIV/0!
Fruit and vegetable processing frozen, Blanch, wash &pack, dehydrating, condiments , small producer	P3	18	6						100%
Fruit and vegetable juice unpasteurised processing	P1	1							#DIV/0!
Fruit juice pasteurisation processing, shelf stable processing	P2								#DIV/0!
Fruit juice pasteurisation processing, shelf stable processing small producer	P3	1	1						100%
Infant formula product processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Meat processing, abattoir/boning room	P2	3							#DIV/0!
Meat processing, fermented meat processing, small goods processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Oils and fats processing	P3	2	1						100%
Peanut butter processing, nut processing	P2								#DIV/0!
Peanut butter processing, Nut processing , small producer	P3								#DIV/0!
Poultry processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Prepared not ready to eat food processing	P2	2							#DIV/0!

OFFICIAL

Prepared ready to eat food processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Salt & other low risk ingredients/additives processor	P3								#DIV/0!
Seafood processing	P2								#DIV/0!
Seafood processing RTE and shelf stable	P2								#DIV/0!
Seafood processing - mollusc processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Snack chips processing	P3								#DIV/0!
Spices and dried herbs processing	P2								#DIV/0!
Spices and dried herbs processing small producer	P3	3	1						100%
Sprout processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Sushi processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Vegetables in oil processing	P1								#DIV/0!
Other P1 - indicate in comments	P1								#DIV/0!
Other P2 - indicate in comments	P2								#DIV/0!
Other P3 - indicate in comments	P3								#DIV/0!
Comments:									

Table 3C.4

Business sector	Risk classification	Total no. of businesses	No. of businesses Inspected	No. of business requiring enforcement action	No. of improve-ment notices issued	No. of prohibition orders issued	No. of expiations issued	No. of prosec-utions	Percent compliance per inspected businesses
TOTAL Transporter		**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	#DIV/0!
Bulk flour storage distributor	P3								#DIV/0!
Bulk milk collection distributor	P2								#DIV/0!
Dairy produce distributor	P3								#DIV/0!

OFFICIAL

Dry goods and beverages distributor	P4								#DIV/0!
Frozen food distributor	P3								#DIV/0!
Fruit and vegetables distributor	P3								#DIV/0!
Perishable ready to eat, packaged, medium risk food distributor	P3								#DIV/0!
Perishable, ready to eat, packaged, high risk food distributor	P2								#DIV/0!
Processed meat distributor	P2								#DIV/0!
Seafood distributor	P2								#DIV/0!
Other P2 - indicate in comments	P2								#DIV/0!
Other P3 - indicate in comments	P3								#DIV/0!
Other P4 - indicate in comments	P4								#DIV/0!
Comments:									

4. Food complaints

4A Food complaint data

Please complete the following table indicating the type of complaints received by your councils during the 2025-2026 financial year.

Nature of complaint	Total No. of Complaints	Total justified complaints
Alleged food poisoning	1	
Allergens	1	1
Chemical contamination		
Foreign matter	1	1
Garbage/recyclable storage		

OFFICIAL

Labelling	1	1	
Pests and animals			
Poor personal hygiene or poor food handling practices	1	1	
Unclean premises			
Unsafe/unsuitable food due to microbial contamination			
Other (please state)	4	2	Nature of "other" complaints: food out of temperature control, service of raw chicken, inadequate kitchen fit out x 2
TOTALS	**9**	**6**	
% Complaints Justified		**66.66666667**	

5. Temporary events

Some councils undertake inspections of mobile food vendors (MFVs) whilst they are trading at events. Inspections at events can include routine, or shortened routine, inspections/assessments. If your council conducts and records inspections of MFVs when trading at events please enter the details below. Note: do not include routine inspections of MFVs at their garaging (home) council location - this information should be recorded in Section 3.

Inspections at temporary events

Risk Classification	Inspections at temp events	Follow up inspections at temp events
P1		
P2	4	2
P3		
P4		
Uncategorise temp businesses		
Total	4	2

6. Proactive projects, surveys and sampling programs

If your council has conducted any projects, surveys, sampling or education campaigns please provide a brief summary of the activity below including what was done, how and why it was done, and any results or outcomes. These comments will not be included in the report to the Minister.

The Barossa Council
Safe Drinking Water Act Annual Report 2025-2026

Activities under the Act

1 Appointment of authorised officers under the Safe Drinking Water Act

Name of authorised officer & qualifications (including auditing qualifications)	Position Title	Does the authorised officer work for more than one council? Provide details.
Debra Harding	Senior Environmental Health Officer	No

2 Audits and inspections

Trading name of drinking water provider	Date of audit/inspection	Name of auditor/inspector
Boutique Tankers	8 December 2025	Debra Harding

3 Fees for audits and inspections

$222

4 Enforcement activities

Nil

5 Drinking water related complaints

Trading name of drinking water provider	Date complaint received	Details of follow-up/ investigation, etc
	Nil	

6 Provision of information/education

Nil

7 Other activities

Nil

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.6 SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 22 JANUARY 2026, 26 MARCH 2026 AND 23 JULY 2026 - AGENDA AND MINUTES

Author: Executive Support Officer
26/50968

Please find the agenda and minutes for the Sister Cities Advisory Committee scheduled to be held on 22 January 2026, 26 March 2026 and 23 July 2026 in the links below.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Agenda of Sister City Advisory Committee - Thursday, 22 January 2026

Minutes of Sister City Advisory Committee - Thursday, 22 January 2026

Agenda of Sister City Advisory Committee - Thursday, 26 March 2026

Minutes of Sister City Advisory Committee - Thursday, 26 March 2026

Agenda of Sister City Advisory Committee - Thursday, 23 July 2026

Minutes of Sister City Advisory Committee - Thursday, 23 July 2026

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.7 WILLIAMSTOWN AND LYNDOCH LANDCARE GROUP INC. - MINUTES OF MEETING

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
26/51205

The minutes of the Williamstown and Lyndoch Landcare Group Inc. meeting held 22 July 2026, are attached for information.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Minutes - Williamstown and Lyndoch Landcare Group Inc meeting held 22 July 2026

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

Meeting Minutes

PO Box 694
Lyndoch, SA 5351

Purpose	**General Meeting**		
Prepared by	Terry Redman	**Phone No.**	0418 857 915
Location	Council Rooms 29 Barossa Valley Way, Lyndoch, SA 5351	**Date**	22 July 2026
Attendees	Peter Henshaw (Vice Chair) Tina Woods Tracy Sinclair Don Wegener Terry Redman	Angus Atkinson (by proxy given to Tina Woods)	

Quorum

Number of Ordinary members:	20% of Ordinary members	Attendees	Quorum[1] achieved?
11	2.8 (rounded up) **3**	6	**Yes**

Distribution All current & life members, Chris Kruger (Executive Assistant for the Directorate: Development and Community Services, The Barossa Council) and Kim Thompson (Team Leader Environmental Services, Infrastructure and Environmental Services, The Barossa Council), Doreen von Linde,(acting for Kim Thompson)

File 20260722_GeneralMeetingMinutes.docx

Item		Action by	Date Due
1	**Meeting Opened:** 7.28 pm		
2	**Apologies:** Nelly Van Der Lerssel, Pam Cross, Margaret Puddy		

WILLIAMSTOWN & LYNDOCH LANDCARE GROUP INC.
LANDCARE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Minutes

3	**Minutes of previous Meeting:** held 24 June 2026. **Moved:** Don Wegener, **Seconded:** Tracy Sinclair – **Carried unanimously**		
4	**Business Arising last meeting:** No business arising.		
4.1	**Actions now closed:** **ACTION: BBBFM, "Lets chat Barossa" Podcast** **Update:** BBBFM have been contacted. Initial contact no longer works there. Details provided for future contact. **ACTION: Non-glyphosate environmental weed control trials**– Complete a written report on the trial plots established in 2024 and monitored in 2025. Provide proposed follow-up actions (if any) for consideration by the committee. **Update:** Report tabled. Report is observational and worthy of further use with new trials to commence using "Slasher." Further consultation with similar groups will also be undertaken. **ACTION: Hold information stall at Budburst**– Determine date for Budburst and organise. **Update:** Budburst event held between 5.00pm and 9.00pm, Saturday 10 October. Logistically, unsuitable to attend.		
4.2	**Actions Still open:** ACTION: **Summary of achievements of the Association's objectives and strategies as stated in the 2022 Management plan**. **Update:** To finalise summary of actions undertaken in 2025 and resubmit. ACTION: **Hold information stall at Lyndoch Markets**– Determine the date of market to attend and organise. Update: Attendance at Market to occur in Spring. Clarification of stall requirements to be undertaken and re-considered. ACTION: **Reptiles & Amphibians -** Determine who is the appropriate contact person for the Field Naturalist Society of South Australia – Reptile and Frog Group. Determine any potential future reptiles and amphibian surveys. ACTION: **Orchids -** Determine who is the appropriate contact person for the Native Orchid Society of South Australia (NOSSA). Touch base and understand any planned visits to the reserve in 2026/2027. ACTION: **Native Plants -** Determine who is the appropriate contact person for the Native Plants Society of South Australia. Touch base and understand any planned visits to the reserve in 2026/2027.	Tina Woods Tracy Sinclair Tina Woods Tina Woods Tracy Sinclair	August 2026 August 2026 August 2026 August 2026 August 2026

WILLIAMSTOWN & LYNDOCH LANDCARE GROUP INC.
LANDCARE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Minutes

5	**New Actions from Business arising this meeting:** Nil		
6	**Correspondence IN:**- ○ **Friends of Parks and Nature SA –** ○ **Weekly update –** 25/06/2026, 01/07/2026, 08/07/2026, 15/07/2026 ○ **The Print Market -** ○ Feedback request via survey - 01/07/2026 ○ **Landcare SA –** ○ Impact and Engagement survey – 03/07/2026 ▪ Details to be submitted by 07/08/2026 ○ H5 Bird Flu update ○ **ESS AUS Alert –** Community information sessions at Gawler Civic Centre 13/07/2026 ○ **Consumer and Business Services –** ○ CBS Connect – June 2026 update - 23/06/2026 ○ **DEW/Green Adelaide –** ○ 16/07/2026 – Unique Code for 2026/2027 ○ 22/07/2026 - Green Adelaide News July 2026 ○ **Landscapes SA –** ○ 02/07/2026 – Yakka News ○ 30/06/2026 – Elisha Brunton – Clarification of activities performed for Insurance coverage. ○ **Tracy Sinclair –** ○ Fwd email from Jamie Pook re-release of Cochineal beetle at Altona ○ Report on Bird SA walk at Altona 11/07/2026		
	Correspondence OUT: • Angus Atkinson – ○ Landscapes SA:-Clarification of nature of work performed for Insurance purposes		
7	**Chair Report:** Nil		

WILLIAMSTOWN & LYNDOCH LANDCARE GROUP INC.
LANDCARE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Minutes

8 **Monthly Volunteer Hours Summary**

Tasks	FY26 [1]	JUN 26	JULY 26 (to 22/07/26)
1. Admin Duties (Committee Members)[2]	**65**	30	
2. Meetings, home & away	**76**	9	
3. Promotions. (Tours, demos, etc.)	**34**	nil	
4. Propagation (Sowing, planting out, seed collection, etc.)	**0**	nil	
5. Weed & Pest Control	**679**	61	50
6. Construction & maintenance (Equipment, fencing, trails, buildings, etc.)	**99**	13	
7. Equipment design & manufacture (Seed boxes, displays, jigs, tools, etc.)	**19**	2	
8. Monitoring	**152**	nil	10
Totals	**1124**	**115**	**60**

1. Final numbers for FY26 will be reported at the AGM.

9 **Monthly Income & Expenditure** – since last General Meeting

Moved: Don Wegener **– Seconded:** Terry Redman**. Carried unanimously**

	JUN 26	JUL 26 (as at 22/07/26)
Balance Brought Forward	$ 5,095.04	$ 4,964.23
Income	$ 0.19	
Expenses	$ 131.00	
End Month Balance	**$ 4,964.23**	**$ 4,964.23**

WILLIAMSTOWN & LYNDOCH LANDCARE GROUP INC.
LANDCARE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Meeting Minutes

Account Balances – since last General Meeting

	JUN 26	JUL 26 (as at 22/07/26)
Administration	$ 1,430.80	$ 1,430.80
Credit Union Share	$ 2.00	$ 2.00
Project No.2 (Altona)	$ 3,531.43	$ 3,531.43
Total End Month Balance	**$ 4,964.23**	**$ 4,964.23**

Notes:
1. Additional Invoice from Environmental Weed Control and Revegetation expected this month.

10 **Petty Cash:**
Balance: $144.85
Income – donations (09/07/2026) - $22.75
Expenditure - Fuel/Diesel 16/07/2026 - $18.00

11 **Work Health and Safety:**
Nil

12 **Publicity:**
- **Facebook –**
  - Regular updates continuing.
  - 705 Followers
- **Lyndoch Grapevine**
  - Standing Advertisement.
- **Willy Wagtail**
  - Standing Advertisement

13 **General Business:**

- Kim Thompson is currently on two months leave. During her absence, Doreen von Linde, will assume her role in an acting capacity. A copy of the minutes will be provided to Doreen.
- Insurance coverage. Due to a delay in Insurance coverage approval, the working bee for 23/07/2026 would not proceed.
- A successful Birds SA Walk was conducted on Saturday 11/07/2026. Details and photos have been provided to the Lyndoch Grapevine.
- A revised morning-tea process to be trialled, with workers staying on site rather than travelling back to the Container. This should reduce travel

Meeting Minutes

	time and allow volunteers to restart tasks more quickly. Vehicle logistics to be confirmed.		
14	**Key Dates for 2026**: • AGM 26th August 2026		
15	**Next Meeting:** The next Meeting will be the **2026 Annual General Meeting,** which will be followed by the **August 2026 General Meeting**. 7.30 pm, Wednesday 26th August 2026, Council Rooms, 29 Barossa Valley Way, Lyndoch, SA, 5351		
16	**Meeting Closed:** 8.23pm		

Notes-

1. Under the Constitution dated 26 June 2025 – A **quorum** (that is the minimum number of members that must be present at a general meeting to make the proceedings of that meeting valid) shall be determined as 20% of the number of Ordinary Members.

	Name	Signature	Date
Member who presided over the meeting which these minutes record:		I confirm that these minutes are an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting:	
Member who presided at the meeting where these minutes are confirmed:			

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.8 2026 REVIEW OF MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM REMUNERATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Author: Manager Governance and OMCEO
26/51557

The Remuneration Tribunal of South Australia has recently issued the Report and Determination 4 of 2026 for the 2026 Review of Minimum and Maximum Remuneration for Local Government Chief Executive Officers. Please find attached the associated documents.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Remuneration Tribunal of South Australia Report and Determination 4 of 2026 - - Local Government CEOs ⇩

Attachment 2 Remuneration Tribunal of South Australia Report 2026 - Local Government CEOs ⇩

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

No. 4 of 2026

DETERMINATION OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2026 Review of Minimum and Maximum Remuneration for Local Government Chief Executive Officers

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SCOPE OF DETERMINATION

1. This Determination applies to Chief Executive Officers of Local Government Councils to whom section 99A of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) (**LG Act**) applies.

2. This Determination does not apply to the Roxby Downs Council for the reasons provided in Report 3 of 2025.

3. This Determination applies to the District Council of Coober Pedy, while preserving the effect of the Exceptional Circumstances Determination made for that Council for the reasons in Report 4 of 2024.

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM REMUNERATION

4. In accordance with section 99A of the LG Act the Remuneration Tribunal hereby determines the following rates of minimum and maximum remuneration for Chief Executive Officers of Local Government Councils in South Australia:

Band	Total Remuneration Package
Adelaide City Council	$386,710 - $495,975
1	$323,763 - $453,818
2	$296,243 - $415,244
3	$271,062 - $379,948
4	$248,022 - $347,652
5	$226,940 - $318,102
6	$207,650 - $291,063
7	$190,000 - $266,322
8	$190,000 - $243,686

Exceptional Circumstances Determination	Total Remuneration Package
District Council of Coober Pedy	$197,600 - $285,414

5. Remuneration figures are expressed on a total remuneration package basis as is detailed below:

Component	Definition
Monetary remuneration	Base salary (cash component).
Superannuation	Includes employer superannuation contributions, any salary sacrifice component, and any additional payments made by a Council.
Annual Leave Loading	As defined in the relevant employment contract.
Additional Leave Entitlements	Dollar value of additional leave provided over and above statutory entitlement, except where this is provided to allow remotely based CEOs to travel to their hometown or capital city to commence/return from leave.
Bonuses	Dollar value of any bonuses or performance incentives, whether received in cash or kind.
Motor Vehicle	The value of the cash allowance or the private benefit value of the motor vehicle to the CEO using either the Prime Cost (depreciation), Operating Cost, or Statutory Formula in accordance with the ATO rules. Must include FBT payable by the CEO. Refer to: https://www.ato.gov.au/calculators-and-tools/fringe-benefits-tax-car-calculator
Housing Allowance	The dollar value of any housing allowance or rental subsidy and associated FBT. Consistent with the ATO remote area fringe benefit tax requirements. Note, designated remote areas are exempt from FBT – refer to: https://www.ato.gov.au/businesses-and-organisations/hiring-and-paying-your-workers/fringe-benefits-tax/types-of-fringe-benefits/accommodation-and-location-related-fringe-benefits/remote-area-fbt-concessions/fringe-benefits-tax-remote-areas
Other Fees and Allowances	Includes, but not limited to, any or all of the following: • School or childcare fees, including school uniforms; • Newspaper/magazine/online subscriptions;

	• Value of perquisites provided to the CEO i.e. memberships; • Personal travel or any other benefit taken in lieu of salary by the CEO (and immediate family at the discretion of the Council); • Health insurance; • Any and all other allowances; • Any other form of payment - cash or otherwise; and • Any Fringe Benefits Tax paid by Council in respect of any of the above.
Total Remuneration Package (TRP)	The total of all the above components.

6. For the avoidance of doubt, mobile telephones, and portable computing equipment, fundamentally for work purposes, professional development costs directly related to the performance of CEO duties, membership of professional associations and relocation expenses are not included in the total remuneration package.
7. Council Groupings are detailed in Attachment 1.
8. Any decision in relation to an annual increase for CEO remuneration within the bands set by the Tribunal remains a matter for each Council in accordance with section 99A(1) of the LG Act.
9. Councils have until 31 December 2027 to comply with the minimum and maximum remuneration amounts.

DATE OF OPERATION

10. This Determination operates from 1 July 2026.
11. It supersedes Determination 3 of 2025 and Determination 4 of 2024.

Matthew O'Callaghan	Donny Walford	Mark Young
PRESIDENT	**MEMBER**	**MEMBER**

Dated: 30 July 2026

ATTACHMENT 1

Council	Band
City of Onkaparinga	1
City of Charles Sturt	1
City of Salisbury	1
City of Port Adelaide Enfield	1
City of Playford	1
City of Marion	2
City of Tea Tree Gully	2
City of Holdfast Bay	2
Alexandrina Council	2
City of West Torrens	3
City of Mitcham	3
Mount Barker District Council	3
City of Campbelltown	3
The Rural City of Murray Bridge	3
The Barossa Council	3
City of Unley	3
Copper Coast Council	3
City of Burnside	4
Adelaide Hills Council	4
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters	4
City of Mount Gambier	4
Yorke Peninsula Council	4
City of Whyalla	4
Town of Gawler	4
City of Victor Harbor	4
Light Regional Council	4
Kangaroo Island Council	4
Corporation of the City of Port Augusta	5
Wattle Range Council	5
Port Pirie Regional Council	5
Mid Murray Council	5
City of Prospect	5
District Council of Loxton Waikerie	5
City of Port Lincoln	5
Berri Barmera Council	5
Renmark Paringa Council	5
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	5
Adelaide Plains Council	5
District Council of Yankalilla	5
Tatiara District Council	6
Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council	6
Coorong District Council	6
Wakefield Regional Council	6
District Council of Grant	6
Lower Eyre Peninsula Council	6
Northern Areas Council	7
Regional Council of Goyder	7
District Council of Streaky Bay	7
District Council of Ceduna	7
Corporation of the Town of Walkerville	7
District Council of Franklin Harbour	7
District Council of Mount Remarkable	7
Southern Mallee District Council	7

Kingston District Council	7
District Council of Robe	7
Barunga West Council	7
District Council of Tumby Bay	7
District Council of Cleve	7
Wudinna District Council	7
District Council of Kimba	7
The Flinders Ranges Council	7
District Council of Peterborough	7
District Council of Elliston	7
District Council of Karoonda East Murray	8
District Council of Orroroo Carrieton	8

No. 4 of 2026

REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

2026 Review of Minimum and Maximum Remuneration for Local Government Chief Executive Officers

---

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Remuneration Tribunal (**Tribunal**) has reviewed Report and Determination 3 of 2025 which provides for the minimum and maximum remuneration payable to Chief Executive Officers (**CEOs**) of Local Government Councils.

2. As explained in this Report, the Tribunal has reviewed the Remuneration Framework set out in Report 3 of 2025[1] and which underpins Determination 3 of 2025.

3. This Review follows submissions made to the Tribunal after it decided to make available the Mercer Report, which was prepared by Mercer Consulting (Australia) Pty Ltd (**Mercer**). This Report is referenced in Report & Determination 3 of 2025 (**Mercer Report**). It is a review of a separate nature from the annual review of minimum and maximum remuneration amounts foreshadowed in Report 3 of 2025[2] (**2026 Annual Review**).

4. The 2026 Annual Review includes consideration of Report and Determination 4 of 2024 relating to the CEO of the District Council of Coober Pedy.

5. Notwithstanding, and to remove any confusion, the Tribunal has contemporaneously undertaken the 2026 Annual Review in conjunction with this Review and published its reasons in this Report.

6. The Tribunal has not determined that changes to Determination 3 of 2025 with respect to either Council Bands or the placement of Councils within the Council Bands are required. However, the Tribunal has expanded the bandwidth of the Remuneration Ranges by increasing the maximum Remuneration amount of each Remuneration Range applicable to each of the Council Bands by 4%. This is a one-off adjustment to the Remuneration Framework established by the Tribunal and does not apply to the District Council of Coober Pedy.

7. Following a separate consideration, the Tribunal has also undertaken the 2026 Annual Review. To reflect inflationary movements over the past 12 months, it has applied a 4% increase to the maximum amounts for each of the Remuneration Ranges and to the maximum amount applicable to the District Council of Coober Pedy.

[1] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [64] - [125] and [14] of this Report.
[2] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [130].

8. Neither increase can be regarded as justification for remuneration increases for CEOs. They simply provide scope for Councils to consider increases within the revised maximum amounts applicable to the Remuneration Ranges.

9. The Tribunal has issued an accompanying Determination which applies from 1 July 2026.

BACKGROUND

10. The *Remuneration Act 1990* (SA) (**Act**) provides the Tribunal with the jurisdiction to determine the remuneration, or a specified part of the remuneration payable in respect of certain offices, if such jurisdiction is conferred by the Tribunal by any other legislation.

11. Section 99A of the *Local Government Act 1991* (SA) **(LG Act)** provides that the Tribunal will, from time to time, determine the minimum and maximum remuneration that may be paid or provided to the CEOs of Local Government Councils.

12. As the Tribunal has noted at paragraph 2 of this Report, this Review comprises of a review of the Remuneration Framework which the Tribunal established in Report 3 of 2025 and which underpins Determination 3 of 2025.

13. The Remuneration Framework is comprised of multiple parts. The Tribunal has determined to set out those parts here to improve the readability of this Report.

14. The **Remuneration Framework** is comprised of the following components as discussed in Report 3 of 2025:

    a. The **Council Grouping Model**, which provides the mechanism to group comparable Councils;[3]
    b. The **Council Bands** represent the distribution of Councils after the application of the Grouping Model (being the Adelaide City Council and Council Bands 1 to 8 in Determination 3 of 2025);[4]
    c. The **Remuneration Ranges** are the minimum and maximum remuneration amounts applicable to each Council Band;[5] and
    d. **Remuneration** as defined by the Tribunal in Report & Determination 3 of 2025.[6]

THE REVIEW PROCESS

15. On 23 February 2026 the Tribunal provided to Councils, and published, the Mercer Report which was referenced in Report 3 of 2025. On 23 February 2026, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal invited submissions by 20 April 2026 in respect of this Review from:

    a. the Local Government Association of South Australia (**LGA**); and
    b. the Elected Members and CEOs of each South Australian Local Government Council.

16. The Tribunal requested that the notice be published in the LGA Circular inviting submissions by 20 April 2026.

17. The Tribunal also placed a notice on its website from 23 February 2026 inviting submissions from affected persons by 20 April 2026.

18. As this Review commenced during the caretaker period before the 2026 State Election, the Tribunal deferred inviting submissions from the Premier, Minister for Local

[3] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [90] – [109].
[4] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [108] and Determination 3 of 2025 [3], [6].
[5] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [110] – [123] and Determination 3 of 2025 [3], [6].
[6] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [64] – [87] and Determination 3 of 2025 [4], [5].

Government and Minister for the City of Adelaide until the election had concluded and after they had been sworn in.

19. Accordingly, on 27 March 2026, in accordance with sections 10(2) and 10(4) of the Act, the Tribunal wrote to and invited submissions by 20 April 2026 in respect of this review from:

    a. the Honourable Premier of South Australia – as the Minister responsible for the Act who may make submissions or introduce evidence in the public interest;
    b. the Minister for Local Government, as Minister responsible for the LG Act; and
    c. the Minister for the City of Adelaide, as Minister responsible for the *City of Adelaide Act 1998* (SA).

20. The invitations also included a copy of the Mercer Report, which accompanied the Determination under review. The invitation for submissions expressly invited any affected party to make submissions on the Mercer Report by 20 April 2026.

21. On 8 April 2026 the City of Mount Gambier sought an extension of time for submissions to 22 April 2026. On 8 April 2026 the Tribunal granted a sector wide extension of time for the receipt of submissions until 30 April 2026 and informed the sector of the extension by letter and by updating the notice on its website.

22. On 23 April 2026 the Berri Barmera Council sought an extension of time for submissions to 28 April. The Tribunal advised the Berri Barmera Council that an extension of time had been granted for all submissions until 30 April 2026.

23. Kelledy Jones, the lawyers representing the LGA, the Regional Council of Goyder and the City of West Torrens made two requests for extensions of time when they made the requests for further information from the Tribunal as detailed below:

    a. 10 April 2026 (on behalf of the LGA and two Councils) for a further 4 weeks from the provision of further information from the Tribunal. While further information was provided in response to this request, the Tribunal noted that a sector wide extension of time had been provided to 30 April 2026; and
    b. 27 April 2026 on behalf of the Regional Council of Goyder and City of West Torrens, a further four weeks from 30 April 2026. This request for an extension of time was declined by the Tribunal. The Tribunal's decision in this respect took into account that the Councils had been able to consider this issue since February 2026. The Tribunal also set out in its letter to Kelledy Jones of 29 April 2026 the following reasons for declining to grant the extension of time:

        - your clients have been in receipt of the Report of the Tribunal since May 2025, and the Mercer Report since 23 February 2026;
        - the majority of the information used by Mercer was and is publicly available;
        - the Report of the Tribunal otherwise refers to publicly available information;
        - there is nothing new in the documents produced on 20 April 2026 in response to Ms Riddle's letters, which is not summarised in the Mercer Report, Report of the Tribunal, or otherwise available to your clients;
        - your clients, or at least you were on notice that there was a possibility that the current Determination would be reviewed after it was published in May 2025 because you threatened judicial review throughout the review process which culminated in the current Determination, and have had nearly a year to engage consultants to benchmark the relevant CEOs;

- Other councils have engaged consultants to benchmark their own CEOs between the time of the current Determination being published and the 2026 Review. There is nothing which has inhibited your clients from engaging consultants during this time; and
- Any further delay is likely to impact on the Annual Review and potentially disadvantage other CEOs and councils.

The Tribunal was also concerned that further extensive delays had the potential to cause unfairness to the majority of Councils who had provided submissions.

24. The Tribunal received 19 submissions. Kelledy Jones Lawyers lodged submissions on behalf of the LGA, the City of West Torrens and the Regional Council of Goyder and sought to make oral submissions for each of these entities. A Tribunal Hearing was held on 2 June 2026 to consider submissions from Kelledy Jones on behalf of the LGA, the City of West Torrens and the Regional Council of Goyder. At the hearing the LGA, Mayor of the Regional Council of Goyder, the CEO of the Regional Council of Goyder and the Mayor of the City of West Torrens also made submissions in their own right.

CONSIDERATION

Relevant Determinations of the Tribunal

25. Section 99A of the LG Act came into effect in September 2021. This section requires the Remuneration Tribunal to determine the minimum and maximum remuneration payable to CEOs of Councils.

26. On 16 June 2023, the Tribunal issued Report 4 of 2023 and Determination 4 of 2024, its inaugural Determination and Report (**Inaugural Determination & Report**). The Inaugural Determination & Report detailed the issues considered by the Tribunal in determining its position. Whilst it is not necessary that the Tribunal repeat that background, it is relevant to note that the Tribunal identified different approaches adopted by Councils to the quantification of remuneration. Additionally, the Tribunal identified substantial differences in the remuneration paid to Council CEOs in Councils which had significant common characteristics. The Inaugural Determination & Report utilised groupings of Councils which were founded on the then current remuneration of CEOs to define minimum and maximum remuneration amounts. The Tribunal noted that it did not consider this represented a sustainable long-term approach because it did not address inconsistencies in Council approaches. The approach adopted by the Tribunal in the Inaugural Determination & Report reflected the divergencies in Council approaches and the limited information and assistance provided to the Tribunal.

27. The Tribunal subsequently issued a consultation paper in January 2024 (**Consultation Paper**) and invited Councils to express views about matters to be considered to develop a more sustainable approach to setting minimum and maximum remuneration levels. Around half of the Councils responded to the Consultation Paper. The Councils were divided about the best approach to setting minimum and maximum remuneration amounts.

28. Having considered the broad range of Council views about the most appropriate approach, the Tribunal resolved to obtain assistance from a remuneration consultant to assist in the development of a sustainable future approach.

29. On 28 June 2024, in Report and Determination 1 of 2024 (**Report & Determination 1 of 2024**), the Tribunal applied a 2% increase to the minimum and maximum remuneration amounts in the Inaugural Determination & Report. The Tribunal advised that it was undertaking a substantial review of the Inaugural Determination & Report.

30. On 20 January 2025, the Tribunal issued the draft Determination and Report (**Draft Determination & Report**). Councils and CEOs were invited to respond to the Draft Determination & Report. Report 3 of 2025 records that 29 entities responded to this invitation.

31. These responses were considered by the Tribunal in reaching its final conclusions.

32. Report 3 and Determination 3 of 2025 were the culmination of substantial deliberations on the part of the Tribunal. This included a second survey of Councils to determine remuneration levels, interviews with Mayors, Councillors and CEOs, and consideration of the publicly available data relative to each Council's characteristics.

33. In Report 3 of 2025, the Tribunal noted the substantial number of submissions put to it. These submissions suggested a wide diversity of approaches.

34. Some of the submissions put to the Tribunal included position descriptions for Council CEOs. While the Tribunal considered all the information provided to it, Report 3 of 2025 notes that the Tribunal reached its conclusions based on the definition of the role of a Council CEO in section 99 of the LG Act.

35. The Tribunal's considerations recognised the relevant provisions of section 99A of the LG Act which state:

> (1) Subject to this section, the remuneration of the chief executive officer of a council will be determined by the council.
>
> (2) The Remuneration Tribunal will determine (from time to time) the minimum and maximum remuneration that may be paid or provided to chief executive officers of councils.
>
> (3) In making a determination under subsection (2), the Remuneration Tribunal must have regard to any matter prescribed by the regulations.
>
> (4) A determination under subsection (2)—
>
> (a) may differ based on any factor including, for example, the geographical location of a council or group of councils (such that different minimum and maximum remuneration may be paid or provided to chief executive officers from different councils); and
>
> (b) may provide for minimum and maximum remuneration that may be paid or provided to chief executive officers to be indexed in accordance with the determination.
>
> (5) The regulations—
>
> (a) may make further provision in relation to a determination of the Remuneration Tribunal for the purposes of this section; and
>
> (b) may modify the application of section 10 of the *Remuneration Act 1990* in relation to a determination under this section.
>
> (6) Sections 17 and 19 of the *Remuneration Act 1990* do not apply in relation to a determination under this section.
>
> (7) A reference in the *Remuneration Act 1990* to determining remuneration payable in respect of an office will, for the purposes of this section, be taken to include a reference to determining the minimum and maximum remuneration payable in respect of the office.
>
> (8) Despite any other Act or law, the reasonable costs of the Remuneration Tribunal in making a determination under this section are to be paid by the

LGA under an arrangement determined by the Minister from time to time after consultation with the LGA and the President of the Tribunal.

(9) The LGA may recover the reasonable costs incurred by the Remuneration Tribunal in making a determination under this section as a debt from the councils to which the determination relates.

(10) A council must ensure that the remuneration of its chief executive officer is within the relevant minimum and maximum remuneration determined by the Remuneration Tribunal for the purposes of this section.

36. As it recorded in Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal obtained advice from Mercer, a remuneration advisory firm, about common approaches to the definition of remuneration. These were explained in Report 3 of 2025 at paragraphs 64 to 87 and broadly reflected the conclusions reached in the Inaugural Determination & Report. Having conferred with Mercer, the Tribunal determined to include housing costs within the concept of remuneration as they represent an employment cost to the Council and to the ratepayers. This conclusion was also explained in Report 3 of 2025.[7] The Tribunal noted this issue primarily impacts more remote Councils and contributed to its recognition of distance as a consideration in the setting of minimum and maximum remuneration amounts. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal noted that it had adopted a different position in respect to housing costs than Mercer. Mercer also noted this difference in the Mercer Report.

37. Prior to its engagement with Mercer, the Tribunal considered a broad range of factors and data which described Council characteristics and concluded that no single factor could be relied on to determine minimum and maximum CEO remuneration levels. In conjunction with Mercer, the Tribunal identified the key characteristics of Councils that impacted on CEO remuneration considerations. Its primary consideration was total operating income as an indicator of CEO complexity. The components of total operating income were detailed in Report 3 of 2025 at paragraphs 91 to 96. That conclusion was arrived at collaboratively with Mercer rather than reflecting a finding in the Mercer Report. As part of that collaborative approach, the Tribunal benefited from Mercer's experience in considering collective remuneration approaches. At the commencement of its engagement of Mercer the Tribunal and Mercer agreed on the key principles that underpinned the approach ultimately adopted by the Tribunal.

38. Additionally, and again in consultation with Mercer, the Tribunal endorsed four other modifying criteria which were accorded reduced weighting but were nevertheless identified as significant considerations relevant to the demands and expectations of Council CEOs. These were projected population growth, population dispersion within a Council area, distance from Adelaide, and socio-economic advantage/disadvantage.[8] In each case, the Tribunal used the most recent publicly available data.[9] This formed the basis for the Council Grouping Model. All these factors were developed through a series of discussions involving the Tribunal and Mercer. Mercer provided the Tribunal with statistical expertise to demonstrate the outcome of concepts being considered by the Tribunal.

39. As the Tribunal recorded in Report 3 of 2025, the Tribunal then grouped Councils using that criteria. Multiple grouping approaches were developed, trialled and tested against the information available to the Tribunal.

[7] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [78] – [82].
[8] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [100] – [101].
[9] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [100] – [105].

40. Finally, the Tribunal then applied the information about remuneration provided by Councils and the LGA to its Grouping Model.[10] While the Tribunal undertook this task through a collaborative approach with Mercer, the Tribunal determined that the Remuneration Ranges, being the range between the lowest rate and the highest rate should be fundamentally based on the South Australian local government sector. That decision reflected the Tribunal's assessment of the Remuneration Ranges and the submissions put to the Tribunal that, apart from requests that the Tribunal adopt the West Australian approach there were minimal arguments put for a lower rate than the lowest already paid and minimal argument put for a rate higher than the highest rate being paid. The establishment of the Remuneration Ranges involved numerous discussions with Mercer and the assessment of various minimum and maximum models to test the most sustainable approach. The Tribunal adopted the position that extremely broad ranges between the lowest and the highest remuneration rates for Council Bands meant that the process was of little benefit to Councils and the community at large. Within this constraint, the Tribunal made extensive use of Mercer's information technology expertise but was, at every stage of the process, the decision-maker.

41. The Council Bands ultimately adopted by the Tribunal cannot be usefully compared with the bands adopted in the Inaugural Determination & Report as they were developed on an entirely different basis. While Mercer made some preliminary suggestions about the number of Remuneration Ranges and Council Bands, the Tribunal decided to increase the number of Remuneration Ranges and Council Bands to make the Remuneration Ranges a more useful guide for CEOs, Councils and the community at large. That decision reflected the extent to which many Councils were unable to articulate a robust process to set and increase CEO remuneration amounts.

42. Mercer's involvement assisted the Tribunal in the development and testing of grouping approaches, but Mercer did not provide an expert report in the sense that they unilaterally developed a model which the Tribunal then implemented without modification.

The Mercer Report

43. Because of the extent to which some submissions put to the Tribunal since the release of Report and Determination 3 of 2025, have asserted that Mercer was either given instructions that have not been disclosed or, conversely, provided the Tribunal with information which has not been disclosed, the Tribunal has decided to set out its engagement with Mercer.

44. Mercer provides expert remuneration advice to a broad range of public and private sector entities. Before contracting with Mercer, the Tribunal engaged a probity advisor to ensure that both the contracting process was commercially appropriate and provided adequate differentiation from any association Mercer may have with local government in South Australia.

45. Mercer was commissioned by the Tribunal to assist it in two key aspects:

    a. In the Inaugural Determination & Report the Tribunal defined the components of remuneration to which it had regard. The Tribunal noted that Councils applied a broad range of remuneration approaches. In undertaking the comprehensive review which led to Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal sought expert advice on the recommended approach to a common definition of what should be included in remuneration.[11] The components suggested by Mercer were consistent with the Tribunal's position apart from the

[10] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [110] – [116].
[11] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [64] – [87].

inclusion of housing costs, where the Tribunal determined that these should be included because they represented a cost to the relevant Councils. The Tribunal's conclusion in this respect is explained in paragraphs 78 to 82 of Report 3 of 2025.

b. The Mercer advice involved assisting the Tribunal's consideration of the key factors that were to be considered in differentiating between Councils for the purpose of establishing minimum and maximum remuneration amounts, together with the weighting to be attached to those characteristics. The diversity of remuneration arrangements was so significant that no one single Council characteristic could be fairly relied on to compare Councils. Indeed, the diversity of Council views about the Tribunal's ultimate conclusions demonstrates the extent to which a series of characteristics required consideration, with differing weighting attached. For instance, had the Tribunal accepted the submissions made by some Councils to rely on the eight groups historically used as the basis for allowances for Councillors (**Councillor Groups**), the discrepancy between CEO remuneration for Councils with similar characteristics would have either been so substantial that the process would be discredited or made useless because of the diversity in remuneration arrangements. The objectives adopted by the Tribunal required that the base data used to compare Councils be publicly accessible and demonstrably robust. These objectives provided the basis for the guiding principles set out in the Mercer Report (see ***Table 3: Guiding Principles***[12]) (**Guiding Principles**) and extracted below:

Table 3: Guiding Principles

Principle	Descriptor
Legislative Compliance	The framework must comply with the legislation in terms of setting only minimum and maximum levels of remuneration.
Logical Criteria	The criteria must provide a useful proxy to determine the complexity and demands required of CEOs, and therefore enable fair and equitable categorisation. Each criterion should be assessing a specific element. While some criteria may be inter-related, they should not assess the same or similar element, so as to avoid double counting.
Measurable Criteria	The criteria must be clearly defined and easy to measure, assess, and explain, and be predominantly quantitative measures.
Easy to Assess Measures	Evidence-based data from authoritative sources must be available and easily accessible to enable fair and objective assessments against each criterion.
Transparent, Fair and Equitable	The framework must be constructed in a way that is easy to understand/explain and enables the criteria to be applied to all councils in a consistent, fair and equitable manner, and therefore result in a defensible categorisation outcome.
Flexible and Future Proof	The framework should provide sufficient flexibility for the Tribunal to consider and implement variations to the framework to cater for changed circumstances

46. The Tribunal participated in the development of the Guiding Principles with Mercer and accepted them. The Tribunal utilised Mercer's expertise to assist its consideration of the most appropriate criteria and the weighting of each characteristic. In each instance the Tribunal's considerations and conclusions in Report 3 of 2025 were arrived at in accordance with the Guiding Principles. Mercer also provided information technology-based expertise to take the weightings adopted by the Tribunal into account. In applying

[12] Mercer Consulting (Australia) Pty Ltd, *CEO Remuneration Framework Review SA Local Government Councils* (Report, January 2025) 8.

those weightings, the Tribunal considered the impact of its conclusions on each of the individual Councils.

47. The Mercer Report reflects these allocated tasks.

48. The Tribunal was responsible for the development of the Remuneration Framework, and it did so with Mercer's technical assistance. The work undertaken with Mercer was primarily achieved through a series of workshops and discussions. Documents and spreadsheets developed through this process reflected draft approaches being considered by the Tribunal as it developed its report. The Tribunal has not and does not intend to make public, drafts of its decisions or its working papers.

49. The minimal areas of disagreement between Mercer and the Tribunal are identified in Report 3 of 2025 and the Tribunal went to great lengths to explain its position with respect to those differences in that 2025 Report, and, again, in this Review.

50. The Tribunal had substantially completed drafting Report 3 of 2025 when it received the Mercer Report so that the Mercer Report itself was not relied on and simply confirms the collaborative approach within the parameters set by the Tribunal. As the Tribunal utilised Mercer's remuneration expertise, it considered it was appropriate to note in Report 3 of 2025, the matters where Mercer and the Tribunal disagreed.

51. The Mercer Report was not initially provided because the Tribunal endeavoured to comprehensively explain its decision-making process and Mercer had requested that the report not be published.

Requests for Additional Information

52. The Mercer Report was provided to the LGA and to all Councils on 23 February 2026. Submissions in response to the Mercer Report were initially invited by 20 April 2026 and extended by the Tribunal to 30 April 2026. A detailed timeline on the extensions of time for submissions has been provided earlier in this Report.

53. On 10 April 2026, Kelledy Jones, representing the LGA, the City of West Torrens and the Regional Council of Goyder forwarded to the Tribunal letters in similar terms requesting an extension of time for submissions and substantial additional materials including:

    1. all drafts, working copies, notes, emails, and other documentation relating to the preparation of the Mercer Report, including any letters or emails of instruction and meeting notes with respect to the same, inclusive of any information received and considered by Mercer in the preparation of the report;

    2. all drafts, working copies, notes, emails and other documentation received and considered by the Tribunal in making its Determination with respect to the *Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal Minimum and Maximum Chief Executive Officer Remuneration* No. 3 2025, that have otherwise not been uploaded to the Tribunal's website and referred to in the Determination.

54. In its response to Kelledy Jones on 20 April 2026 the Tribunal refused the extension of time request and drew Kelledy Jones' attention to the Mercer Report which identified the critical information reviewed and analysed by Mercer, as well as additional information and documents obtained or produced by the Tribunal for Mercer's consideration. Report 3 of 2025 also addressed the Draft Determination & Report which was provided for comment and specified the critical information received and considered by the Tribunal.

55. In its response to Kelledy Jones of 20 April 2026, the Tribunal provided the instructions given to Mercer in the form of correspondence dated 27 August 2024 (**Letter of Instruction**), together with a document titled *Master Spreadsheet* which summarised the information collected from Councils and other sources (**Master Spreadsheet**). The Tribunal also identified the extent to which the documents requested by Kelledy Jones were either publicly available or were available from the parties that Kelledy Jones represented. Information not released by the Tribunal consisted of records of confidential discussions between the Tribunal and interested persons such as Mayors. This information was regarded by the Tribunal as useful context in arriving at the conclusions in Report 3 of 2025.

56. On 21 April 2026 the Tribunal advised the LGA and all Councils of its response to Kelledy Jones and offered the same materials to them.

57. On 27 April 2026, the Tribunal received further correspondences from Kelledy Jones, representing the Regional Council of Goyder and the City of West Torrens. In these similar letters Kelledy Jones expressed disappointment at the Tribunal's response and repeated its request with reference to the following:

> Specifically, we reiterate our request that the Tribunal supply our office with the following:
>
> - provision of notes of instruction, and other information used in the commission, by the Tribunal, for the Mercer Report, including any terms of reference; and
> - data and statistical information relied upon in the preparation of the Mercer Report that have not been referenced in the Mercer Report, or which are otherwise not publicly available; and
> - working copies of the Mercer Report, documents that are not referenced in the released Mercer Report and not currently, publicly available on the website of the Tribunal.

58. Kelledy Jones requested this information by the close of business 29 April 2026. Kelledy Jones advised that both the Regional Council of Goyder and the City of West Torrens had decided to engage suitably qualified consultants to undertake benchmarking reviews of CEO remuneration to inform their submissions and requested an extension of time of a further four weeks for their submissions.

59. The Tribunal responded to Kelledy Jones on 29 April 2026. It confirmed that it had again reviewed the requests and recorded its response in the following terms:

Provision of notes of instruction, and other information used in the commission, by the Tribunal, for the Mercer Report, including any terms of reference.	The Tribunal considers that this request has been satisfied for the following reasons: 1. The Tribunal's instructions to Mercer are contained in the Tribunal's letter to Mercer of 27 August 2024 (**Letter of Instruction**) which was provided to you on 20 April 2026. 2. The terms of reference provided by the Tribunal to Mercer are also contained in Letter of Instruction which you have received.
Data and statistical information relied upon in the preparation of the Mercer Report that have not been referenced in	The Tribunal has provided you with the data and statistical information relied upon in the preparation of the Mercer Report as an attachment to its letter of 20 April 2026.

the Mercer Report, or which are otherwise not publicly available.	
Working copies of the Mercer Report, documents that are not referenced in the released Mercer Report and not currently, publicly available on the website of the Tribunal.	The Tribunal has determined that there is no basis to release working copies of the Mercer Report. The Tribunal is unclear about what documents you refer to. It is satisfied that the documents you have been provided allow for a fair consideration of the matter.

60. The Tribunal recommended that the City of West Torrens and the Regional Council of Goyder consider all the information available to them since May 2025. The Tribunal noted that it was unfortunate that these Councils had only resolved to undertake benchmarking studies just before the extended deadline for submissions. This further request for an extension of time was refused.

61. The requests for documents by Kelledy Jones on 10 April 2026 and 27 April 2026 appear to be made on a premise that misunderstands the task before the Tribunal. The requests appear to contemplate the provision of documents akin to that of discovery of the kind ordered in inter partes disputes before a court or tribunal or, in the case of the documents sought in relation to the engagement of Mercer, expert witness discovery. The Tribunal's deliberations are not of this nature, but a process of administrative decision making with respect to which the Tribunal must afford affected parties a reasonable opportunity to be heard. It is in this proper context that the Tribunal considered the requests made by Kelledy Jones.

62. Much of the Tribunal's deliberations were conducted through a series of iterative workshops. Draft documents were generally prepared at the request of the Tribunal and represented draft considerations of the Tribunal. The Tribunal considers that Report 3 of 2025 records the key principles it adopted and its reliance on publicly available information.

63. Given the comprehensive nature of the Report 3 of 2025, the Tribunal was not satisfied that all the information requested by Kelledy Jones was necessary or appropriate to be provided. The Tribunal confirmed that many of the documents referenced in the Mercer Report and Report 3 of 2025 were publicly available, and that both Reports comprehensively set out the factual assumptions and methodology adopted by Mercer and the Tribunal. Accordingly, the Tribunal considered that the LGA and Councils had been provided with sufficient information to understand and respond to the conclusions reached by Mercer and the Tribunal. The LGA and Councils were also afforded reasonable opportunity to make submissions in response to the Mercer Report and the Tribunal's Determination.

Submissions in response to the provision of the Mercer Report

64. The Tribunal has received a submission from Kelledy Jones representing the LGA. Kelledy Jones has also made separate submissions representing the positions adopted by the City of West Torrens and Regional Council of Goyder. The submissions made by the City of Mount Gambier and the Mid Murray Council appear to adopt, at least in part, some of the Kelledy Jones submissions.

65. Additionally, the Tribunal has received a further 16 submissions from either Councils or CEOs, representing their own positions. These express a range of views. The Tribunal notes that the position adopted in these responses varies from general support of Report

and Determination 3 of 2025, to requests for further information and opposition to all, or elements of the Report and Determination.

66. Because of the range of issues raised, the Tribunal has initially considered the Kelledy Jones submissions made on behalf of the LGA. In addressing these submissions, the Tribunal has detailed its position with respect to the components of those submissions to facilitate references to these topics in its consideration of other submissions. The Tribunal met with the LGA on 2 June 2026. In addition, the Tribunal received correspondence from the LGA on 5 and 10 June 2026.

The LGA Submissions

Term of Office

67. The Tribunal notes that some of the matters raised by the LGA reflect different positions to those put to the Tribunal whilst it was consulting prior to the publication of Report 3 of 2025. Notwithstanding this, the Tribunal has considered these latter positions.

68. The LGA asserts that section 99A(2) of the LG Act must be read such that holding office includes any uninterrupted extension of a contract to renew the term of office (**Term of Office Submission**).

69. Section 99A(2) relevantly states

> *The Remuneration Tribunal will determine (from time to time) the minimum and maximum remuneration that may be paid or provided to chief executive officers of councils.*

70. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal addressed the position put by the LGA, the City of West Torrens, the Regional Council of Goyder and two other Councils, to the effect that a grandfathering provision should be used instead of the phased in approach adopted by the Tribunal. This submission was made on the basis that the Tribunal determined that a term of office is singular, with reappointment representing a new term of office. The Tribunal considered that a CEO holding office on 20 September 2021 (being the date of commencement of s 99A of the LG Act) was excluded from the Tribunal's Determination for that term of office only. The Tribunal determined that it did not have the jurisdiction to establish a grandfathering arrangement that extended over multiple terms of office, but it suggested that this was a matter that individual Councils may wish to take advice on. [13]

71. The LGA has again argued the Term of Office Submission to this review. However, information to lead the Tribunal to a different conclusion has not been provided by the LGA. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal advised that, even if it had that jurisdiction, it would not adopt a grandfathering approach. This is because the adoption of such an approach would support the continuation of remuneration arrangements which are inconsistent with the Remuneration Framework set by the Tribunal. The Tribunal is also concerned that by adopting the Term of Office Submission, it would create a situation where some Councils would be able to avoid the operation of the Determination and Remuneration Framework by continuing to renew existing CEOs with remuneration outside the Remuneration Ranges in Determination 3 of 2025.

72. The LGA asserts that it would be appropriate for the Tribunal to incorporate a yearly Consumer Price Index increase to grandfathered arrangements. That submission appears to be inconsistent with the essence of the grandfathering position. In addition, the Tribunal notes that in Report 3 of 2025 it declined to establish a direct link between Consumer Price Index movements and minimum and maximum remuneration amounts and proposed to

[13] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [126] – [129].

review those amounts in July 2026.[14] The Tribunal has considered responses to the invitations for submissions in that respect, being the 2026 Annual Review, and has addressed these later in this Report.

73. The Tribunal has noted the further oral submissions put by the LGA representative on 2 June 2026, which stressed that CEO arrangements entered into before Determination 3 of 2025 took effect, should be recognised. The LGA asserted that a significant proportion of Council CEOs were approaching or had exceeded the maximum remuneration levels and that this had significantly contributed to 17 CEOs resigning over the past year. The Tribunal understood that the LGA was committed to providing evidence of this, but instead, the LGA provided only information which contrasted Council groupings under the Inaugural Determination & Report with those that applied under Determination 3 of 2025. In its letter of 10 June 2026, the LGA advised that since January 2025, 17 CEOs have left the local government sector. The LGA advised that it was aware anecdotally that remuneration was a contributing factor and that it was concerned that remuneration disadvantages would increase the rate of resignations.

74. The Tribunal has not received any substantive evidence linking Council CEO resignations to Determination 3 of 2025.

75. The LGA's submission was to the effect that, if the Tribunal did not agree to permit the proposed version of grandfathering, a Judicial Review of its decision would be sought. The LGA advised that it understood this would occur within six months, but that it anticipated this could take two years to be determined by the Supreme Court. That timeframe broadly corresponded with the Tribunal's proposed review of the Remuneration Framework. This submission does not appear to represent a valid basis for the Tribunal to exceed its jurisdiction, and in any event, would create an inherently inequitable remuneration hierarchy as it would be unfair to those CEOs who were more recently appointed.

76. Further, during the hearing of 2 June, there was discussion regarding the LGA's previous and alternative submission on grandfathering that the Tribunal should extend the phase-in period for another 2 years to the conclusion of the last known contract made under the Tribunal's previous Determinations.

77. The Tribunal has determined not to adopt this approach because the 29 December 2027 date for the conclusion of the phase-in period for Determination 3 of 2025 was adopted by the Tribunal after considering the submissions put to it on the Draft Determination & Report and consulting with the LGA about this issue. The Tribunal is not satisfied that a basis for an extension beyond that date has been made.

Procedural Fairness

78. The LGA submissions modify the earlier Kelledy Jones request for all "drafts, notes and emails exchanged between Mercer and the Tribunal" so that it now seeks "*'substantive correspondence*' exchanged between Mercer and the Tribunal." The correspondence sought related to matters of substance concerning the commissioning, consideration, and finalisation of the Mercer Report, including any drafts of the Mercer Report. The LGA referred to these as the "*requested documents*." The LGA seek these documents on the basis that it asserts that Mercer was engaged to produce an expert report.

79. The LGA asserts that the engagement of Mercer by the Tribunal represents an acknowledgment by the Tribunal that it was not equipped to reach its own conclusions about the matters covered in Report 3 of 2025 without the expert opinions of Mercer.

[14] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [130].

Accordingly, the LGA asserts that information provided by Mercer is relevant to any consideration of Report 3 of 2025.

80. The LGA submission misinterprets Mercer's function and the way the Tribunal and Mercer operated to develop the Remuneration Framework, each of its components and Report 3 of 2025 where the Tribunal determined the key aspects of the approach. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal stated at paragraph 60:

    > Mercer was engaged to assist the Tribunal in ensuring the integrity and consistency of the component parts of remuneration considerations, and to facilitate a process by which the Tribunal could assess and weight the characteristics of Councils considered relevant to remuneration.

81. The Tribunal engaged Mercer to assist the Tribunal to assess the data it had obtained, assist in the establishment of appropriate groupings and address definitional issues relating to remuneration. Mercer was provided with the information which has been provided to the LGA and Councils. Mercer was required to review that information, to review the Inaugural Determination & Report and participate in workshops with the Tribunal to consider the key issues. While the Tribunal initially anticipated that Mercer would then develop criteria to group Councils and appropriate remuneration levels for consideration by the Tribunal, these tasks were agreed to be undertaken on an iterative, and shared basis. The Tribunal specified key parameters such as restricting the remuneration considerations to the local South Australian market and not undertaking a very expensive Council by Council work value assessment because of the limited proportion of Councils who supported that position and doubts about the viability and usefulness of such an approach.

82. The Tribunal had numerous discussions and workshops with Mercer and progressively tested the approach and criteria adopted in accordance with the Guiding Principles. To a significant extent, that testing process used spreadsheets that were progressively updated as the Tribunal considered different approaches before fixing on the conclusions set out in Report 3 of 2025. These conclusions, detailed in Report 3 of 2025, were not simply adopted from an expert report in the way asserted by the LGA. They represent positions adopted by the Tribunal which utilised Mercer's expertise with respect to remuneration descriptors and the application of weightings adopted by the Tribunal through this series of discussions. In each instance, the issues considered by the Tribunal are set out in Report 3 of 2025.

83. The submission that the Mercer Report must be made available to be tested in a process akin to cross-examination is a submission that is based on the same misapprehension of the Tribunal's role as discussed with respect to the requests for documents. Further, it overlooks the extent to which those conclusions were reached in a collaborative process with the Tribunal, except for the difference in the recognition of housing as a component of Remuneration.

84. Because the Tribunal was actively involved in the development of the Mercer Report as has been discussed above, the Tribunal disagrees with the LGA's submission that the Mercer Report should be regarded as an expert report unilaterally prepared for consideration by the Tribunal.

85. The LGA asserts that Determination 3 of 2025 reduces the remuneration of more than half of the CEOs in the local government sector. This assertion is inconsistent with the information provided by the LGA in its submissions in response to the Draft Determination & Report. This submission was further developed in the hearing of 2 June 2026.

86. The table below was prepared for the Tribunal by the LGA on 28 March 2025 in response to the Tribunal's Draft Determination & Report and during the development of Report 3 of 2025. The Tribunal was advised by the LGA that it was based on the information provided by Councils and the definition of Remuneration adopted by the Tribunal. The Tribunal elected not to include it in Report 3 of 2025 because at that time it added little in terms of explanatory value.

Above Band	**18**
Within Band & <$5,000 below Maximum	**4**
Within Band & >$5k below Maximum	**42**
Below Band	**3**
TOTAL	**67**

87. The LGA has not provided any evidence to substantiate the assertion that the remuneration of more than half of the CEOs in the local government sector has been reduced.

88. As detailed in the table above, on 28 March 2025, there were 18 CEOs whose Remuneration was above the proposed maximum and 42 CEOs whose Remuneration was more than $5,000 below the maximum of the respective Remuneration Range. If it is the case that most CEOs are now directly impacted by the maximum remuneration amount of the relevant Remuneration Ranges, this would be indicative of substantial remuneration increases over the past year and/or changes to remuneration made after the Draft Determination & Report was issued but before Determination 3 of 2025 was issued.

89. Notwithstanding its expressed concerns at grandfathering proposals and its concern at the potential that significant wage increases for CEOs may have been applied after the Draft Determination & Report was issued, the Tribunal recognises that it is possible that CEOs are remunerated at levels above or near the maximum for a given Remuneration Range may have concerns about limits on their remuneration.

90. The LGA refers to concerns about the placement of Councils in "different bands" but as Report 3 of 2025 confirms, the Council Bands that have been established within the Remuneration Framework have an entirely different foundation to those established by the Inaugural Determination & Report. The Inaugural Determination & Report highlighted a concern because it preserved perceived inequities in CEO remuneration between inherently similar Councils.

91. To the extent that a Council considers that it has exceptional circumstances, that Council is at liberty to make an application to the Tribunal for consideration of those circumstances.[15] The Tribunal's consideration of the District Council of Coober Pedy's circumstances demonstrates the approach of the Tribunal in this respect. The LGA's general assertions of concern do not represent a basis for a revision of Determination 3 of 2025.

92. The LGA submission appears to assert that the Tribunal should have accepted that higher levels of remuneration were appropriately set and hence incorporated those higher levels in its Determination. The Tribunal has adopted the position that if the Parliament had intended that the Tribunal base its considerations solely on the remuneration being paid to CEOs, it would have expressed the legislation differently.

[15] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [132].

93. The LGA assert that Determination 3 of 2025 should be revised because the Mercer Report confirms that the Remuneration Ranges were set by the Tribunal and hence the Tribunal predetermined the expert position that may have been adopted by Mercer. Again, this submission misconstrues the process undertaken. The Tribunal determined the Remuneration Ranges. It did not request Mercer to undertake work value-based assessments and then reach conclusions based on predetermined percentages of a general market. Had Mercer been reviewing individual Councils it may have adopted that approach, but the Tribunal did not request Mercer to do that. The Tribunal then worked with Mercer to consider the minimum and maximum remuneration amounts. It utilised Mercer's expertise and its capacity to test and review the approach adopted. There is no basis upon which the LGA can assert that the Tribunal fettered Mercer's expertise as Mercer was required to assist the Tribunal's consideration of an overall grouping approach with minimum and maximum remuneration amounts.

94. Further, the LGA submission then asserts that as the Remuneration Ranges and bandwidths were determined by the Tribunal, this detracted from Mercer's capacity to assist and advise about these issues in accordance with the Mercer Letter of Instruction. Again, this submission overlooks the fact that the Tribunal has the responsibility to determine these issues. The Tribunal exercised this responsibility in that it established parameters it considered sustainable. Had Mercer disagreed with those parameters or considered that they created an unfair outcome it was open to Mercer to confirm a position in that regard, as was the case when Mercer recommended that housing not be in the definition of Remuneration.

95. The Tribunal is uncertain about the LGA's position with respect to the delay between the Inaugural Determination & Report in 2023 and Report and & Determination 3 of 2025, and comments that, had the LGA adopted a more cooperative approach to the Tribunal since the LG Act amendments took effect, the setting of minimum and maximum remuneration levels could have been expedited. If this submission is to the effect that a higher maximum amount should have been specified to take wage movements into account, the Tribunal addressed this in Report 3 of 2025 at paragraph 123.

96. The LGA asserted that the Tribunal's Determination 3 of 2025 effectively froze CEO salaries over the period mid-2024 to mid-2025. However, this submission appears to ignore the Tribunal's interim adjustment in Report and Determination 1 of 2024, and the inclusion of a further adjustment referenced at paragraph 110 of Report 3 of 2025. Additionally, the Tribunal took the unusual step of issuing the Draft Determination & Report to be considered by the LGA, Councils, the Premier and the Minister for Local Government. Comments on the Draft Determination & Report were invited and considered by the Tribunal.

97. The LGA submitted that the Tribunal was in error in adopting an eight-band structure (i.e. eight Council Bands and Remuneration Ranges excluding the City of Adelaide) as distinct from the initial six-band structure (**Band Structure Submission**). The Tribunal acknowledges the LGA's preference for fewer remuneration ranges with wider bandwidth. The Tribunal preferred the eight Remuneration Ranges and Council Bands over the initial Mercer recommendation for six and consulted with Mercer about this. This preference was directed at ensuring that the minimum and maximum amounts in each Remuneration Range provided a useful guide to CEOs, Councillors and the public. The fact that Mercer initially proposed six does not constitute an error or deficiency in the approach finally adopted and explained in Report 3 of 2025.

Complaints about the Determination

98. The LGA's written submissions repeat the submissions it put to the Tribunal in March 2025. The LGA seeks the adoption of a measure of organisational complexity and asserts that reliance on total operating income does not properly reflect that recognition. Additionally, the LGA asserts that the Tribunal should have articulated a distinction between its preference for recognition of skill and competence differences in the Inaugural Determination & Report as distinct from the criteria adopted in Report & Determination 3 of 2025.

99. These assertions do not appear to have any link with the Mercer Report. However, the Tribunal has reviewed Report & Determination 3 of 2025 considering these repeated concerns.

100. The Tribunal's decision to use total operating income as the primary distinguishing characteristic for its Council Grouping Model reflects its conclusion that this measure best and most transparently reflects the overall complexity of the CEO role. Total operating income indicia was then modified by projected population growth, population dispersion, distance from Adelaide and socio/economic advantage/disadvantage, which were determined to represent the most significant other factors. The Tribunal could have referenced additional criteria, but this would have further increased the complexity of the Council Grouping Model which was inconsistent with the Guiding Principles. In any event, the Tribunal was aware that a diversity of measures was proposed to it and considered it was necessary to arrive at the most appropriate modifying criteria rather than an approach that was too complicated.

101. In selecting total operating income derived from the Local Government Grants Commission Data, the Tribunal utilised source information which has been consistently developed and is readily and publicly accessible. This measure is consistent with the Tribunal's objectives and the Guiding Principles. The 2022/2023 data was, at that time, the most recent data available to the Tribunal. The Tribunal as presently constituted determined to review changes to that data in its 2028 review as discussed at paragraph 131 of Report 3 of 2025. This position addressed a concern expressed by the LGA and some Councils that the Remuneration Framework should not be subject to frequent changes.

102. The LGA submissions also take issue with the definition of Remuneration adopted by the Tribunal. The submissions support a standardised approach but dispute the Tribunal's inclusion of housing and private use of a motor vehicle for regional CEOs. The Tribunal set out the basis for its position on the inclusion of housing in some detail at paragraphs 78 – 82 of Report 3 of 2025. The approach now requested by the LGA does not appear to take all the costs to Councils and hence ratepayers, into account. Additionally, it does not appear to consider the advice provided by some regional Councils to the effect that they cannot afford to provide accommodation to their CEO.

103. In terms of motor vehicles, the Tribunal has recognised distance factors in its modifying criteria but included motor vehicle costs within Remuneration to again recognise costs that are incurred by ratepayers. This was discussed at paragraphs 72 to 77 of Report 3 of 2025.

Implementation Concerns

104. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal acknowledged implementation issues and provided a phase-in period of up to 31 December 2027. This reflected a request made by the LGA in response to the Draft Determination & Report. In those consultations the Tribunal

understood that the LGA acknowledged this resolved most of its concerns over implementation.

105. The LGA's submission is now put based on anecdotal complaints and is not articulated with sufficient clarity to enable the Tribunal to comment. The LGA letter of 10 June 2026, welcome as it is, does not substantiate the asserted magnitude of the impact of Determination 3 of 2025. However, as the Tribunal has already observed, any Council may seek recognition of extraordinary circumstances.

106. The Tribunal's role is to apply the relevant legislative requirements. It would be inappropriate for the Tribunal to provide Council specific advice on the implementation of Determination 3 of 2025, and the Tribunal has recognised that Councils may need to seek further advice about their implementation of the Remuneration Framework. A common misunderstanding relates to the nature of the jurisdiction. The Tribunal's role is to set minimum and maximum remuneration amounts. It is the prerogative of each Council to determine a position within that range to best reflect their collective view about their CEO, together with the challenges and expectations relating to their Council.

107. The LGA asserts that s99A of the LG Act requires the Tribunal to take a consistent approach to CEO contracts reached after September 2021. The Tribunal considers such an approach is not available to the Tribunal under the LG Act.

Labour Market Considerations

108. The LGA asserts that the Tribunal failed to take proper account of other local government jurisdictions, of State government agencies and statutory authorities, and the private sector. The Tribunal considered that the information before it substantially established an internal South Australian market for CEOs and accordingly. the Tribunal only required Mercer to review the range of remuneration within the South Australian local government sector.

109. While the LGA has continued to argue that the market is not an internal South Australian one, it has not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate that claim. For example, the Tribunal has not received any evidence showing that Councils have been unable to hire CEOs from interstate due to the Remuneration Framework.

110. In fact, it is appropriate to note that at least two Councils foreshadowed major concern with the approach proposed in the Draft Determination & Report, but the Tribunal is aware that they had subsequently successfully recruited CEOs within the range provided for by Determination 3 of 2025.

111. In its oral submissions on 2 June 2026 the LGA asserted that a significant number of Councils had their maximum remuneration amount reduced from the level set in the Inaugural Determination & Report and that this reflected an inequity. That submission overlooks the extent to which the Tribunal put the Councils on notice that a banding framework based on current remuneration was not sustainable and would be reviewed. Additionally, the conclusions reached in Report 3 of 2025 and Determination 3 of 2025 took account of current remuneration levels. To the extent that this assertion is to the effect that the Tribunal could not or should not change an earlier grouping arrangement, this is contrary to the jurisdiction within which the Tribunal operates.

LGA Proposals

112. The LGA submissions requested the Tribunal:

    a. Review the weighting of total operating income within the Council Grouping Model on the basis that it disadvantages regional CEOs who face different challenges;
    b. Consider incorporating additional indicators of organisational complexity including infrastructure scale, regional service delivery responsibilities, and economic development roles;
    c. Review the number of bands and consider broader band width or fewer bands;
    d. Maintain the flexibility for councils to structure remuneration packages within a defined total remuneration package;
    e. Take undefined measures to recognise the differences between Councils;
    f. Review motor vehicle costing approaches for regional Councils; and
    g. Exclude housing costs for regional Councils.

113. The Tribunal has summarised its position with respect to these issues later in this Report.

114. The LGA correspondence to the Tribunal of 10 June 2026 is not easily reconciled with its written submissions. The Tribunal notes and appreciates the LGA's wish to work more collaboratively with the Tribunal in the future. It is not, however, prepared to jettison the approach which has been developed and articulated in Report 3 of 2025 simply because the LGA now wishes to work more constructively with the Tribunal.

115. The Tribunal acknowledges the LGA's recognition of the importance of an independent, transparent and objective process by which to determine CEO remuneration. This is consistent with the position adopted by the Tribunal. However, the LGA's general assertion that the primary criteria used in the Council Grouping Model to determine Council categorisation should be broadened to include factors such as growth and population appears to overlook the fact that growth is a criterion adopted by the Tribunal. The Tribunal considers that it has used criteria that provide appropriate proxies for growth and population and no sustainable and easily measurable alternative approaches have been proposed by the LGA within the context of the Guiding Principles as was requested by the Tribunal.

116. In terms of the asserted failings associated with Determination 3 of 2025, the LGA has not demonstrated that 17 CEOs have left their positions because of the Tribunal's Determination. Nor has it provided evidence to support its assertion that over 60% of CEOs have been adversely affected by the Determination.

City of West Torrens

117. Kelledy Jones lodged submissions on behalf of the City of West Torrens. The Tribunal met with the City of West Torrens on 2 June 2026.

118. These submissions commenced with concerns about what was described as a "two band" demotion for the City of West Torrens. As the Tribunal has explained, the Remuneration Framework adopted by the Tribunal in Determination 3 of 2025 is based on a fundamentally different premise to the one adopted in the Inaugural Determination & Report. Consequently, there is no demotion as such but simply a different remuneration banding structure has been applied.

119. As was the case with the LGA, the City of West Torrens made submissions which go substantially beyond the Mercer Report. Nevertheless, the Tribunal has addressed each of them.

120. The City of West Torrens also made a Term of Office Submission. It had made this submission previously and it was also made by the LGA. The Tribunal has set out its position in that respect in dealing with the LGA's submission.

121. The City of West Torrens asserts that the application of Determination 3 of 2025 requires a reduction in the remuneration of its CEO of between $50,000 and $90,000, presumably, per annum.

122. Determination 3 of 2025 grouped the City of West Torrens in Council Band 3 which has a minimum level of remuneration of $271,062 and a maximum of $351,283. In March 2025 the LGA advised the Tribunal that the base salary of the CEO of the City of West Torrens was $361,863 per annum, and total Remuneration of $401,715. In its submission the City of West Torrens advises that on 25 December 2025 its CEO receives total Remuneration of $416,715.

123. The methodology adopted by the Tribunal did not commence with consideration of remuneration amounts, but with an assessment of the criteria detailed in Report 3 of 2025. The application of those criteria and the weightings detailed in Report 3 of 2025 resulted in the City of West Torrens being allocated to Council Band 3.

124. The City of West Torrens submissions repeat the LGA position with respect to the role that Mercer undertook in this process. The Tribunal has detailed its position in this regard earlier in this Report.

125. The City of West Torrens submissions also reflect the LGA submission that further consideration of this matter should be suspended pending the release of additional documentation. Given the detail in Report 3 of 2025 and the extent to which Mercer's role cannot be characterised in the manner claimed, the Tribunal is not prepared to agree to this request for the reasons previously outlined in this Report.

126. The City of West Torrens takes issue with the Tribunal's use of the SA Local Government Grants Commission 2022/2023 total operating income data and asserts that the Tribunal should have used later data and relied on a "snapshot in time" which did not account for later developments. In this respect the Tribunal is unclear about the position being put by the City of West Torrens. The Tribunal is satisfied that reliance on the most recent information available to it at the time it made Determination 3 of 2025 was appropriate. Without pre-empting conclusions that might be reached by the Tribunal in the future, it may be the case that future reviews of the Remuneration Framework will consider the latest data available to it at that time to reach its conclusions. Future reviews may also consider the advantages and disadvantages of taking an average of a few years of information to mitigate any distortions created by a "snapshot". However, this may alter the relevant Council Bands and Remuneration Range allocation. To the extent that the City of West Torrens appears to be urging the Tribunal to adopt an approach which means that these are continually updated, the Tribunal considers that approach would create confusion and inequities.

127. The City of West Torrens submissions recognise that total operating income is an important consideration. However, it asserts total operating income should not be the primary consideration. It refers to "significant and large-scale changes" which will increase total operating income, both in the past and in the future. As an example of a large-scale change in the past, the City of West Torrens refers to the 2015 sale of its nursing home facility which was used to fund its now $1 billion community assets portfolio. As examples of future developments, the City of West Torrens refers to its flood mitigation project and advises that the grants for this project have not been included in in total operating income. It also refers to its operation of a wastewater transfer station.

It asserts that the Tribunal's primary reliance on total operating income means that planned future developments or past changes were not properly considered.

128. In addition to the oral submissions on 2 June 2026, the Mayor of the City of West Torrens tabled written submissions which proposed an alternative remuneration framework model based on measurements of Total Assets and Infrastructure Value Under Management, Strategic and Intergovernmental Risk Profile, Regulatory and Planning Complexity, Operational Scale and Core Revenue. It is possible that future Tribunals may consider such inputs in future reviews. However, the City of West Torrens has not been able to demonstrate where these measurements might be able to be obtained in accordance with the Guiding Principles established by the Tribunal.

129. The Tribunal has noted the characteristics of the City of West Torrens and notes that many of the submissions put to it during this process by Councils have been founded on advice that all Councils are unique for a variety of different reasons. In the hearing on 2 June 2026 the City of West Torrens requested that the Tribunal regard its submissions as the basis for an application for it to be considered as having exceptional circumstances.

130. As the Tribunal has indicated, it is open to considering any application for a Council to be considered as having exceptional circumstances. However, it is very difficult to reconcile that oral submission with the written submissions which primarily seek to challenge the very basis of the Remuneration Framework adopted by the Tribunal.

131. The City of West Torrens asserts that the Tribunal's focus on total operating income could unintentionally influence the commercial decisions of a CEO. In this respect the Tribunal regards oversight of its CEO as a natural function of the Councillors which acts as a safeguard from this being a driving factor in the CEO's decisions.

132. The Tribunal has considered these concerns. It has concluded that the total operating income remains the most practical and transparent indicator of Council complexity, particularly when moderated by the other four criteria detailed in Report 3 of 2025.

133. The Tribunal is not inclined to have regard to Council's future projections because it is concerned that these suggested measures cannot be consistently applied across the sector in accordance with the Guiding Principles. However, that does not detract from the Tribunal's commitment to consider an exceptional circumstances argument that is framed in those terms.

134. The City of West Torrens advised that it was undertaking its own benchmarking study and requested a further 4 weeks to complete this. In this respect the Tribunal notes that, the City of West Torrens has consistently engaged with it in relation to CEO remuneration. However, the Council did not provide any information to explain why it only resolved to commence a benchmarking exercise toward the close of submissions. It may be that the benchmarking exercise identifies relevant factors that are applicable to an application for exceptional circumstances, but the fact of a higher level of remuneration applies is, of itself, unlikely to represent an exceptional circumstance.

135. The City of West Torrens submission repeats the LGA's Band Structure Submission. In the same vein it seeks information on the Mercer instructions. The Tribunal has addressed these issues when dealing with the LGA's submissions.

136. The City of West Torrens advises that prior to the Tribunal's Determination it was open to the Council to take differing approaches to defining remuneration and the way in which it sought to treat certain benefits. The Tribunal acknowledges those past practices and

maintains that a standardised approach to how remuneration is defined is an essential element of a fair implementation of s99A of the LG Act.

137. The City of West Torrens details its concern about the impact of the reduction in the salary of its CEO because of its Band 3 categorisation. It asserts that the Tribunal has failed to have regard to the personal detriment of its CEO. The Tribunal is acutely aware of its obligations pursuant to s99A of the LG Act and has sought to mitigate the impact, by implementing a phasing-in period.

138. The City of West Torrens submissions assert that the Council faces uncertainties relative to compliance and recruitment. As the Tribunal noted in Report 3 of 2025, Councils are urged to obtain advice about their obligations. The provision of advice of that nature is outside of the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.

139. The City of West Torrens also refers to what it describes as consequences of the required reduction in its CEO's remuneration. These include the potential loss of the CEO, staff disruption, and recruitment costs. While the Tribunal acknowledges the Council's position, it is not prepared, on the information before it, to make an exceptional circumstances determination for the City of West Torrens.

140. The Tribunal notes that on 28 July 2026 it received an application for an Exceptional Circumstances Determination for the City of West Torrens. The Tribunal will consider this application in due course and separately from this Review.

141. As the Tribunal confirms later in this Report, it will apply an increase in the maximum of the Remuneration Ranges. However, the Tribunal acknowledges this is unlikely to fully address the City of West Torrens' concerns.

Regional Council of Goyder

142. The Regional Council of Goyder submissions were lodged by Kelledy Jones. The Tribunal met with the Regional Council of Goyder on 2 June 2026.

143. The Regional Council of Goyder submissions commence with concerns that it was demoted in terms of its Council Band allocation. As the Tribunal has already commented the Inaugural Determination & Report was based on existing remuneration comparisons, whereas Determination 3 of 2025 is predicated on the criteria explained in Report 3 of 2025. Again, there is no demotion, because the Tribunal applied a new Remuneration Framework.

144. The Regional Council of Goyder asserts that the effect of Determination 3 of 2025 is that its CEO suffers a remuneration reduction of $60,000 with no scope for further increases.

145. The Draft Determination & Report was issued on 20 January 2025. The information provided to the Tribunal by the LGA about the remuneration paid to the CEO of the Regional Council of Goyder as of 28 March 2025 was that this amounted to $295,919. This was consistent with the other information available to the Tribunal. The Tribunal met with the Regional Council of Goyder on 19 March 2025. The Tribunal is aware from the Council's publicly available meeting minutes that the Regional Council of Goyder held a meeting on 18 March 2025 where it considered a contract extension for its CEO. The Tribunal is not aware of whether this confidential consideration altered the remuneration of its CEO.

146. As the Tribunal explained with respect to the City of West Torrens, the Tribunal commenced its consideration by assessing Councils against the criteria in Report 3 of

2025. The application of those criteria resulted in the Regional Council of Goyder being allocated to Council Band 7.

147. The Regional Council of Goyder submissions reiterate the Term of Office Submission. The Tribunal has already indicated that it does not consider that it has the jurisdiction to provide for grandfathering. Irrespective of that jurisdictional concern, the Regional Council of Goyder's consideration of an extension to its CEO's contract the day prior to meeting with the Tribunal in March 2025 confirms the Tribunal's concerns over potential inequities associated with the suggested grandfathering approach.

148. The Regional Council of Goyder's requests for asserted additional materials associated with the Mercer Report also repeats the submissions made by the LGA. The Tribunal has addressed this matter and explained how the request fundamentally misconstrues the iterative role Mercer had in assisting the Tribunal develop and test the approach it adopted.

149. The Regional Council of Goyder repeats the LGA position to the effect that the Tribunal should not have interfered with the contract it had negotiated with its CEO. The Tribunal has addressed that issue in dealing with the LGA position.

150. The Regional Council of Goyder repeats the LGA submissions with respect to Mercer's role in the determination process, including the potential for significant remuneration increases since 2022/2024 and as well as the Band Structure Submission. The Tribunal addressed these issues in dealing with the LGA submissions and reiterates that the Tribunal was concerned that a six-band structure created a bandwidth which undermined the usefulness of the Remuneration Framework for Councils and the community.

151. The Regional Council of Goyder asserts that the criteria applied by Report 3 of 2025 as part of the Grouping Model do not adequately consider the strong financial position of the Council. In this regard the Tribunal reiterates that it adopted an approach which it considered maximised the fair comparison of Councils. For instance, as was suggested by the Regional Council of Goyder in the hearing on 2 June 2026, had the Tribunal used the debt level of a Council as an indicator of CEO complexity, Councils which have heavy infrastructure related debt would likely express concern that they were adversely affected by such an approach. The Tribunal does not consider a comparator based on debt levels or a subjective assessment of fiscal competence to be a sustainable basis for considering remuneration levels in accordance with the Guiding Principles.

152. The Regional Council of Goyder asserts that the inclusion of Council provided housing and motor vehicle costs disproportionately disadvantages regional CEOs. However, the Regional Council of Goyder did not indicate that it provided a house to its CEO. Instead, its submissions referred to a house bought by the CEO. A basis for the Tribunal to change its position on these issues has not been established.

153. The Regional Council of Goyder submission, to the effect that the Tribunal should have greater regard to the contractual arrangements reached between Councils and their CEOs broadly reflects the LGA position. The Tribunal's position in this respect has been outlined previously. In a practical sense, had there been greater consistency and/or more transparent logic underpinning the disparate remuneration arrangements for CEOs, Report 3 of 2025 may have taken on a different character.

154. The Regional Council of Goyder also asserts that the extent to which the Tribunal considered remuneration levels outside of the South Australian local government sector is unclear. Again, the Tribunal has addressed this submission while considering the LGA submissions. The Regional Council of Goyder asserts that regional Councils may need

additional flexibility to address geographic isolation, travel requirements, cost of living impacts and recruitment and retention issues. In these respects, the Tribunal recognised regional considerations with the Grouping Model's modifying factors, such as distance from Adelaide, population dispersion, and socio-economic advantage/disadvantage. The Tribunal recognises that regional Councils may experience recruitment challenges but does not accept that this represents a basis for endorsing a higher remuneration amount for some Councils in contrast to others. The Tribunal is also aware that numerous regional Councils have expressed concern at the potential for escalating employment costs.

155. The Regional Council of Goyder seeks changes to Determination 3 of 2025 consistent with those sought by the LGA. The Tribunal has set out its position in that respect in dealing with the LGA's submission.

156. The Regional Council of Goyder also submits that the specific circumstances of the Council and its CEO should be taken into account. These include the performance, skills, and competency of its CEO. They include the tentative listing of Burra for World Heritage status and negotiations with international renewable energy companies. It asserts that, due at least in part to the efforts of its CEO, the Council is "batting above its average." In the oral submissions on 2 June 2026 the Regional Council of Goyder requested that the Tribunal regard its submissions as an application for differentiation from the Remuneration Framework on the basis that its circumstances were unique. In this respect, the Tribunal acknowledges these arguments and notes that in undertaking this Review, most Councils have relied on their asserted unique characteristics.

157. On the information currently before it, the Tribunal cannot grant the Regional Council of Goyder an exceptional circumstances determination.

158. As was the case with the City of West Torrens, the Tribunal has taken the position that most of the Regional Council of Goyder's submissions seek a change in the Remuneration Framework.

159. The Tribunal will consider a separate submission to the effect that the Regional Council of Goyder has exceptional circumstances to warrant differentiation from the Remuneration Framework but anticipates that such a submission would go substantially beyond the advice provided at present. To the extent that the Regional Council of Goyder may assert that its absence of debt and the location of renewable power infrastructure, as factors of material differentiation, the Tribunal will require substantially more detail about the Council's circumstances and their impact on the CEO to conclude that the Council should be regarded as exceptional.

160. The Regional Council of Goyder advised that it was undertaking its own benchmarking study and requested a further 4 weeks to complete this. In this respect the Tribunal notes that, over the last three years it has consistently invited Councils to engage with it in relation to CEO remuneration. The Regional Council of Goyder did not make a submission in response to the Consultation Paper. The Council and its CEO responded to the Draft Determination & Report but has not provided a reason why a further 17 months have elapsed before the benchmarking exercise was commenced.

161. As is the case with any Council, the Regional Council of Goyder is as at liberty to request a review of its potentially exceptional circumstances at any time. Its benchmarking report may identify relevant factors in this respect but that the fact of a higher level of remuneration applies is, of itself, unlikely to represent an exceptional circumstance.

Mid Murray Council

162. The Mid Murray Council submission adopts many similar aspects of the LGA submission. The Tribunal has addressed it in that context. The Mid Murray Council did not request a meeting with the Tribunal.

163. The Mid Murray Council submissions express concern that the impact of its allocation to Council Band 5 is that the remuneration paid to their CEO is $28,000 above the maximum established by Determination 3 of 2025. While the Tribunal understands from media reports that the CEO of the Mid Murray Council has resigned, it has nevertheless considered this submission having had regard to the time when the submission was made.

164. The Mid Murray Council makes the following submissions:

    a. That the CEO provisions be grandfathered so that the contract can be honoured;
    b. Procedural fairness assertions consistent with the LGA position;
    c. The Tribunal should disclose additional information about the Mercer Report;
    d. The Tribunal did not properly recognise the remuneration amounts being paid or market movements;
    e. The Band Structure Submission;
    f. The criteria adopted by the Tribunal do not accurately reflect the complexity of the CEO role and expresses particular concern about the reliance on operating income with respect to smaller and financially limited councils;
    g. The data relied on by the Tribunal was out of date and, additionally, should have included consideration of the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants as of 30 June each year; and
    h. Housing and motor vehicle costs should be excluded from the definition of remuneration. The Tribunal noted that the Mid Murray Council was not a Council that provided housing in any event.

165. The Tribunal considered each of these issues when addressing the LGA submissions.

166. The Mid Murray Council also requested the Tribunal consider the following and amend the Remuneration Framework accordingly:

    a. Incorporate additional indicators of organisational complexity;
    b. Reduce the number of bands and increase bandwidth; and
    c. Provide clearer guidance regarding transitional arrangements for councils where their remuneration was above the maximum set by the Tribunal.

167. Similarly, the Tribunal has addressed each of these matters in dealing with the LGA submissions.

City of Mount Gambier

168. The City of Mount Gambier's submission also adopts many of the LGA submissions and the Tribunal has addressed them in that context. The City of Mount Gambier did not request a meeting with the Tribunal.

169. Each of the following assertions were put by the City of Mount Gambier but dealt with by the Tribunal in its consideration of the LGA submissions:

    a. The information provided to it does not establish that the Tribunal provided the necessary instructions to Mercer to underpin its report and fell short of a proper letter of instruction and that there may have been multiple letters or other forms of

instruction to Mercer and requested further documentation from the Tribunal to establish the instructions given to Mercer;

b. The total operating income used by the Tribunal was outdated and inadequate to properly indicate the characteristics of a Council; and
c. The Band Structure Submission.

170. The City of Mount Gambier seeks that the Tribunal review the Council Bands and Remuneration Ranges in Determination 3 of 2025 and provide the capacity for Councils to seek reviews based on specified local factors. The City of Mount Gambier submission expresses concern about the impact of Determination 3 of 2025 and requests further information on why the Tribunal decided to place primary reliance on total operating income. The City of Mount Gambier also requests that the Tribunal reopen discussions about the approach to be adopted and suggests further consideration of the West Australian approach be given. In these respects, the Tribunal notes that the City of Mount Gambier responded to the Consultation Paper by suggesting that the Tribunal utilise a combination of the Councillor Groups (based on population numbers), and the West Australian band approach. The Tribunal addressed each of these approaches in Report 3 of 2025 at paragraphs 54 to 56 and has further commented on them in this Report.

171. The City of Mount Gambier also asserts that the Tribunal should have given more attention to remuneration of South Australian Public Sector CEOs (**Public Sector CEOs**), asserted to be paid between $304,840 and $746,347. In addressing this concern, the Tribunal has noted that the City of Mount Gambier did not make a submission in response to the Draft Determination & Report. Additionally, the information available to the Tribunal indicates that its CEO was, when Determination 3 of 2025 was issued, within the Remuneration Range for its specified Council Band.

172. The Tribunal does not agree with the City of Mount Gambier's assertion of links with Public Sector CEO remuneration ranges, nor with the extent of comparability. Like some of the other submissions, the City of Mount Gambier makes an unfounded assertion that more than half of the Local Government CEOs in South Australia face a remuneration reduction. Based on the Tribunal's information and information supplied by the LGA, CEOs of only 18 of the 67 Councils were above the Remuneration Range maximums as of March 2025. Whether Councils have made decisions since then to increase remuneration for CEOs above the foreshadowed maximum amounts is not a matter that the Tribunal can comment on. The Tribunal notes that the submissions in this respect may be referring to those Councils who were previously placed in a band determined by their current remuneration amounts in the Inaugural Determination & Report. If that is the case, the Tribunal put the entire local government sector on notice that this structure was not sustainable and would be reviewed and submissions of this nature appear to disregard the basis of the approach set out in Report 3 of 2025.

173. The City of Mount Gambier also requests that the Tribunal review the weighting of the criteria for the Grouping Model used to determine the distribution of Councils to Council Bands, the number of Council Bands and Remuneration Ranges, use updated data, provide transitional guidance, and review motor vehicle cost arrangements. The Tribunal has further commented in these respects later in this Report.

District Council of Coober Pedy

174. The Principal Administrator of the District Council of Coober Pedy lodged a submission which requested that the Exception Determination 4 of 2024 should continue to apply but that the amounts involved should be increased by the Consumer Price Index since that Determination was issued.

175. Report 3 of 2025 considered the Exemption for the District Council of Coober Pedy at paragraphs 124 to 125 and resolved that this should be maintained. The Tribunal does not intend to change this position and notes that at paragraph 24 of Report 4 of 2024 the Tribunal stated:

> Whilst the submission put to the Tribunal did not address annual remuneration adjustment issues the Tribunal has noted that employment contracts often include such provisions. […] It is therefore a matter for the Administrators to consider within the maximum amount that will be set by the Tribunal. Consequently, the Tribunal requests the Principal Administrator's advice about the nature of any annual adjustment provisions in the contract(s) that are applicable, before determining this request.

Campbelltown City Council

176. The Campbelltown City Council submission was that Report 3 of 2025 was deficient because it did not explain the Council Bands, Remuneration Ranges or the modifying criteria for the Grouping Model and that the Tribunal's approach did not sufficiently reward or encourage high CEO performance.

177. The Campbelltown City Council asserted that as total operating income was derived primarily from rates it did not accurately describe the importance of executive responsibility and was at odds with the Council's desire to minimise expenditure. The submissions asserted the approach did not properly take CEO experience into account. The submissions requested clarification of the weighting approach used in the Council Grouping Model and asserted that the effect of the modifying criteria favoured some Councils and reflected fixed criteria.

178. The Campbelltown City Council suggested replacing the socio-economic advantage/disadvantage factor with the ESCOSA Local Government Review of Past and Present Financial Performance (**ESCOSA Indicator**).

179. The Campbelltown City Council advised that Mercer had separately undertaken a review of its CEO's salary and that the maximum remuneration applicable to Council Band 3 to which the City was allocated, was below the mid-point of this review.

180. The Campbelltown City Council submission was that Determination 3 of 2025 was flawed in that it required CEOs to accept substantial salary reductions which would adversely affect those CEOs. The City's submission was that the changes required of it to comply with Determination 3 of 2025 were unfair, and that changes should be phased-in over 5 years and there should be greater certainty about annual reviews.

181. The Campbelltown City Council was, in March 2025 paying its CEO above the proposed maximum amount for Council Band 3. In February 2024, the Campbelltown City Council advocated for the Tribunal to engage an external reviewer to undertake a review of each Council's circumstances. The Campbelltown City Council submissions are broadly consistent with the position it put to the Tribunal in response to the Draft Determination & Report.

182. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal summarised the conclusions it reached about the most appropriate form of review, including, but not limited to its concerns about arranging for an external assessment of each Council. For the avoidance of doubt, the Tribunal was concerned about the costs of such an exercise given the limited number of Councils advocating for that approach and the extent to which the costs would be borne by all Councils. Additionally, such an approach would also quickly become outdated. The Tribunal set out the principles it considered appropriate for the establishment of a

sustainable grouping of Councils so that Councillors can determine remuneration between the minimum and maximum amounts, to reflect the Council's assessment of their CEO's performance and experience. Assessing CEO performance or experience is not a function of the Tribunal.

183. As part of the extensive process of developing and testing appropriate criteria to group Councils, the Tribunal considered the ESCOSA Indicator. This was discounted as the Tribunal considered it did not provide a suitable indicator of the challenges confronting Councils with differing socio-economic circumstances. The Tribunal concluded that the ESCOSA process, which is a rolling review of only certain aspects of specified Council operations, would create time-based inequities if it was used as a factor in determining remuneration.

184. In response to concerns about the remuneration assessment undertaken for Campbelltown City Council, the Tribunal notes that Mercer's contract included safeguards to ensure a clear separation of personnel, functions and information within Mercer. This separation meant that staff involved in assessing local government roles in South Australia were not simultaneously assisting the Tribunal and were not privy to the Tribunal's information.

185. Accordingly, it is quite possible that an external assessment by Mercer of the Campbelltown City Council's CEO, based on information and instructions not currently before the Tribunal, may have specified an amount outside of the Remuneration Range adopted by the Tribunal.

186. If the Tribunal were to reassess the minimum and maximum amounts each time a Council commissioned a review based on criteria not disclosed to the Tribunal, the requirement for stability could not be met.

187. The Tribunal established the Council Bands based on what it determined to be comparable Councils with the assistance of the Council Grouping Model before it then determined the minimum and maximum remuneration amounts for each Remuneration Range applicable to the Council Bands. A subsequent reassessment of the Remuneration Framework is proposed in 2028 and as is addressed later in this Report, the Tribunal has reviewed the minimum and maximum Remuneration amounts as part of its annual adjustment of those amounts.

188. The Campbelltown City Councill requested further information on how the limits for the Council Bands were determined. The Council Grouping Model delineates the Council Bands using the combined weighted average of the criteria. The cutoff point of 2.2 recognised a prudent buffer above the midpoint score of 2, as outlined in Report 3 of 2025.[16]

189. The Draft Determination & Report proposed a two-year phase-in period. After considering the submissions put to it and consulting with the LGA about this matter, the Tribunal extended the phase-in period to 31 December 2027. The Tribunal is not satisfied that a basis for an extension beyond that date has been made.

190. The Campbelltown City Council expressed concern about the certainty of planned annual reviews. While the Tribunal did not establish an automatic link between the Remuneration Ranges and Consumer Price Index movements, Report 3 of 2025 confirmed that the monetary minimums and maximums of the Remuneration Ranges will be reviewed annually.[17] These annual reviews are not intended to change Council Band

[16] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [102] – [105].
[17] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [130].

or Remuneration Range allocations. It would generally be the case that the Tribunal would provide Councils between 1 to 2 months to make submissions regarding the planned annual review, before the Determination is made and announced.

191. The Tribunal was concerned about the potential for a delay to the 2026 Annual Review because of this Review. Such a delay could disadvantage Councils generally, including the majority of Councils who have not made submissions to this Review. Consequently, the Tribunal has incorporated the 2026 Annual Review considerations into this Report.

Town of Gawler

192. The Town of Gawler submissions went to a complaint that Mercer and hence the Tribunal, did not undertake an independent salary bench-making exercise. Further, that the minimum and maximum amounts of the Remuneration Ranges were derived using parameters determined by the Tribunal based on existing remuneration spans with a 2% increase. In doing so, the Town of Gawler asserts that Mercer did not consider market competitiveness, fairness of remuneration levels or alignment with national executive labour markets. It disputed that the relevant market was an internal South Australian market and asserted that at least 5 recent recruits to CEO roles were from interstate.

193. The Town of Gawler asserted the Remuneration Framework adopted by the Tribunal was flawed in that operating income changes did not equate with added complexity. It asserted that operating income did not recognise governance complexity, leadership responsibilities, financial stewardship, long term sustainability, asset ownership and management obligations, political and organisational complexity associated with working with an elected body. Further, the Remuneration Framework did not consider acute workforce attraction and retention issues and heightened service expectations faced by medium outer-metro and regional Councils.

194. The Town of Gawler submission asserted that there was an essential need for comprehensive benchmarking of CEO remuneration.

195. The Town of Gawler was, in March 2025, paying its CEO well above the proposed maximum amount for Council Band 3. The Town of Gawler made a submission in response to the Consultation paper. Its Executive Manager submitted in response to the Draft Determination & Report in January 2025 that the proposed remuneration bands were likely to prompt its CEO to resign and were inconsistent with the contracts agreed between CEOs and Councils.

196. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal summarised the conclusions it reached about the most appropriate form of review, including, but not limited to its concerns about arranging for an external assessment of each Council. The Tribunal set out the principles it considered appropriate for the establishment of sustainable groupings of Councils so that Councillors can determine remuneration between the minimum and maximum amounts for the respective Remuneration Ranges. As the Tribunal has discussed with respect to the submissions made by the Campbelltown City Council, assessing CEO performance or experience is not a function of the Tribunal and is the responsibility of each Council.

197. The Tribunal has concluded that the Town of Gawler is primarily concerned that the maximum rate of remuneration for its CEO established by Determination 3 of 2025 is inconsistent with the existing CEO's remuneration and is hence, inadequate. The factors relied upon in this submission are generally subjective and difficult to measure and compare. Accordingly, the Tribunal has determined that no basis exists to modify the approach it adopted in Report & Determination 3 of 2025.

City of Playford

198. The City of Playford submission supported the Tribunal's approach. For fairness, the Tribunal notes that the remuneration of the CEO of the City of Playford is well inside of the Remuneration Range maximum established for it.

City of Tea Tree Gully

199. The City of Tea Tree Gully submission observed that CEOs have management and budgetary responsibilities to ensure appropriate financial performance and that a substantial portion of the budget is linked to staff costs. The submission confirmed that overall income and expenditure can assist in guiding remuneration ranges but that some care should be exercised to not limit the CEO's incentive to develop more efficient and effective service delivery methods.

200. The City of Tea Tree Gully supported the use of the structured methodology which recognised differences between Councils.

201. The Tribunal notes that in February 2025 the City of Tea Tree Gully CEO's remuneration was within the appropriate Remuneration Range.

Adelaide Hills Council

202. The Adelaide Hills Council submission was that total operating income placed smaller and regional Councils at structural disadvantages in that it does not provide a fair and equitable standalone measure for determining remuneration. The submission was that operating income did not recognise the unique characteristics of Councils. In this regard, residential expansion for the Adelaide Hills Council is limited by 60% of Adelaide's watershed being in the Council, as well as environmental, native vegetation and bushfire restraints. The Adelaide Hills Council asserts that the modifying criteria did not appropriately recognise these constraints. The submission asserted that there should be higher weightings applied to the modifying criteria and that SEIFA scores are an inadequate measure in some respects.

203. The Adelaide Hills Council suggested that the Tribunal could adopt additional modifying criteria being: service delivery breadth and complexity, tourist destination, peri-urban environment, workforce size and organisational complexity, subsidiaries, commercial entities, committees and working groups, region specific risks and responsibilities, bushfire management, watershed protection, Native Vegetation management, coastal management, market competition, recruitment difficulties, remuneration of adjacent Councils, and pressure from industry sectors.

204. The Adelaide Hills Council argued that the definition of Remuneration adopted by the Tribunal constrained the Council's capacity to attract and retain staff and that Councils should be able to offer accommodation, leave and other incentives to attract CEOs. The Adelaide Hills Council argued for adoption of the West Australian and/or private sector approach.

205. The Adelaide Hills Council also argued that there were too many Council Bands and Remuneration Ranges, that the minimums for Council Bands 7 and 8 were too low, that the approach adopted by the Tribunal limited the Council's capacity to engage and retain other specialist staff and that Council CEOs should be compared to Public Sector CEOs.

206. The Tribunal notes that the Adelaide Hills Council did not make a submission in response to either the Consultation Paper, or the Draft Determination & Report. As of February

2025, the Adelaide Hills Council CEO was remunerated within the applicable Remuneration Range established by the Tribunal.

207. The Guiding Principles adopted by the Tribunal dictated that the indicators of CEO job complexity must be measurable and easily understood. In this context The Tribunal considers the modifying criteria proposed by the Adelaide Hills Council cannot be easily measured in objective terms in accordance with the Guiding Principles. The Tribunal considers that if these were adopted as modifying criteria, many other Councils would have a legitimate basis to argue for other factors that reflect their particular circumstances.

208. As the Tribunal has explained, it adopted the Remuneration Framework in Determination 3 of 2025 to balance the interests of CEOs, Councils, and the community generally. Substantially greater bandwidth within the Remuneration Ranges was considered and discounted because it did not provide a relevant guide to all these groups.

209. As discussed earlier, the Tribunal has been aware of Public Sector CEO remuneration arrangements throughout each of the reviews. but decided that consideration of the local government sector was most appropriate. The submissions put to the Tribunal did not demonstrate that Councils were appointing CEOs from interstate or overseas at higher remuneration rates than the Remuneration Ranges determined by the Tribunal.

City of Burnside

210. The City of Burnside submission was that if operating income was to be applied as the primary indicator of complexity, it should be considered over multiple years. The City's decisions to minimise rate increases during the COVID pandemic were particularly noted. Further, that population growth does not account for complexity in largely built-up Council areas, whereas a grouping approach grounded primarily in current population and realised growth would be more appropriate.

211. The City of Burnside argued that population dispersion and distance from Adelaide do not apply to complexities associated with managing its infrastructure, regulatory diversity, and neighbour impacts.

212. The City of Burnside argued that the relationship between socio-economic profile and CEO complexity was not linear and that socio-economic advantage does not produce lower governance requirements.

213. The City of Burnside advocated for the inclusion of a modifying factor linked to the level of public scrutiny of the CEO role.

214. The City of Burnside did not make a submission in response to the Discussion Paper. It did respond to the Draft Determination & Report and requested an increase to its Council Band allocation because of operating income increases since the Draft Determination & Report was released. The City of Burnside argued that this reclassification was essential to meet its contractual arrangements. It argued that the Tribunal should consider its highly engaged and affluent population, its media scrutiny, and ongoing political challenges. The City of Burnside argued that its four subsidiaries should be considered and that it should be reclassified from Council Band 4 to Council Band 3.

215. The City of Burnside advised that its CEO was engaged in December 2024 with a Total Employment Cost package of $320,000 and that after an external performance assessment an appropriate increase could not be applied because of the proximity to the Remuneration Range maximum.

216. In developing the indicators of CEO complexity, the Tribunal was committed to measures that were capable of application across the local government sector. Total operating income was identified as the most appropriate indicator and its significance was confirmed by Mercer. The Tribunal determined to use the most current data available at the time of the assessment with the expectation that when the Remuneration Framework is reconsidered in 2028, that review will consider relevant changes. Future Tribunals may also consider advantages and disadvantages associated with taking an average of a few years of information to mitigate any distortions created by a "snapshot".

217. In relation to the City of Burnside submission with regards to population growth, the Tribunal has used a modifying criterion of annualised population growth from 2021 to 2031 sourced from the SA Department for Trade and Investment (as it then was). This provides a metric that is both a retrospective and projected view of population growth over a ten-year period as outlined at paragraph 90 of Report 3 of 2025.

218. To the extent that the City of Burnside asserts that its more affluent population requires positive recognition as an added element of complexity, the Tribunal does not agree. Further, the measure of socio-economic advantage/disadvantage has not been applied to disadvantage more affluent Councils. It simply seeks to recognise added CEO complexity associated with having fewer financial resources to meet population expectations. Further, the use of distance from Adelaide has not been applied to disadvantage metropolitan Councils but to recognise the particular issues facing Councils that are substantial distances from Adelaide.

219. In adopting the Guiding Principles, the Tribunal considered multiple Council characteristics and determined that criteria of CEO complexity that could not be simply measured or easily understood should not be considered for those reasons.

220. In accordance with the Guiding Principles, the Tribunal has relied on the total operating income as published by the SA Local Government Grants Commission which accounts for Councils' interests in joint ventures and associates, prepared in accordance with the LGA's Model Financial Statements. The Tribunal notes that the City of Burnside has not provided a data source which better represents the relative position of all Councils, in accordance with the Guiding Principles.

District Council of Streaky Bay

221. The District Council of Streaky Bay submitted that the Tribunal was too reliant on total operating income as a measure of role complexity. It argued that this measure did not take proper account of the complexities of regional local government across large and dispersed areas where the CEO was required to operate across multiple functions. The District Council of Streaky Bay did not support the approach adopted by the Tribunal in as much as it assumed metropolitan Council CEO roles are inherently more complex because of their size. As the CEO role is defined in the LG Act, the District Council of Streaky Bay argued that there should be greater consistency between metropolitan and Country Councils.

222. The District Council of Streaky Bay argued that housing and motor vehicle costs should be excluded from Remuneration. It also argued that the Tribunal should adopt what it described as the Mercer position to allow an extra week of leave to take account of travel time from remote locations.

223. The District Council of Streaky Bay argued that remuneration settings should reflect community expectations and adopt a conservative approach to remuneration growth and that the Remuneration Framework should recognise reputational, personal, and

professional risks. It asserted that the Tribunal should consider a remuneration framework for all Council staff and/or abolition of enterprise bargaining agreements. It expressed concern about the compression of rates applicable to CEOs and other staff as well as seeking CEO remuneration be capped at a relatively low level with the Tribunal to take on a more active role to address problem issues.

224. The Tribunal notes that in February 2025 the CEO of the District Council of Streaky Bay was paid below the minimum Remuneration level and that the Council is not recorded as providing its CEO with a house.

225. The Tribunal acknowledges that the role of the CEO is defined in the LG Act and hence has common characteristics across every Council. However, the Tribunal considers that the level of complexity of the role increases with the magnitude of the Council. Hence it has determined to use total operating income as an indicator. The use of modifying factors is intended to account for characteristics which are not recognised within the total operating income consideration, but which indicate added complexities for CEOs including the challenges faced with remoteness and high population dispersion

226. The Tribunal notes that relevant Councils have an exemption for additional leave where this is provided to allow remotely based CEOs to travel to their hometown or capital city to commence or return from leave. However, the Tribunal included motor vehicle and housing costs as part of Remuneration because these are expenditures that must be funded by Councils.

City of Victor Harbor

227. The City of Victor Harbor submission was to the effect that while it generally supported the Mercer Report it did not agree with the Tribunal's adoption of eight Council Bands and Remuneration Ranges as distinct from the six recommended by Mercer.

228. The City of Victor Harbor did not make a submission in response to the Consultation Paper or the Draft Determination & Report. As of February 2025, the City of Victor Harbor CEO was remunerated within the allocated Remuneration Range.

Eyre Peninsular Local Government Association

229. The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (**EPLGA**) comprises 11 Councils on the Eyre Peninsula. Its position was that the Tribunal relied too heavily on operating income as an indicator of CEO complexity. It asserted that revenue did not reflect geographic size, travel requirements, workforce limitations, skill scarcities, service delivery in low density areas, governance challenges, and leadership expectations in small communities.

230. The EPLGA advised that regional CEOs operated under the same legislative and governance framework as metropolitan Councils. The EPLGA sought an increased weighting be given to distance and dispersion as factors to be considered.

231. The EPLGA argued that motor vehicle and housing costs should be excluded from Remuneration as they indicated that regional CEO roles were more highly paid that was really the case. Further, that Eyre Peninsula CEOs were leaving their Councils for more financially lucrative roles in other parts of Australia, and that there should be greater financial differences between CEOs and senior managers to support career progression given survey-based indications of future resignations.

232. The Tribunal has noted that the EPLGA made a submission in response to the Draft Determination & Report in which it identified some of these issues and sought distinct recognition of regional CEO remuneration arrangements.

233. The Tribunal has also noted that two of the Eyre Peninsular Councils were above the allocated Remuneration Range maximums, one was below the minimum, and the remainder were within the allocated Remuneration Range.

234. The other aspects of the EPLGA submission have been addressed earlier in this Report.

City of Unley

235. The City of Unley requested that the Tribunal adopt the Mercer Report definition of total operating income as defined by the Local Government Grants Commission to include income from Council owned subsidiaries which sell services to the community rather than other Councils.

236. The City of Unley requested that the Tribunal provide an exemption to enable its CEO contract, which was renegotiated in August 2024 and due to expire in July 2028, to run its course.

237. The City of Unley did not make a submission in response to the Consultation Paper and its response to the Draft Determination & Report was that the Draft did not adequately consider market rates, performance-based adjustments and did not adequately consider inflation. The City of Unley supported the grandfathering approach.

238. The Tribunal position with respect to grandfathering has been explained earlier in this Report.

239. To the extent that the City of Unley is asserting that the definition of total operating income proposed by Mercer was different to that which was adopted by the Tribunal in Report 3 of 2025, the submission is incorrect.

240. In paragraph 90 of Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal confirmed the source for that information was the total operating income defined by the SA Local Government Grants Commission.

241. The Tribunal has determined the concern about the duration of existing contracts inherent in the request for an exemption until mid to late 2028 would be inconsistent with the approach applied generally by the Tribunal and discussed above.

CEO of the Northern Areas Council

242. The CEO of the Northern Areas Council made a submission to the Tribunal in which he asserted that the Mercer Report and the process adopted by the Tribunal had failed to properly recognise the scope and complexity of the CEO function, particularly in a regional context given the experience and skill set required to fulfill the role properly. He advised that the CEO in smaller Councils needed to undertake a broader range of tasks.

243. This submission advised that the CEO had entered a 3-year contract expiring in 2028. At that time, the revised contract remuneration amount was within the limit then applicable but as Determination 3 of 2025 reduced the maximum amount applicable to the Northern Areas Council the remuneration was now $14,000 per annum above the Remuneration Range maximum. The submission also asserted that there was no scope for the recognition of CEO performance.

244. The submission sought that the current contract be grandfathered to cover the duration of employment contracts entered into during the application of Determination 1 of 2024 to minimise the effect on existing CEOs.

245. The Northern Areas Council has not put a submission to the Tribunal in this process. Its CEO was marginally above the Remuneration Range maximum in February 2025.

246. Council Band 7 currently has a minimum Remuneration amount of $190,000 and a maximum of $246,230. The Tribunal assessed this maximum amount consistent with the approach detailed in Report 3 of 2025 at paragraphs 110-123. The Tribunal recognises the Northern Areas Council CEO's concern, but it is not satisfied that this remuneration arrangement was set on criteria which can be consistently applied across the local government sector.

247. The proposition that an existing contractual arrangement should be exempted represents a type of grandfathering and would create further inconsistencies between Councils.

The District Council of Mount Remarkable

248. A Councillor from the District Council of Mount Remarkable made a submission in his own right in which he asserts that the maximum remuneration levels were too high and represented a major element of the costs of running a Council. This submission stressed the importance of flexibility and the need for regular review to ensure that the Remuneration Framework was consistent with labour market trends.

249. The then Acting CEO of the District Council of Mount Remarkable made a submission to the Tribunal in response to the Draft Determination & Report. This was to the effect that the Draft Determination & Report denied him procedural fairness and interfered with his right to negotiate an arrangement with the Council. This submission reported that the Council sought an exemption to maintain its current remuneration arrangement and requested the Tribunal review the Draft Determination & Report. The Tribunal notes that in February 2025 the CEO of the District Council of Mount Remarkable was remunerated significantly below its allocated Remuneration Range minimum.

The District Council of Kimba

250. The District Council of Kimba submission supported the Mercer framework as an important advancement in local government CEO regulation. The submission advised that the Mercer Report recognised that CEO roles could not be assessed only on organisational size but had to take other factors into account. The submission sought that there should be recognition that smaller regional Council CEOs were required to undertake a broader set of functions than (presumably) larger Councils. Those additional requirements should be recognised along with the difficulty that regional Councils faced in recruiting CEOs.

251. The District Council of Kimba made a consistent submission to the Tribunal following the release of the Draft Determination & Report.

252. In February 2025, its CEO was remunerated within the allocated Remuneration Range.

253. The Tribunal increased the bandwidth for the Remuneration Ranges applicable to Council Bands 7 and 8 from the amounts specified in the Draft Determination & Report, to recognise that some regional Councils may have difficulty paying higher remuneration rates. That change was consistent with a request from the LGA. That added flexibility gives regional Councils more scope to reach remuneration arrangements best suited to them and their CEO. The Tribunal notes that in the consultations about this issue there was common recognition that some smaller regional CEOs were likely to seek employment at larger Councils as part of a career progression.

Conclusions Regarding Complaints about the Mercer Report and Report and Determination 3 of 2025

254. The Tribunal has considered all the submissions and materials put to it. The Tribunal has addressed these matters in response to the individual submissions. It has also considered those submissions collectively. This collective consideration requires some general observations about this Review.

255. The Tribunal has considered whether, based on the submissions it should:

    a. Revise Determination 3 of 2025 in whole or in part, including updating the data used when the Determination was prepared in January 2025; or
    b. Invite further submissions about aspects of Determination 3 of 2025; or
    c. Confirm Determination 3 of 2025.

256. With one exception, the Tribunal is not persuaded that it should revise Determination 3 of 2025, or that further submissions about that Determination should be invited. It has adopted that position for the following reasons:

    a. The Tribunal made the Inaugural Determination & Report based on inadequate information from the local government sector. In the Inaugural Determination & Report the Tribunal set out its expectation that the system of grouping Councils based on the remuneration amounts they were paying CEOs at that time was not sustainable and would be changed. The Tribunal then set about collecting data to assess alternative approaches. It invited a more cooperative approach from the local government sector but noted vast diversity of approaches which were substantially based on assertions that either a Council and/or its CEO were unique.

    b. The Tribunal detailed the Guiding Principles in Report 3 of 2025 and in this Report the Tribunal has again explained the way in which it developed the criteria for the Council Grouping Model. The Tribunal considered the extent to which a single, or a combination of criteria could be used for this purpose. It noted that the application of one criterion only did not adequately explain the substantial diversity in remuneration arrangements and could not be regarded as a sustainable basis for grouping Councils.

257. In the Inaugural Determination & Report the Tribunal set out its approach to defining the components of Remuneration.

258. Mercer's involvement was directed at two issues.

    a. The Tribunal engaged Mercer, as an expert remuneration advisor, to provide advice on the appropriate definition of what should be considered as Remuneration. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal recorded that it disagreed with Mercer in one key respect, being the provision of housing costs. The Tribunal's decision to include housing simply reflects the extent to which it is a cost borne by Councils and their ratepayers.

    b. The second element of the Mercer function involved consideration of the optimum way of grouping Councils. This was achieved through a series of workshops underpinned by agreement on objectives and Guiding Principles. These workshops drew on Mercer's statistical expertise to ensure that calculations based on the policies adopted by the Tribunal were properly applied. In this respect the Mercer Report simply reflects a position iteratively developed with the Tribunal. As an example, Mercer initially suggested 6 Council Bands and Remuneration Ranges. The Tribunal determined that six bands created an excessively wide bandwidth which would not assist either Councils or their ratepayers to understand the rationale for remuneration

amounts. This led to consideration of other options. The rationale for the Remuneration Framework is detailed in Report 3 of 2025.

259. The Tribunal has noted that there remains some confusion about the Tribunal's function in setting minimum and maximum remuneration amounts and its assessment of what constitutes remuneration. In this latter respect, the Tribunal has fundamentally adopted the position that components of remuneration that represent a cost to ratepayers should be considered Remuneration. The Tribunal again suggests that Councils who are unsure in this respect should seek expert advice as that is not the role of the Tribunal. To the extent to which a Council disagrees with the position adopted by the Tribunal or decides that its contractual arrangements take precedence, this is a matter for that Council to consider. The Tribunal does not have an enforcement function.

260. Secondly, in establishing the Remuneration Framework in Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal was aware of some Councils which were remunerating their CEOs at levels which it considered to be inconsistent with the characteristics of Councils which it considered comparable. The Tribunal released its Draft Determination & Report to provide an opportunity for Councils to comment on that approach. It took those comments into account in determining a final position in Report & Determination 3 of 2025.

261. At the time the Draft Determination & Report was issued there were 18 Councils from a total of 67 who were, on the information available to the Tribunal and on the information provided by the LGA, remunerating their CEOs at levels above the proposed maximum amounts. Information to that effect was provided by the LGA in February 2025 and again in March 2025. The LGA now asserts that over half of the Councils are remunerating their CEOs at levels above the designated maximums. While evidence to support this assertion has not been provided, if it is indeed that case, it suggests that remuneration increases to exceed those maximums were knowingly applied. The Tribunal is now being asked to sanction those higher remuneration amounts irrespective of how they were arrived at.

262. The Tribunal is now being asked to authorise remuneration arrangements that exceed the current maximums and (in some cases) to do so beyond the December 2027 phase-in period. The basis for these requests varies. The majority position is that the Tribunal should grandfather existing arrangements and effectively recognise that repeated contracts with a CEO mean that the term of office is not broken. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal advised that it had concluded that it did not have the jurisdiction to adopt grandfathering in the manner sought by various Councils.[18] The Tribunal has reviewed that position considering the different types of grandfathering now asked of it. Some Councils have argued for grandfathering in the context that they submitted that those successive contracts had the effect of extending the term of office referred to in s 147(5) of the *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021* (SA). That section states:

> The remuneration of a [C]hief [E]xecutive [O]fficer holding office on the commencement of section 99A of the principal Act (as inserted by this Act) is not affected during the term of that office by a determination under section 99A.

263. In Report 3 of 2025 the Tribunal concluded that a term of office was singular, with re-appointment representing a new term of office commencing with re-appointment under a new contract. The Tribunal maintains that view. It also reaffirms that, even if that

[18] Remuneration Tribunal – Report Relating to Determination 3 of 2025 [126] – [129].

jurisdiction existed, the potential for fundamentally iniquitous CEO arrangements would prompt the Tribunal to reject such a position.

264. A second version of grandfathering has been proposed by some Councils. This is based on contracts in operation at the time when Determination 3 of 2025 came into effect. Assuming these contracts were not negotiated to potentially avoid the effects of Determination 3 of 2025, some Councils argue that the Tribunal should and is obliged to recognise those contracts and allow them to run their course. The Tribunal has considered this position. The Tribunal has decided that this too is beyond jurisdiction, and in any event, and on balance, such an approach maintains and exacerbates the extent to which remuneration arrangements for some Councils cannot be reconciled with inherently similar Councils.

265. There is a caveat to this conclusion in that the Tribunal repeats its advice that it is open to any Council to argue that its circumstances are unable to be taken into proper account through the framework approach adopted by the Tribunal and an exemption may be issued.

266. The City of West Torrens and Regional Council of Goyder have both requested that their submissions to this Review be taken as requesting that they are regarded as representing exceptional circumstances. As the Tribunal has explained, it is unable to properly differentiate these submissions from the primary criticisms of the Remuneration Framework adopted by the Tribunal and is concerned that the primary basis of these requests appears heavily influenced by the extent their CEO salaries are so far above the designated maximums. Consequently, the Tribunal has advised it will consider specific applications to this effect if they are made.

267. Accordingly, the Tribunal will consider the City of West Torrens' application for an Exceptional Circumstances Determination of 28 July 2026 in due course.

268. A third version of grandfathering goes simply to the duration of the phase-in period. In the Draft Determination the Tribunal proposed January 2027. In March 2025 the LGA advised the Tribunal of the existing CEO contracts, their Remuneration and expiration dates. The Tribunal then undertook a projection of Remuneration Range maximums and observed that by applying a notional 3% year on year increase to the maximum for each Remuneration Range, the Councils which were above the Remuneration Range maximums were reduced substantially by December 2027. The submissions of some Councils to this Review indicate this may not be the case.

269. The common assertion that there should be fewer Council Bands with broader Remuneration Ranges is addressed by Report 3 of 2025. For clarity, the Tribunal adopted this number of Council Bands to ensure what it considered to be a reasonable bandwidth. The very broad bandwidth inherent in a six-band structure would have established such a wide discretion available to Councils, that the Tribunal considered it undermined the integrity of the Remuneration Framework. The bandwidth increases progressively so that the higher the ranked Council, the broader the discretion.

270. Some submissions to the Tribunal expressed concern that the imposition of the maximum remuneration levels in Determination 3 of 2025 would adversely affect retention and recruitment within that Council. The Tribunal acknowledges this may be the case. Conversely it notes that at least two Councils, initially asserted this was the case but appear to have recruited CEOs within their allocated Remuneration Ranges. To the extent to which an effect of Determination 3 of 2025 is that it adversely effects the remuneration of senior managers who report to the CEO, the Tribunal has no definite information that enables comment.

271. The Tribunal has considered extending the duration of the phase-in period. In this respect the Tribunal is aware that it has indicated an intention that the Remuneration Framework will next be reviewed in 2028. Whilst that review is clearly at the discretion of the Tribunal as it is constituted in the future, it reflects the many calls for stability in the remuneration system. An extension of the phase-in period until an unspecified time in 2028 to coincide with at least one CEO contract will prolong the unexplained and quite substantial differences in CEO remuneration for some Councils in contrast to others with inherently similar attributes. Such an extension would mean that substantial remuneration differences could be maintained up to the time when the Remuneration Framework is scheduled for reassessment. Accordingly, the Tribunal has determined that 31 December 2027 represents an appropriate phase-in period.

Applications for Exceptional Circumstances Determinations

272. Any Council that applies for the Tribunal to regard its circumstances as exceptional, should provide the Tribunal with comprehensive information relative to the role or employment circumstances of its CEO to enable the Tribunal to enable full consideration of the application.

Once-off Adjustment to Remuneration Range Maximums

273. The Tribunal has determined that one element of the Determination should be reviewed following consideration of the submissions put to it. This relates to the maximum amounts applicable to each of the Remuneration Ranges. It appears to the Tribunal that a small number of CEOs were engaged under contracts negotiated before the Draft Determination & Report was issued that provided for remuneration below the maximum but had the capacity for performance-based increases that would put them above the maximum amounts.

274. The Tribunal recognises that an inability to honour those arrangements may create unnecessary angst.

275. The Tribunal has determined to apply a one-off 4% increase to the maximum amounts for each Remuneration Range (**Once-Off Adjustment**) before it considers the 2026 Annual Review to facilitate those circumstances.

276. For clarity, the District Council of Coober Pedy is excluded from the Once-Off Adjustment.

277. The Tribunal acknowledges that the Once-Off Adjustment may not appease the small number of Councils who are remunerating their CEOs at levels significantly above the designated maximums.

278. Again, the Tribunal stresses that this does not amount to an automatic remuneration increase for CEOs. That is at the discretion of respective Councils.

2026 Annual Review

279. As the Tribunal has noted, Report 3 of 2025 foreshadowed an annual review of the minimum and maximum remuneration levels for each Remuneration Range, to occur in July 2026. On 27 May 2026 the Tribunal issued invitations for submissions on this topic to all the parties set out at paragraphs 15 to 19 of this Report and invited submissions by Friday, 26 June 2026.

280. On 15 June 2026, the Minister for the City of Adelaide noted that no submission would be made.

281. On 17 June 2026, the Premier's representative advised that no submission would be made.

282. The Tribunal notes that the Local Government Association did not make a submission in relation to the 2026 Annual Review.

283. At the close of submissions, 4 submissions were received from the following:

    a. The City of Burnside;
    b. The Town of Walkerville;
    c. The Administration of the City of Adelaide; and
    d. The City of Onkaparinga.

284. The Mayor of the City of Burnside referred to the City's earlier submissions and confirmed that the CEO was near the maximum of the designated range, having been appointed in December 2024 under the framework applicable at that time. The submission was that this limited the City's capacity to recognise performance. The Tribunal has considered this aspect of the submission in the context of the general submissions about the Remuneration Framework.

285. Additionally, the City of Burnside advised that in undertaking annual reviews it considered multiple factors, including the Tribunal's determinations, performance against agreed performance measures, CPI changes, applicable enterprise agreement increases and comparable organisations and Councils. The City of Burnside advised that the current maximum limited its capacity to undertake such a review.

286. The Corporation of the Town of Walkerville submission confirmed that it had no concern with its current Council Band and Remuneration Range assignment within the Remuneration Framework. It submitted that the Tribunal should increase the limits of the Remuneration Ranges by Consumer Price Index movements.

287. The City of Onkaparinga did not propose any change to its Council Band or Remuneration Range allocation and considered the Remuneration Framework to be appropriate. The City of Onkaparinga provided information about its population and particularly noted cost of living pressures on that population. The City submitted that the Tribunal should maintain alignment with community wage movements and broader economic conditions when considering adjustments to the Remuneration Range limits.

288. The City of Adelaide advised that its remuneration agreements do not commonly include CPI indexation and that its remuneration adjustments consider its capacity to pay, Wage Price Index changes, Consumer Price Index movements, national increases for Heads of Organisations and Executives, and other management roles, and increases experienced across all job families. It did not recommend a Consumer Price Index linked increase at present.

289. The Tribunal has also had regard to the submission made by the Principal Administrator of the District Council of Coober Pedy to the Review of the Remuneration Framework as set out earlier in this Report. Particularly, that the amounts in the Exception Determination 4 of 2024 be increased by the Consumer Price Index since that Determination was issued.

290. In considering these submissions the Tribunal has had regard to the following economic data:

    a. Consumer Price Index (All Groups Adelaide) shows the following percentage changes from the corresponding quarters of the previous year:

        i. 1.8% for June 2025
        ii. 2.4% for September 2025
        iii. 3.3% for December 2025
        iv. 4.2% for March 2026
        v. 4.4% for June 2026

    b. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Wage Price Index (Public Sector in South Australia) shows the following percentage changes from the corresponding quarters of previous years:

        i. 2.6% for June 2025
        ii. 2.7% for September 2025
        iii. 2.7% for December 2025
        iv. 2.2% for March 2026

291. The Tribunal maintains its view that the minimum and maximum amounts for each Remuneration Range should not be automatically linked to Consumer Price Index movements for the future.

292. Having considered the submissions to the 2026 Annual Review, the Tribunal has determined to apply a 4% increase to the maximum remuneration amounts applicable to each Remuneration Range, as they stand after having applied the Once-Off Adjustment, as well as the maximum amount applicable to the District Council of Coober Pedy.

293. The Tribunal has not increased the minimum Remuneration Range levels because of the paucity of submissions on this issue and concern about the potential capacity of some Councils to afford remuneration increases.

294. These revised maximums for each Remuneration Range and the District Council of Coober Pedy will apply from 1 July 2026.

CONCLUSION

Once-Off Adjustment to Remuneration Range Maximums

295. The Tribunal has determined to alter the Remuneration Framework by increasing the Remuneration Range maximums by 4% to recognise that the Remuneration Ranges in Determination 3 of 2025, may limit the capacity of Councils to meet established performance recognition arrangements within the Remuneration Framework.

296. The Once-Off Adjustment will apply from 1 July 2026.

297. The Tribunal acknowledges that there remain a small number of Councils who are remunerating their CEOs well above the specified Remuneration Range maximums. This is a matter for those Councils to consider.

298. The Tribunal has not otherwise changed the Remuneration Framework established in Report and Determination 3 of 2025.

299. The Tribunal's present intention is to review the Remuneration Framework in 2028.

2026 Annual Review

300. As a result of the 2026 Annual Review, the Tribunal has determined to apply a 4% increase to the maximums applicable to each Remuneration Range after the Once-Off Adjustment has been applied, and the District Council of Coober Pedy to reflect inflationary movements. This increase will also operate from 1 July 2026.

301. The Tribunal will undertake a further review of the minimum and maximum Remuneration Range amounts within the Remuneration Framework in June 2027.

302. The Determination giving effect to this Report will operate from 1 July 2026 and supersedes Determination 3 of 2025 and Determination 4 of 2024.

Matthew O'Callaghan	Donny Walford	Mark Young
PRESIDENT	**MEMBER**	**MEMBER**

Dated: 30 July 2026

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.9 TREES FOR LIFE - BUSH FOR LIFE REPORT

Author: Executive and Project Support Officer
26/51878

Trees for Life (TFL) have forwarded a copy of the 'Bush for Life Quarterly Report – April to June 2026' which is attached for information.

Currently there are six Bush for Life sites on Council land, with significant work occurring.

Field Officers and volunteers undertook 117.25 hours of on-ground work on the Bush for Life sites during the 2025-26 financial year. In addition, Bush Action Teams contributed an additional 204.25 hours of on-ground work, which is equivalent to an on-ground work contribution of over $26,000 to The Barossa Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Bush for Life Quarterly Report and 2025 2026 Achievements ⇩

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil.

BUSH FOR LIFE
QUARTERLY REPORT
April to June 2026

TreesForLife

Site Owner: The Barossa Council

BFL Coordinator: Amanda Mudge

Profile	
Number of BFL sites owned	6
Number of site carer allocations (at end of quarter)	4
Staff on-ground work hours this quarter	29
Volunteer on-ground work hours this quarter	74 (group activities) + estimated 36 (unsupervised)
Carer movements this quarter	0 new carers and 0 retirements

Comments:

Two Bush For Life activities were held this quarter, contributing to ongoing weed control and revegetation efforts within the Barossa Council region.

The first activity was a Bush Action Team event undertaken at Winters Road in May, where eight volunteers targeted African Boxthorn, Olive and Rice Millet as part of ongoing weed control efforts.

Our Bush For Life program also supported a community engagement activity with Redeemer Lutheran School in June. Four staff members volunteered their time to work on Perennial Veldt Grass.

In April, Bush For Life Coordinator Elisha Brunton commenced a 12-month secondment and responsibility for the Bush For Life sites was transferred to Amanda Mudge. Amanda will continue to support volunteers and oversee ongoing site management and restoration activities.

Site activities during the quarter

Date	Site code	Site Name	Activity	OGW time (hrs)	# of vols	Total hrs (staff + vols)	Main weeds/tasks
12/05/2026	BR002	WINTERS RD	BAT	9.25	8	101.75	Bridal Creeper
23/06/2026	BR007	MAGNOLIA RD RES	MiniBAT	1.25	0	1.25	Perennial Veldt Grass

On-ground Works Summary

# BATs	1	# Support visits	0
# MiniBATs	1	Total hours OGW (staff+vols)	139

Barossa Council

Bush For Life 2025-26 Summary of Achievements

*The **Bush For Life** program trains and supports volunteers to care for some of SA's most valuable native vegetation, using minimal disturbance bush regeneration techniques*

TreesForLife

State-wide Summary

- 240 ***Bush For Life* sites** throughout South Australia
- around **1,043 hectares** of remnant bushland protected
- more than **490 'adopt-a-site' bushcarers** achieved more than **18,700 hours** of unsupervised volunteer bush regeneration work on their sites
- **23 training days** run for community volunteers, with **170 places** filled in our introductory and advanced workshops
- **1054 site activities** supervised by our professional field officers, involving **10,461 hours** of volunteer bush regeneration work - more than **1,384** volunteers are registered for our supervised activities

*achieved 29,179 hours of on-ground bush regeneration work, with a volunteer component valued at $1,563,994**

* Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics supports a valuation for volunteer work of $53.60 per hour

Barossa Council, 2025-26

- **6** Bush For Life sites on **Barossa Council** land
- **4** 'adopt-a-site' volunteers allocated to these sites, contributing an estimated **144** hours of site-specific bush regeneration work
- In addition we held:
  - **4** BATs, **13** mini-BATs and **10** support visits on these sites, during which volunteers contributed **204.25** hours of on-ground work
- Our skilled Field Officers undertook **117.25** hours of on-ground work on these sites alongside volunteers, in addition to many hours of work off site to facilitate these outcomes

The Bush For Life program leverages grants and other funding to deliver additional value for our partners where possible. This includes Bush Action Teams and other special activities which may be part of other projects.

Equivalent to an on-ground work contribution of $26,729 to the Barossa Council during 2025-26

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

6.10 EQUITABLE RATING OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Author: Chief Executive Officer
26/52033

Correspondence has been received from Coorong District Council seeking the renewed advocacy for ensuring that power generators are subject to equitable rating as other industries.

There has been significant work undertaken over many years on this matter.

Prior to the election in 2026 legislative reform was proposed. Coorong District Council, and other prior to this, have advocated with the relevant parliamentarians and LGA, it is suggested this remain as a watching brief for Council.

Any changes at this time would have minimal impact for The Barossa Council as we have very little power generation providers, such as wind, solar or bridging, other than power generation made that is not industrial such as residential solar generation which is not applicable to the proposed desires. Further the levying of rates against electricity suppliers will have a redistributive effect on the economy, it will result in greater revenue for local government or low revenue burden across the rating base depending on policy settings of a Council and larger costs to electricity generators, which in all likelihood would be recovered via increased electricity charges how this redistributive effect impacts house and commercial budgets is a key question that remains unknown. However, it is possible that the little generation of revenue or spreading of the rate burden it would achieve for The Barossa Council would not offset the electricity generator increase costs which are spread across the whole network as part of a fixed cost of the power generation infrastructure would not offset leading to higher overall costs for our ratepayers. Without further study this localised impact has not been accurately determined but is a real risk depending on the amount of power generation assets that existing for each Council area.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Correspondence from Coorong District Council ⇩

SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Statutes Amendment (Rates—Electricity Generation) Bill 2025

From: Coorong District Council <council@coorong.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 3:06 PM
To: Coorong District Council <council@coorong.sa.gov.au>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Equitable Rating of Electricity Generation Infrastructure in South Australia

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear Mayor and Chief Executive Officer

Equitable Rating of Electricity Generation Infrastructure in South Australia

The Coorong District Council is writing to seek your Council's support for renewed advocacy regarding the rating treatment of electricity generation infrastructure in South Australia.

As many councils are aware, legislative provisions introduced in association with privatisation of South Australia's electricity assets, continue to result in electricity generation facilities receiving rating treatment that differs from most other major industries. With the rapid growth of renewable energy and other electricity generation developments across regional South Australia, this issue has become increasingly significant for councils responsible for maintaining local infrastructure and services that support these developments.

Recently, Council wrote to the Premier of South Australia, the Leader of the Opposition and the Member for MacKillop seeking support for reintroduction of legislative reform that had previously been progressing prior to this year's State election. A copy of the letter is attached for your reference.

Council encourages all South Australian councils, particularly those hosting existing or proposed renewable energy and other electricity generation facilities, to consider lobbying for reintroduction of the *Statutes Amendment (Rates Electricity Generation) Bill 2025* by writing to the Premier of South Australia, the Opposition Leader and your local Member of Parliament.

Council has also written to LGA SA seeking an update on their efforts to lobby for reform. Council would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with interested councils and the LGA to progress this important reform.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further I invite you to contact Council.

Yours sincerely

Cr. Jonathan Pietzsch

ACTING MAYOR

Coorong District Council

council@coorong.sa.gov.au

1300 785 277

PO Box 399 | 95-101 Railway Tce,
Tailem Bend SA 5260

www.coorong.sa.gov.au

30 July 2026

The Hon Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier of South Australia
GPO Box 2343
Adelaide SA 5001
E: premier@sa.gov.au

Dear Premier

Equitable Rating of Electricity Generators in South Australia

I write on behalf of the Coorong District Council seeking your Government's support for legislative reform to address the longstanding rating arrangements applying to electricity generation infrastructure in South Australia.

The current arrangements originate from provisions introduced during the privatisation of South Australia's electricity assets approximately 25 years ago. While these provisions may have served a purpose at that time, the electricity generation sector has changed significantly, particularly through the rapid growth of large-scale renewable energy developments across regional South Australia.

Council notes that the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) has previously undertaken significant advocacy on this issue and commissioned an independent *Equitable Rating of the Energy Sector* report. The report identified that South Australian councils are disadvantaged compared with councils in other jurisdictions due to outdated legislative provisions affecting the rating of electricity generation infrastructure. The report further estimated that councils may be foregoing approximately $6 million annually in potential rates revenue, with this figure expected to grow as further renewable energy developments occur throughout the State.

Council understands that the Statutes Amendment (Rates—Electricity Generation) Bill 2025, introduced by the Hon. Frank Pangallo MLC, sought to address provisions within the Electricity Corporations (Restructuring and Disposal) Act 1999 which continue to provide favourable rating treatment to electricity generation infrastructure.

Postal Address:
PO Box 399
TAILEM BEND SA 5260
Email: council@coorong.sa.gov.au
Web: www.coorong.sa.gov.au

Coorong Civic Centre
95 – 101 Railway Terrace
TAILEM BEND SA 5260
Phone: 1300 785 277
Fax: 08 8572 3822

Meningie Information Hub
49 Princes Highway
MENINGIE SA 5264

Tintinara Customer Service Centre
37 Becker Terrace
TINTINARA SA 5266

Coorong District Council supports development of renewable energy and other critical generation facilities and recognises their importance in achieving South Australia's energy transition objectives and supporting economic growth. However, regional councils continue to provide and maintain critical infrastructure that supports these developments both through construction and in operational lifespans. Despite hosting this infrastructure and managing associated impacts, councils receive limited benefit through the current rating framework as applied to electricity generation facilities.

Council believes that electricity generation businesses should contribute equitably to the communities in which they operate, in a manner consistent with other industries across South Australia.

Coorong District Council therefore respectfully requests that your Government considers legislative reform that addresses these longstanding arrangements and establishes a fair and equitable rating framework for electricity generation infrastructure.

Council would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the State Government, the Local Government Association and other regional councils to progress this important reform.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

Cr. Jonathan Pietzsch
ACTING MAYOR

Postal Address:
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MENINGIE SA 5264

Tintinara Customer Service Centre
37 Becker Terrace
TINTINARA SA 5266

DEBATE REPORT

7.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

7.1.1 UPDATED APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Author: Executive Support Officer
26/50960

PURPOSE

For Council to endorse the update of the representatives on the Sister Cities Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(1) Appoints James March as a community representative to the Sister Cities Advisory Committee as per the Terms of Reference.

(2) Endorse the updated the Sister Cities Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference as per Attachment 1.

REPORT

Background
On 21 November 2023, pursuant to Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999,* Council endorsed the establishment of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee including adoption of the Committee's Terms of Reference for the legislative operation of the Committee and its members.

Pursuant to Clause 1.2 of the ToR:

The Committee, in partnership with Council, industry and community, is established to support Council's strategic commitment to the development and maintenance of effective international relations via Sister City and Friendship City relationships and provide a framework for entering into, maintaining and assessing such relationships to ensure that maximum benefits can be realised by both parties.

Council then appointed member representatives to the Sister Cities Advisory Committee on 20 February 2024 and then endorsed the update of member representatives on 17 June 2025 and 21 April 2026:

MOVED Cr Barrett

That Council:

(1) Endorse the updated Sister Cities Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference (ToR), as per Attachment 1.

(2) Appoints the following representatives to the Sister Cities Advisory Committee as per the updated Terms of Reference:

a. Council staff as nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of The Barossa Council pursuant to Clause 3.1.2 of the ToR.

b. Community representatives pursuant to Clause 3.1.3 of the ToR being Vanessa Lambert, Ingrid Day, Carol Dadds and Louise Hickinbotham.

c. Organisational representatives pursuant to Clause 3.1.4 of the ToR being Scott Hazeldine, Barossa Australia; Rolf Binder, RDA Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains; Sandie Simons, Rotary Club of Barossa Valley; Milly Hoffmann and Rick Lane, Nuriootpa High School, noting that if for any reason the Organisational representative is no longer available to sit on the committee, then the organisation will nominate a replacement for the remainder of the appointees term upon approval of the Sister Cities Advisory Committee.

SECONDED Cr Evans **CARRIED 2022-26/731**

Discussion

Members of the Committee were appointed by Council on 20 February 2024 and updated on 17 June 2025 and 21 April 2026 to reflect changes due to representation resignation and/or requested changes from the CEO and Organisational Representative Members. Due to representative resignations and/or requested changes from Organisational Representative Members, further changes are required as outlined below:

Committee Member	Who	Changes
Chairperson	Mayor	Remains unchanged
Council Staff	As appointed by the CEO	Limited to up to 4 Council Staff – includes the Sister City Program Manager
Community Members	• Vanesa Lambert • Louise Hickinbotham • Milly Hoffmann • James March	Ingrid Day resigned. Carol Dadds resigned. Lorna Schiller resigned. All other members remain unchanged
Organisational Members	• Scott Hazeldine – Barossa Australia • Rolf Binder - RDA, BGLAP • Sandie Simons - Rotary Club of Barossa Valley	Remains unchanged.

	• Rick Lane - Nuriootpa High School	

Summary and Conclusion
Council is asked to endorse the appointment of Sister Cities Advisory Committee membership as outlined in the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

Supporting references
Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

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 1999

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.

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.

By appointing current working members on the Committee demonstrates legislative compliance and transparency and allows the Committee to operate within the parameters of the meeting procedures as outlined.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required.

DEBATE REPORT

7.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

7.1.2 PRIVACY POLICY

Author: Manager Governance and OMCEO
26/51028

PURPOSE

To consider and endorse the draft Privacy Policy as per Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Privacy Policy as per Attachment 1.

REPORT

Background
Council's Privacy Policy was first adopted on 20 December 2016 and reflects Council's commitment to protect the personal information of community members, where this information may be managed by Council. Local Government is not bound by the Commonwealth's *Privacy Act 1988*, nor the State Government's *Information Privacy Principles Instructions* (except if contracted to a Commonwealth or State service provider). Nevertheless, Council's Privacy Policy is based on the Australian Privacy Principles.

The Privacy Policy was reviewed and endorsed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 April 2019.

Discussion
Council's Privacy Policy is now due for periodic review. Minor amendments have been made to the Policy, taking into account the practical implementation of the Policy.

A summary of changes is listed below:

Clause No.	Topic	Summary of change
All	Entire document	Transferred into the new Policy template. Updated legislation references. Updated Definitions.
Clause 2	Statement of intent	Updated to include relevant legislation alignment.
Clause 3.2.4	Website	New addition.

Clause 3.2.5	Photographs and Video Used or Published by Council	New addition.
Clause 3.3.2	Council's Community Engagement	Removed - Not relevant.
Clause 3.7.2	Petitions	Updated in line with Council's Code of Practice for Meeting Procedures.
Clause 4	Scope	Update to be more descriptive.
Clause 5	Responsibilities	Inserted to be descriptive.

Summary and Conclusion
Council is now asked to receive, consider and endorse the attached draft Privacy Policy.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Privacy Policy - Draft for Council endorsement ⇩

Supporting references
Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS7 Governance - Provision of governance advice and support in the discharge of legislative responsibilities for policy development, delegations and authorisations, internal review of Council decisions, delegations and authorisations, Native Title claims

BS9 Information - Management and maintenance of corporate records (both physical and electronic) held by Council and providing support to the organisation to ensure organisational compliance with record keeping obligations under the State Records Act and other relevant legislation.

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.

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.

Risk of privacy breach is reduced by the implementation and cross-Council awareness of the Policy.

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

No consultation is required under legislation; however, the interest of the community is well served by Council voluntarily aligning itself to the existing Commonwealth and State Privacy Principles where it is practicable to do so.

Privacy Policy

TheBarossaCouncil

1. Document control

Policy Number:	16/51960	**Council Resolution Number:**	
Document Owner:	Chief Executive Officer	**Document Author:**	Manager Governance and Office of the Mayor and CEO
Approval Date		**Next Review Date:**	

2. Statement of Intent

2.1. Council is committed to maintaining a culture that values and protects privacy. Council acknowledges that the principles outlined in the below legislation, while not directly applicable to Councils in South Australia, provide appropriate standards for privacy protection and will be applied within Council where practicable:

2.1.1 Privacy Act 1988

2.1.2 Australian Privacy Principles (APPs)

2.1.3 Department of the Premier and Cabinet Information Privacy Principles (IPPS) Instruction 2020

2.2. This Policy sets out Council's practices and procedures in relation to the collection, storage, disclosure and use of personal information of its customers.

3. Policy Statement

3.1. **Customer Identification**

3.1.1 Council encourages its customers to use their true contact details when dealing with Council so that their requests and complaints may be dealt with as effectively and efficiently as practicable.

3.1.2 However, in some situations a customer may be more comfortable to anonymously make a request or complaint. Council officers will assist a customer in these situations wherever it is practical to do so or where legislation does not require a name and contact to register a complaint or request.

3.2. **Collection of Personal Information**

3.2.1 Council will only collect personal information if it is reasonably necessary for, or directly related to, one or more of Council's functions or activities.

3.2.2 As is appropriate, a higher standard applies to the collection of personal information that is deemed to be sensitive information, and so Council will only collect this kind of personal information if:

- the individual consents to the collection; or
- one or more of the following applies:

- the collection is required or authorised by or under Australian law or a court/tribunal order or as part of or related to Council's enforcement function.
- Council has permitted a general situation in relation to the collection of personal information, e.g. Council's Volunteer Registration Form.
- Council has permitted a specific health situation to exist in relation to the collection of personal information, e.g. to submit information regarding nature of a disability to secure Commonwealth funding.

3.2.3 The type of personal information that may be collected by Council includes, but not limited to:

- names and addresses (postal, residential and email addresses)
- photographic identification (e.g. drivers' licence)
- telephone numbers
- age/date of birth
- property ownership and/or occupier details
- dog ownership
- electoral roll details
- payment history
- financial, rental or income details (e.g. to support assessment of financial hardship or capability, tenders and contract due diligence, financial guarantees)
- pensioner/concession information
- library membership details
- library borrowing history
- visitor metadata from Visitor Information Centre booking services
- footage from Council's approved Closed Circuit Television monitors
- photographs of individuals taken by Council officers in the course of Council duties.

3.2.4 Website

- Council collects anonymous information, such as the IP address, date and timing of visits to the website and the pages of the website visited frequently. The information collected is used for statistical purposes only to help us with website development and to improve our service. This is never linked with personal information about the users.
- When you apply for a job via our website, we collect and store your personal information.
- We do not, under any circumstances, sell any information to other organisations.
- We do not store personal information about you on the Council website.
- We will ask you when we need information that personally identifies you (for example, to allow us to contact you).

- You can choose to disable cookies via your device's website browser settings. However, if you choose to reject cookies, you may not be able to use or access some features of the services that we offer.

- The website contains links to other sites. Council takes no responsibility for the content or privacy practices of these sites.

3.2.5 Photographs and Video Used or Published by Council

- Council may take photographs or video footage of individuals or locations for publication and use in:
    - Council publications
    - Promotional marketing and advertising
    - Online (i.e. on websites and social media)

- Where it is reasonably practical to do so, permission to take and use captured images or footage should be obtained from the individual concerned or their parent, guardian or an adult accompanying them (as appropriate), prior to taking or using the captured images or footage by completing a Photograph Permission and Release Form.

- Incidental capturing of images or footage not related to the activity may occur and every effort will be made to blur or remove such content but cannot always be guaranteed.

- All images, photographs, footage and permission and release forms will be stored in accordance with Council's *Knowledge Management Policy*.

3.2.6 Proof of Identity

- To action particular requests from its customers, Council will require proof of identification or entitlement from the customer – for example, for a request to change a name upon marriage or divorce or update an address or a request for a fee waiver to access a Council record.

- To reduce the risk of identity fraud, the attending Worker will not copy the original and retain the copied proof of identity or entitlement into Council's record management system, in those circumstances where they can instead reasonably sight the original identification source, note the reference and expiry date and return the original identification immediately to the customer.

- Where it is not reasonable to sight the original identification source and return it to the customer, any copies made or received by a Worker will be registered into Council's records managements system with strict access controls.

3.2.7 Council will only collect personal information by legal and fair means. This includes collection from a third party such as SA Water, State Electoral Office, Office of the Valuer-General, another ratepayer and resident.

3.2.8 Council may determine not to retain personal information received by an unsolicited or anonymous source where it is deemed to be trivial or unrelated to Council business.

3.2.9 Where practicable, at the time of collection, Council will take reasonable steps to inform its customers:

- of the reasons for the personal information collection,

- if such collection is authorised or required by the law, and

- where practicable, of any usual practices with respect to the use and disclosure of such personal information.

3.2.10 In collecting personal information, Council assumes that:

- the information is free from errors and omissions, is not misleading or deceptive and complies with all relevant laws;
- those who provide the information have the authority to do so;
- it may not verify the accuracy of the information; and
- it is the responsibility of the individual to provide Council with the details of any changes to their personal information as soon as possible.

3.3 **Use or Disclosure of Personal Information**

3.3.1 Distribution to Third Parties

- If Council holds personal information of an individual which was collected for a particular purpose (the primary purpose), it must not use or disclose the information for another purpose (the secondary purpose) unless:
  - the individual has provided written consent to the use or disclosure of the information for the secondary purpose; or
  - the individual would reasonably expect Council to use the information for the secondary purpose however:
    - the secondary purpose should be connected to the primary purpose; and
    - if the information is sensitive information – then the secondary purpose should be very closely connected to the primary purpose.

      This requirement for a more direct relationship recognises that the use and disclosure of sensitive information can have serious ramifications for the individual and/or their associates; and

    for the purpose of this sub-clause, the Worker releasing the information must record a file note explaining the rationale for release; or
  - the provision of personal information is for the purpose of distributing material of and on behalf of Council and the body which is contracted for this purpose agrees to act in accordance with this Policy (eg for the provision of address data to a mailing service provider to post Rates Notices); or
  - the use is by a third party or Worker who provides advice or services to assist Council provide benefits to ratepayers and/or residents (eg the State Electoral Office, Office of the Valuer-General, insurers, debt collectors); or
  - the use or disclosure of the information is required or authorised under an Australian law or a court/tribunal order, for example mandated reporting under the *Children's Protection Act 1993*, or public notifications under the Planning, *Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*; or
  - there is a situation where consent cannot be reasonably obtained and the Worker reasonably believes that the disclosure of the information is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious threat to the life, health or safety of a person or group of people, then they may disclose the information necessary to a service provider (eg Department of Communities and Social Inclusion) in order to prevent or lessen such a threat.

3.3.2 Commonwealth and State Contracts

- Where Council provides a service funded by a Commonwealth or State government contract, it must disclose to the authorised Commonwealth or State representative any personal information it has collected if this meets an obligation under the relevant contract.
- Where Council provides personal information to another service provider that is subject to the Australian Privacy Principles or Information Privacy Principles, Council will require that provider to sign an undertaking that it will maintain confidential when it handles the personal information supplied by Council.

3.3.3 Disclaimer

- While Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the personal information disclosed is accurate, current and complete, it cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage suffered by those who receive such information and rely on it, or because of Council's inability to provide the requested information in the first place.

3.4 **Security of Personal Information**

3.4.1 Council will take all reasonable steps through its secure technology and records systems and supporting policies and processes to protect the personal information in its possession from misuse, interference, loss, unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

3.5 **Access to Personal Information**

3.5.1 Public Access

- Council recognises that certain documents containing personal information are legislatively required to be made available for public access. These include:
  - Property Assessment Records
  - Adjoining Property Owner Requests
  - All Council Agenda items which have not been subject to a confidentiality order under section 90(3) of the *Local Government Act 1999*
  - Public Consultation documents under the Planning, *Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
  - Voters' Roll
  - Petitions to Council (see clause 3.7.2 below for the specific information that will be available from a petition)

3.5.2 Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1991

- To access personal information outside those document groups listed in clause 3.5.1 above, a person may apply to Council's Accredited FOI Officer who will process their application in accordance with the governing FOI Act. Application forms are available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au.
- Personal information *may* be released to an applicant, subject to certain legal exemptions, but the subject of that personal information must be consulted prior to any determination to release that information to the applicant and is entitled to appeal any determination to release the Personal Information, prior to that information being released.
- The applicant will be charged in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges Register for any copies of personal information which they have been provided.

3.5.3 Refusal to give access

- If Council refuses to give access to the personal information or to give access in the manner requested by the applicant, it will (subject to any legal requirements) advise the applicant in writing that sets out the:
  - reason(s) for the refusal; and
  - complaints mechanisms available through Council's Complaint Handling Policy, Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy and/or the Ombudsman.

3.6 **Correction of Personal Information**

3.6.1 Where Council holds personal information about an individual; and either:

- is satisfied that, regarding the purpose for which the information is held, the information is inaccurate, out of date, incomplete, irrelevant or misleading; or
- the individual, with appropriate identification, requests in writing or in person to correct the information, or
- where the Personal Information is of a nature that requires a written application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*, the individual makes a formal application under that Act for Council to correct the information;

Council will take steps (if any) as are reasonable in the circumstances to correct that information to ensure that, having regard to the purpose for which it is held, the information is accurate, up to date, complete, relevant and not misleading.

3.6.2 If Council refuses to correct the personal information as requested by the applicant, it will (subject to any further legal requirements) advise the applicant in writing:

- the reason(s) for the refusal; and
- the mechanisms available to complain through Council's Complaint Handling Policy, Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy and/or the Ombudsman.

3.7 **Suppression of Personal Information**

3.7.1 Assessment Record and Voters' Roll

- An individual's name or address may be suppressed from the Council's Assessment Record (section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1999*) and Voters' Roll (section 15 of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*), where on application by an individual, the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied that the inclusion of such details would place at risk the personal safety of that individual, a member of their family or another individual.

3.7.2 Petitions

- Council receives personal information when it receives petitions (ie names, signatures and addresses) from those who want Council to undertake a certain action. The CEO is required under the *Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013* to place the petition on the public agenda for the next ordinary meeting of Council.

3.8 **Destruction of Personal Information**

3.8.1 Records which contain personal information are managed for the life of the record in accordance with the State Records Act 1997, the relevant General Disposal Schedule (GDS) and Council's Knowledge Management Policy.

3.8.2 When the information is no longer required by Council and is able to be destroyed in accordance with the GDS, the information and its meta-data elements within Council's record management system must be de-identified and/or destroyed.

3.9 **Data Breach**

3.9.1 While Council will always use its best endeavours to protect personal information within the parameters of its legal obligations and resources, in the event where a data breach occurs and Council is aware of that breach, Council will notify the affected individual(s) as soon as reasonably practicable so that any consequential damage might be minimised.

4 Scope

4.2 This policy applies to all people with access to Council information systems and stores (computer-based or otherwise):

4.2.1 Council staff

4.2.2 Elected Members

4.2.3 Volunteers

4.2.4 Work experience placements

4.2.5 Trainees

4.2.6 Independent contractors and consultants..

4.3 This Policy does not apply where legislation prevails and requires the release of personal information in certain circumstances - for example to the Ombudsman, the Independent Commissioner against Corruption, Royal Commissions, courts, auditors and other public bodies.

4.4 This Policy does not apply to the personal information of Council Workers where it is related to their employment with Council. It will apply, however, to the personal information of Council Workers when they are also Council customers.

4.5 This Policy does not apply to confidential information of organisations and businesses (refer to Council's Procurement Policy).

5 Responsibilities

5.2 While the mix of roles and responsibilities will vary depending on the circumstances, effective privacy implementation includes the following key functions and roles:

5.2.1 CEO, Directors are responsible for considering privacy issues, as well as managing the handling of personal information across their business unit. For Council to achieve a robust privacy program, collaboration is essential across staff with key roles and responsibilities for privacy, information security and records.

5.2.2 Cybersecurity staff are responsible for identifying and monitoring data privacy breaches.

5.2.3 Employees are responsible for complying with the Policy and procedures set out by Council.

6 Legislation and References

Legislation

- Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017Freedom of Information Act 1991
- Local Government Act 1999
- Local Government (Elections) Act 1999

- Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2013
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- *Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012* (Cth) State Records Act 1997
- Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

Supporting Documents

- Australian Privacy Principles
- General Disposal Schedules 20, 21 and 32
- Information Privacy Principles Instruction (Department of Premier and Cabinet)

Related Policies

- Complaint Handling Policy
- Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy
- Knowledge Management Policy
- Safe Environments for Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy

7 Definitions

Access	Allowing an individual to inspect personal information or to obtain a copy.
Collection	Gathering, acquiring, or obtaining personal information from any source or by any means including unsolicited information.
Disclosure	Refers to the act of making personal information accessible or releasing it to an external party, person, or organisation outside the entity that originally collected it.
Elected Members	Those elected representatives of The Barossa Council, including the Mayor.
Freedom of Information	A system of access to information held by councils and other public bodies, through which interested parties may have a right to access that information as governed by the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*.
Personal Information	Information, including Sensitive Information, or an opinion (whether true or not), and whether recorded in material form or not, about a natural living person whose identity is apparent (or can reasonably be ascertained) from the information or opinion, including a photograph or other pictorial representation of a person, but does not include information that is in: • generally available publications • material kept in public records and archives such as the Commonwealth or State archives • anything kept in a library, art gallery or museum for the purpose of reference, study or exhibition.
Ratepayers	means a person who owes amounts for rates, fees, or other charges due and payable to the Council.
Residents	Individuals who reside in The Barossa Council district.
Sensitive information	Information or an opinion about an individual's:

	• racial or ethnic origins • political opinions • membership of a political organisation, a professional or trade association or a trade union • religious beliefs or affirmations • philosophical beliefs • sexual preferences or practices • criminal record • health
Worker	A person is a Worker if the person carries out work in any capacity for a person conducting a business or undertaking (ie for Council) including work as: (a) an employee or (b) a contractor or sub-contractor – or their employee (c) an employee of a labour hire company, who has been assigned to work in the person's business or undertaking; or (d) an outworker (e) an apprentice or trainee (f) a student gaining work experience (g) a volunteer (h) a person of a prescribed class.

8 Version History

This Policy will be reviewed by the Policy Author in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within four years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

Version No.	Date.	Summary of Changes
1	20/12/2016	New Policy
2	16/04/2019	Reviewed and updated
3	18/08/2026	Transferred to new corporate template. Updated references and legislation

9 Further Information

This Policy is available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au. It can also be viewed electronically at Council's principal office at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa during ordinary business hours. A printed copy of this Policy can be obtained upon payment of a fixed fee.

Feedback regarding this Policy or its application can be made to the Customer Service Team on 8563 8444 or barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au in the first instance, who will refer you to the most appropriate officer.

DEBATE REPORT

7.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

7.1.3 REGISTER OF INTERESTS POLICY

Author: Governance Officer
26/51672

PURPOSE

To propose the refinement of the Register of Interests Policy, incorporating all responsibilities into a standalone document and revocation of the Registering of Elected Member Interests Process.

RECOMMENDATION
That Council:

(1) Endorse the Register of Interests Policy as at Attachment 1.

(2) Revoke the Registering of Elected Member Interests Process as at Attachment 2.

REPORT

Background
Under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) and the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act), Council Members, the Chief Executive Officer, staff designated as Prescribed Officers and Barossa Assessment Panel Independent Members are required to submit a Register of Interest.

Introduction
On 23 July 2026, the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) were presented with a report highlighting the current situation of the Register of Interest Policy Suite.

Council has one policy and three processes to manage compliance under both the Act and PDI Act:

- Register of Interests Policy
- Registering of Elected Member Interests Process
- Registering of Officer Interests Process – *ELT Endorsed*
- Registering of Development Assessment Panel Member Interests – *ELT Endorsed*

ELT have now approved the revocation of two processes, with the third now being presented to Council for revocation with the endorsement of a consolidated policy.

Discussion
There is no legislated requirement to maintain a Policy, however the benefit of the Policy is an ability for community to transparently understand how the legislation is managed within Council and the formal identification of Prescribed Officers, making it a Council decision. The power to determine Prescribed Officers has also been

delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and could be achieved by tweaking the current documentation however by maintaining a Council Policy it establishes a clear distinction of Council direction.

The current criteria set by Council for determining a Prescribed Officer are employees where they undertake one or more of the following:

- Exercise significant influence over their direct reports.
- Undertake assessment and advisory services pursuant to the *Development Act 1993* or *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016;*
- Hold delegated powers to enter into contracts which are $50,000 or more.

Further the Policy was supported by overly prescriptive processes which are repetitive and add no real value and described the administrative processes for the management of the necessary disclosures which are prescribed in the Act in any case. It has been determined this level of administrative prescription is unwarranted or needed and can be revoked.

Clause No.	Topic	Summary of change
Throughout	PDI Act	Inclusion of the requirements under the PDI Act for members of the Barossa Assessment Panel.
Section 5	Responsibilities	New section added to policy. Governance now responsible for collection of all Register of Interests.
Section 6	Legislation	Previously gazetted forms no longer exist and removed from supporting documents.
Section 7	Definitions	Definitions aligned with Policy Definition Glossary, unused definitions removed. Definition of Barossa Assessment Panel and Executive Leadership team added.

Summary and Conclusion
A consolidated Policy under the new Policy Governance Framework has been drafted incorporating all legal requirements into a single document. Primarily the Policy would become a singular document to identify Prescribed Officers and the teams responsible for task coordination and completion.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Register of Interests Policy
Attachment 2 Registering of Elected Member Interests Process

Supporting references
Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS7 Governance - Provision of governance advice and support in the discharge of legislative responsibilities for policy development, delegations and authorisations, internal review of Council decisions, delegations and authorisations, Native Title claims

Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

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.

There is no impact on service delivery.

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 is no impact on sustainability and environment.

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.

There are no financial implications.

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.

No changes to the current risk profile are impacted.

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.

Maintaining a register of high-level positions assists with Council transparency and mitigates any potential conflict of interest with officers and their roles and responsibilities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There is no requirement to consult with the community on this matter. The policy is designed to allow Council to determine prescribed officers.

Register of Interest Policy

1. Document control

Policy Number:	15/35750	**Council Resolution Number:**	
Document Owner:	Chief Executive Officer	**Document Author:**	Manager Governance and OMCEO
Approval Date		**Next Review Date:**	

2. Statement of Intent

2.1. The purpose of this Policy is to identify The Barossa Council's (Council's) Prescribed Officers who are required to submit a Register of Interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act).

2.2. Elected Members and Independent Members of the Barossa Assessment Panel (BAP) also have Register of Interest requirements in accordance with the Act and the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act) accordingly.

2.3. Council is committed to transparent and accountable governance practices which seek to minimise the risk of conflicting interests, fraud and corruption, and in turn promote community trust.

3. Policy Statement

3.1. **Elected Member Interests**

3.1.1. The Register of Interests provisions within the Act apply to the Mayor and Councillors.

3.1.2. A Primary Return is mandated on initial election to Council and an Ordinary return after 30 June each year.

3.1.3. While there are also Register of Interests provisions under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* Elected Member representatives on the Barossa Assessment Panel will not be required to submit any additional forms.

3.2. **Chief Executive Officer and Prescribed Officer Interests**

3.2.1. The Register of Interests provisions within the Act applies to the Chief Executive Officer and Prescribed Officers.

3.2.2. A Primary Return is required on initial appointment to Council and an Ordinary return after 30 June each year.

3.2.3. Council declare an Employees' position to be classed as a Prescribed Officer where they undertake one or more of the following:

- Hold delegated powers to enter into contracts which are $50,000 or more;
- Undertake assessment and advisory services pursuant to the *Development Act 1993* or *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*;
- Exercise significant influence over their direct reports.

3.2.4. Where an Employee is appointed in an acting capacity to a Prescribed Position, the following conditions will apply based on duration:

- Excess of 90 days - Register of Interest required;
- Between 30 and 90 days - Register of Interest required *only* if the Executive Leadership Team determines that it is appropriate in all the circumstances having regard to the conditions and limitations of the higher duties arrangement;
- Less than 30 days – no action required.

3.3. Delegations

3.3.1. The Executive Leadership Team are delegated the power to determine who must register their Interests when acting in a Prescribed Position by way of higher duties for a period of between 30 and 90 days.

3.4. **Barossa Assessment Panel Independent Members Interests**

3.4.1. The Register of Interests provisions within the PDI Act apply to Independent Members Sitting on the Barossa Assessment Panel.

3.4.2. A Primary Return is mandated on initial appointment to the Panel and an Ordinary return after 30 June each year.

4. Scope

4.1. This Policy applies to:

4.1.1. Elected Members;

4.1.2. Barossa Assessment Panel Independent Members and

4.1.3. Employees in a Prescribed Officer role.

4.2. This Policy does not apply to Independent Members of Committees established under Section 41 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. **Chief Executive Officer**

5.1.1. Maintain and make available Registers of Interest in accordance with the Act and PDI Act.

5.1.2. Submit returns in accordance with requirements of the Act.

5.1.3. Provide notice of any change or variation to current information held in the register.

5.1.4. Maintain Register confidentiality.

5.1.5. Determine additional Prescribed Officers under s111(b) of the Act.

5.2. **Governance Team**

5.2.1. Facilitate the completion of Returns for Council Members, the Chief Executive Officer, Prescribed Officers and the Barossa Assessment Panel Independent Members.

5.2.2. Publish Member returns to the Council website in accordance with the Act.

5.2.3. Maintain Register confidentiality.

5.3. **Council Members, BAP Independent Members and Prescribed Officers**

5.3.1. Submit returns in accordance with requirements of the Act or PDI Act.

5.3.2. Provide notice of any change or variation to current information held in the register.

6. Legislation and References

Legislation

- Local Government Act 1999
  - Elected Members - Chapter 5, Part 4, Subdivision 2
  - Council Officers - Chapter 7, Part 4, Subdivision 2
- Local Government (General) Regulations 2013
- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
  - Section 83
  - Schedule 1
- Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017
  - Schedules 1 and 2

Supporting Documents

- Register of Interests

7. Definitions

Barossa Assessment Panel (BAP)	The current name of the Barossa Council's Assessment Panel established under section 83 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.
Employee	a person employed by the Organisation on an ongoing or fixed term full-time or part-time basis, or employed on a casual basis.
Executive Leadership Team	is any member of the Executive Leadership and defined by the Terms of Reference comprising executive appointed officers of CEO, Deputy CEO, Directors or other such persons appointed from time to time.
Interest	A stake or involvement in an undertaking, especially a financial one.
Prescribed Officer	means an officer with in the ambit of a declaration under Section 111(b) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, being any other officer, or any other officer of a class, declared by a Council to be subject to the operation of this division.
Register	means a Register of Interests kept for the purposes of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Chapter 5 Part 4 (Members of Council) and Chapter 7 Part 4. (Council Staff)
Return	Includes the Primary and Ordinary Return which are prescribed forms under the *Local Government Act 1999* and *Planning Development and infrastructure Act 2016*, which outline a Council Member's, Barossa Assessment Panel Independent Member's, or a Prescribed Officer's Interests.

8. Version History

This Policy will be reviewed by the Policy Author in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within four years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

Version No.	Date.	Summary of Changes
1	17/09/2013	Policy reviewed
2	21/10/2015	Policy reviewed
3	19/04/2016	Policy reviewed
4	19/09/2017	Policy reviewed
5	20/03/2018	Policy reviewed
6	17/09/2019	Policy reviewed as part of periodic review
7	20/07/2021	Policy review following changes to leadership framework
8	28/11/2022	Reviewed in line with *Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021*
9		Transferred into corporate template. Responsibilities section added. Definitions aligned with Policy Definition Glossary, unused definitions removed. Added Barossa Assessment Panel requirements. Supporting Forms under the LG General Regulations no longer exist.

9. Further Information

This Policy is available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au. It can also be viewed electronically at Council's principal office at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa during ordinary business hours. A printed copy of this Policy can be obtained upon payment of a fixed fee.

Feedback regarding this Policy or its application can be made to the Customer Service Team on 8563 8444 or barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au in the first instance, who will refer you to the most appropriate officer.

THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

REGISTERING OF ELECTED MEMBER INTERESTS PROCESS

1.	Overview

To provide guidance to The Barossa Council's ("the Council's") Elected Members when they register their interests in accordance with the Register of Interests Policy ("the Policy").

2.	Core Components

Required Documentation and Timeframes

Receipt of Returns and Failure to Submit a Return

Maintaining the Register

Inspecting the Register

Publication of the Register

3.	Process

3.1. Required Documentation and Timeframes

3.1.1. Form 3 (Elected Member) Primary Return

- The Delegate is required to provide the Primary Return form and the supporting guidelines from the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2013* ("the Regulations") to the Elected Member as soon as practicable following the Election or appointment of the Elected Member.
- The Elected Member must complete and return the Primary Return to the Delegate via email or hard copy within 6 weeks of the Election or appointment.
- Those who were an Elected Member of the immediately preceding Council Elected Body (i.e. retuning Elected Members) are required to submit only an Ordinary return.

3.1.2. Form 4 (Elected Member) Ordinary Return

- The Delegate is required to provide to the Elected Member the Ordinary Return form and supporting guidelines from the Regulations and, if the Elected Member registered in the preceding year, also a copy of the previous Ordinary Return for reference, as soon as practicable following 30 June each financial year and no later than 7 July.
- The Delegate will also provide these documents to the Elected Member at any time during the year, upon Elected Member request, when there is a change to Elected Member Interests or to the Interests of a person related to the Elected Member according to Schedule 3 of the *Local Government Act 1999* ("the Act").
- The Elected Member must complete and return the Ordinary Return via email or hard copy to the Delegate:

  (i) as soon as possible and by no later than **29 August each year** and

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(ii) within 1 month of any change in the Interests of the Elected Member or a person related to the Member according to Schedule 3 of the Act; noting that an update to an Ordinary Return can be made via a completely new Ordinary Return or email advice to the Delegate describing the particulars of the updated information.

3.1.3. It is an offence and a breach for Council Members for an Elected Member to submit a Return with knowledge that is false or misleading in a material particular (whether by reason of inclusion or omission of information).

3.2. Receipt of the Completed Returns

3.2.1. When an Elected Member submits their Return or an update to their Return (or email advice confirming the updated Interest), the Delegate will:

- Confirm receipt via email to the Elected Member;
- Save the Return or the updated Return (or email advice confirming the updated Interest) into the Register for Elected Member Returns;
- Refer any hard copies of Returns to the Corporate Governance and Information Services Team to save them in secure storage in accordance with the General Disposal Schedule; and
- Enter the receipt date and EDRMS reference number for each Return and updated Return into the Schedule of Elected Member Returns and save it into the (Elected Member Returns).

3.2.2. The Delegate will forward the:

- Schedule of Elected Member Returns to the Mayor and CEO for signature at the immediate conclusion of the deadlines:

  (i) Primary Returns within 6 weeks of the Election or appointment of the Elected Member

  (ii) Ordinary Returns on or before 29 August

  (iii) Updates to Ordinary Returns – on receipt

  noting any Elected Member who has failed to submit their Return by the deadline (see clause 3.3 for appropriate action) and will then save the signed Schedule in the Register (Elected Member Returns); and
- Schedule of Updated Returns to the CEO when there is an update to an Elected Member's Ordinary Return for that Return period, and then will save the Schedule of Updated Returns as a new revision in the Register.

3.2.3. As soon as practicable following the receipt of Primary or Ordinary Returns and any individual updates of these Returns, the Delegate must publish an update of the Elected Members' Register of Interests on Council's website, however the CEO must ensure that the person's residential address, and any other address suppressed from the Register under section 68(4)(a).

3.3. Failure to Submit a Return

3.3.1. Under Section 68(1a) if the required Return has not been submitted by the Elected Member within one month of the deadline, the Member of Council will be suspended from the office of member of the Council.

- A Member of Council suspended under Section 68(1a) is not entitled to an allowance under Section 76 during the period of suspension.

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3.3.2. The CEO must, as soon as practicable notify the Member of Council of the suspension, and outline consequences if a return is not submitted within one further month (the prescribed period), in writing via registered mail.

3.4. Suspension of Member of Council

3.4.1. If a Member of Council is suspended under Section 68(1a) submits, after the commencement of the suspension, the return that was required to be submitted:

- The CEO must immediately publish a notice on the website specifying the date on which the member submitted the return; and
- The suspension is taken to be revoked, as of the date of publication of the notice.

3.4.2. Failure to Return by Prescribed Period

- Where a Member of Council is suspended for a continuous period of more than the prescribed period, the Council must apply to SACAT for an order disqualifying the member of the Council from office under this Act.
- Where a Member of Council is disqualified under Section 68(3b) the disqualification extends to all offices held by virtue of being a Member of Council.

3.5. Maintaining the Register

3.5.1. The CEO has oversight to maintain the Register with the administrative support of the Delegate.

3.5.2. Access controls to the Register are restricted to the CEO and Delegate subject to paragraph 3.5 below.

3.6. Publication of the Register

3.6.1. It is an offence for a person to publish or authorise the publishing of information from the Register unless the information is a fair and accurate summary of that information, and it is published in the public interest.

3.6.2. It is also an offence to comment on the facts set forth in the Register unless the comment is fair and published in the public interest without malice.

4.	**Accountabilities / Responsibilities**

4.1. The CEO is accountable for the receipt of Elected Member Returns, maintenance of the Register of Elected Member Interests and access to the Register by the public.

4.2. The Delegate is responsible to forward to Elected Members the Primary and Ordinary Returns templates and any supporting guidelines, and facilitate receipt and updates of Returns, preparation and uploading of Return extracts to Council's website according to this Process.

4.3. Elected Members are required to honestly and correctly complete and forward their Primary and Ordinary Returns and updates within the required timeframes to the Delegate.

5.	**Accountabilities / Responsibilities**

5.1. The CEO is accountable for the receipt of Elected Member Returns, maintenance of the Register of Elected Member Interests and access to the Register by the public.

5.2. The Delegate is responsible to forward to Elected Members the Primary and Ordinary Returns templates and any supporting guidelines, and facilitate receipt and updates of Returns, preparation and uploading of Return extracts to Council's website according to this Process

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5.3. Elected Members are required to honestly and correctly complete and forward their Primary and Ordinary Returns and updates within the required timeframes to the Delegate.

6. Training

Elected Members will receive training in registering their Interests at induction.

7. Documents to Implement Process

7.1. All records created from these tools must be retained within the EDRMS in accordance with the current version of the General Disposal Schedule.

7.2. Register of Elected Member Interests

- Form 3 - Primary Return – Elected Member
- Form 4 - Ordinary Return – Elected Member
- Schedule of Elected Member Primary Returns
- Schedule of Elected Member Ordinary Returns
- Schedule of Updated Elected Member Returns
- Extract of Elected Members' Register of Interests
- Record of Inspection – Register of Elected Member Interests

7.3. Fees and Charges Register

8. Legislation and References

Local Government Act 1999
Local Government (Elections) Act 1999
Local Government (General) Regulations 2013
Code of Conduct for Council Members

9. Review

This Process will be reviewed by the Process Owner in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within four years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

10. Document Control

Policy Link:	Register of Interests Policy		
Document Owner:	Chief Executive Officer	**Document Control Officer:**	Team Leader Corporate Governance and Information Services
Audience:	Internal	**Next Review Date:**	5/12/2026

Version history

Version No.	Date	Description of Change
5	05/12/2022	Periodic review, incorporating legislative changes under Statues Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021
4	09/08/2021	Process review following changes to leadership framework
3	17/09/2019	Process reviewed as part of periodic review
2	2/4/2018	Process reviewed
0	3/8/2017,19/5/2016, 21/10/2015, 25/9/2013	Previously reviewed

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11.	Definitions

CEO	The Chief Executive Officer of The Barossa Council
Delegate	The Executive and Project Support Officer, Office of the Mayor and CEO or in their absence, the Executive and Project Support Officer, Community Services. For clarity, where both the above named officers are unavailable, the Delegate will be those who act in these roles, in the same order as above.
Elected Member	An Elected Member of The Barossa Council, including the Mayor unless otherwise stated.
Electronic Document Records Management System (EDRMS)	An automated system used to manage the creation, use, management and disposal of hardcopy and electronically created Documents and Records for the purposes of supporting the creation, revision and management of digital records improving an organisation's workflow and providing evidence of business activities.
Election	A general election of members of the council (whether held under section 5 "Periodic Elections" of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* or pursuant to a proclamation or notice under this Act, which can include supplementary elections).
Interest	A stake or involvement in an undertaking, including a financial interest. .
Register	Confidential containers in the Electronic Document Records Management System (EDRMS) which contain the following records for each Elected Member: • Primary Returns • Ordinary Returns • Updates to Returns • Schedule of Primary Returns • Schedule of Ordinary Returns • Schedule of Updated Returns • Related correspondence to and from Elected Members and Prescribed Officers • Records of Inspection for the Register of Elected Member Interests and the Register of Officer Interests and any other information required by legislation
Return	Includes the Primary and Ordinary Return which are prescribed forms under the Local Government Act 1999 which outline an Elected Member's interests.
Return Period	The time between lodging the current Ordinary Return and the previous Ordinary or Primary Return.

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DEBATE REPORT

7.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

7.1.4 PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE POLICY AND PROCESS

Author: Manager Governance and OMCEO
26/51735

PURPOSE

For Council to endorse the Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Process as presented, pursuant to the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018.

RECOMMENDATION
That Council:

(1) Having considered the draft Public Interest Disclosure Policy at Attachment 1, endorses the amended Policy.

(2) Having considered the draft Public Interest Disclosure Process at Attachment 2, endorses the amended Policy.

REPORT

Background
Council has responsibilities under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* and is committed to upholding the principles of transparency and accountability and encourages the making of Disclosures that reveal Public Interest Information.

A key mechanism to manage Council's responsibilities under the Act is the appointment of Responsible Officers by Council's Principal Officer, the Chief Executive Officer.

Discussion
The opportunity to review the overarching Policy and Process has also been undertaken with only minor changes are recommended as per Attachment 1 and 2.

A summary of changes to the **PID Policy** is presented below:

Clause No.	Topic	Summary of change
SECTION No.	**Section name**	**Summary of change**
All	All	Transcribed into new Policy and Process Templates
All	All	Updated references and related policies

Clause 5	Responsibilities	Added those responsible for compliance
Clause 7	Definitions	Slight amendments to definitions

A summary of changes to the **PID Process** is presented below:

Clause No.	Topic	Summary of change
SECTION No.	**Section name**	**Summary of change**
All	All	Transcribed into new Policy and Process Templates
All	All	Updated references and related policies Updated position titles
Clause 3	Scope	Edited to align with the PID Act and who is required to adhere to the Process
Clause 7	Definitions	Slight amendments to definitions
Clause 11	Responsibilities	Added those responsible for compliance Updated Responsible Officers as appointed under the PID Act 2028 by the CEO
Appendix 2	Notification Process Flowchart	Reference clauses updated
Appendix 2	Guidelines	Not required and causes confusion

Summary and Conclusion
Council is now asked to endorse the Public Interest Disclosure Policy and supporting Process.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Public Interest Disclosure Policy
Attachment 2 Public Interest Disclosure Process

Supporting references
Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS7 Governance - Provision of governance advice and support in the discharge of legislative responsibilities for policy development, delegations and authorisations, internal review of Council decisions, delegations and authorisations, Native Title claims

BS9 Information - Management and maintenance of corporate records (both physical and electronic) held by Council, and providing support to the organisation to ensure organisational compliance with record keeping obligations under the State Records Act and other relevant legislation.

Legislative Requirements
Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018
Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines

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.

Council Officers undertake Responsible Officer duties under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* as part of business-as-usual operations therefore there are no budget or resource implications inherent in delivering obligations under the Act.

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.

This Process and Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy are designed to ensure proper procedures are in place for the making and managing of a Disclosure, and by providing appropriate protections for those who make a Disclosure.

Provides for legislative compliance and a clear process to allow Council staff and community to have an avenue for reporting disclosures. Also

allows for a training schedule for all staff to bring awareness of the responsibilities as a Public Officer.

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.

To ensure transparency and accountability in Council's practice in the public interest, of information about substantial risks to public health or safety, or to the environment, and about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required.

Public Interest Disclosure Policy

TheBarossaCouncil

1. Document control

Policy Number:	CD/22/19	**Council Resolution Number:**	
Document Owner:	Chief Executive Officer	**Document Author:**	Manager Governance and Office of the Mayor and CEO
Approval Date		**Next Review Date:**	

2. Statement of Intent

2.1. The Barossa Council (Council) is committed to upholding the principles of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and, therefore, encourages the making of Disclosures that reveal Public Interest Information.

2.2. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that Council:

2.2.1. fulfils its responsibilities under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* (the PID Act);

2.2.2. encourages and facilitates Disclosures of Public Interest Information and provides appropriate oversight in accordance with the objects and requirements of the PID Act, and of public interest disclosures about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration;

2.2.3. provides appropriate protection for those who make Disclosures in accordance with the PID Act; and

2.2.4. recognises the need to appropriately support Informants, Responsible Officers and, as appropriate, those Public Officers affected by any allegation that affects them.

3. Policy Statement

3.1. Council is committed to:

3.1.1. referring, as necessary, appropriate Disclosures to another Relevant Authority;

3.1.2. where the Disclosure relates to Corruption, or serious or systemic Misconduct or Maladministration in public administration, reporting the Disclosure directly to the Office for Public Integrity (OPI) in accordance with the Guidelines and the requirements of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012 (the ICAC Act);

3.1.3. facilitating the investigation of appropriate Disclosures in a manner which promotes fair and objective treatment of those involved and affected; and

3.1.4. rectifying any substantiated wrongdoing to the extent practicable and possible in the circumstances.

3.2. **Principal Officer**

3.2.1. The CEO as Principal Officer must ensure that one or more officers of Council are designated as responsible officers, and that they are suitably qualified as per the *Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019.*

3.3. **Responsible Officers**

3.3.1. The Responsible Officer will receive and manage Disclosures in accordance with the Policy, Process, and the PID Act.

3.3.2. If an Informant believes that his/her Disclosure is not being dealt with appropriately or in accordance with the Policy or Process, they should contact the Responsible Officer in the first instance.

3.3.3. The role of the Responsible Officer is further set out in the Public Interest Disclosure Process.

3.4. **Disclosures**

3.4.1. A Disclosure may be made to one of Council's designated Responsible Officers in person, by telephone or in writing. The details of Council's Responsible Officer/s can be found in the Public Interest Disclosure Process and are available on Council's Website.

3.4.2. Nothing in this Policy prevents a person from making an appropriate Disclosure to a Relevant Authority external to Council (i.e. the South Australian Ombudsman or the OPI). This is a choice to be made by the Informant at his/her discretion.

3.5. **Confidentiality**

3.5.1. The identity of an Informant must be maintained as confidential in accordance with the PID Act. A recipient of an appropriate Disclosure may only divulge the identity of an Informant in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Process.

3.5.2. An Informant may wish to remain anonymous, but in that event is required to ensure that the allegation is sufficiently supported by the provision of necessary details and evidence to enable the matter to be properly investigated.

3.6. **Information to the Elected Body**

3.6.1. As a matter of discretion, the Chief Executive Officer may inform the Elected Body, on a confidential basis, of the fact that an investigation of a Disclosure took place and the outcome of the investigation.

3.6.2. Factors the Chief Executive Officer will take into account in determining whether to inform the Elected Body under clause 3.6.1 and the level of detail provided in doing so include:

- if the Informant's identity is known, the identity of the Informant if the Informant has consented to his/her identity being divulged or the exemptions under the PID Act apply;
- if applicable, the identity of any person who is the subject of the Disclosure;
- the impact (if any) of the investigation upon the Council's achievement of its objectives under its Corporate Plan and/or policies; and
- the impact of any action taken to finalise the matter upon the Council's operations and/or budget.

3.6.3. In the event that the Disclosure and/or any subsequent investigation process is confined to issues that impact only upon Employees and Human Resource processes, the Chief Executive Officer may not inform the Elected Body of the fact of the Disclosure and/or investigation, if the matter falls outside the roles and responsibilities of the Elected Members under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

3.7. **Protection for the Informant**

3.7.1. An Informant who makes an appropriate Disclosure that complies with the conditions of the Act is protected by:

- Immunity from any liability as a result of that disclosure. This would include criminal or civil liability (section 5(1) of the Act).
- A prohibition on disclosure of his/her identity (section 8 of the Act).
- A prohibition against Victimisation (section 9 of the Act).
- A prohibition against hindering, obstructing, or preventing an Informant from making an appropriate Disclosure (section 11 of the Act).

3.7.2. A person who knowingly makes a Disclosure that is false or misleading in a 'material particular' (whether by reason of the inclusion or omission of a particular) is guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted, and does not receive protection under the PID Act, this Policy, or the Public Interest Disclosure Process. The maximum penalty under section 10 of the Act is $20,000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

3.7.3. A person who personally commits an act of Victimisation against an Informant is guilty of an offence and may be prosecuted. Victimisation may also be dealt with as a tort or as if it were an act of victimisation under the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*, but only as one or the other, in accordance with section 9 of the PID Act. The maximum penalty under section 9(5) of the PID Act is $20,000 or imprisonment for 2 years.

3.7.4. Council will take action as appropriate in the circumstances to protect Informants from Victimisation, including acting in accordance with the risk management clauses set out in the Public Interest Disclosure Process and/or referring the matter to SAPOL.

3.7.5. Any Employee or Elected Member of Council who:

- knowingly makes a disclosure that is false or misleading in a material particular; or
- commits an act of Victimisation in relation to an Informant; or
- acts otherwise that in accordance with this Policy or the Public Interest Disclosure Process (including with respect to divulging the identity of an Informant) in relation to a Disclosure,

may also face investigation and disciplinary action in accordance with the Councils Employee Code of Conduct and relevant Employee Management Policies and Processes.

4. Scope

4.1. This Policy applies to appropriate Disclosures of Public Interest Information that are made by Elected Members and Employees as Public Officers and by the public in accordance with the PID Act and is intended to complement the reporting framework under the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012 (the ICAC Act).

4.2. This Policy is designed to complement the existing communication channels within Council and operate in conjunction with the supporting Public Interest Disclosure Process and the Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy documents.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. The Council is committed to:

5.1.1. Ensuring all Council employees and Council members are aware of this Policy and receive annual refresher training to encourage and facilitate the making of appropriate public disclosures;

5.1.2. Referring, as necessary, appropriate Disclosures to another Relevant Authority;

5.1.3. Where the Disclosure relates to Corruption, or serious or systemic Misconduct or Maladministration in public administration, reporting the Disclosure directly to the Office of Public Integrity (OPI) in accordance with the Guidelines and the requirements of the ICAC Act;

5.1.4. Otherwise facilitating the investigation of appropriate Disclosures in a manner which promotes fair and objective treatment of those involved; and

6. Rectifying any substantiated wrongdoing to the extent practicable in all the circumstances**Legislation and References**

Legislation

- Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018
- Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019
- Local Government Act 1999
- Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012
- Equal Opportunity Act 1984

Supporting Documents

- Public Interest Disclosure Process

Related Policies

- Complaints Handling Process and Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy under section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999.
- Fraud, Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Prevention Policy
- Reporting Fraud, Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Process
- Elected Member Behavioural Policy and Process
- Code of Conduct for Council Employees;

7. Definitions

PID Act	Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018
Assessor	Determined by the Responsible Officer at their discretion. A relevant senior Worker who has the skills, qualifications, authorisation and delegation (whether directly from Council or sub-delegation from the Chief Executive Officer) to deal with such matters in accordance with Council's policies, processes and in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosure Process. The Assessor must not have had any involvement in the matter(s) to which the disclosure relates.
Business Days	A day when the Council is normally open for business, i.e. Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays and when Council's principle office may be closed (e.g. over the Christmas holiday period).
Commissioner	The person holding or acting in the office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption.
Corruption in Public Administration	(a) An offence against Part 7 Division 4 (Offences relating to Public Officers) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*, which includes the following offences:

[as defined in section 5(1) of the ICAC Act]	(i) bribery or corruption of Public Officers; (ii) threats or reprisals against Public Officers; (iii) abuse of public office; (iv) demanding or requiring benefit on basis of public office; (v) offences relating to appointment to public office; or (b) an offence against the *Public Sector (Honesty and accountability) Act 1995* or the *Public Corporations Act 1993*, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or (ba) an offence against the *Lobbyists Act 2015*, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or (c) Any of the following in relation to an offence referred to in a preceding paragraph: (i) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of the offence; (ii) inducing, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, the commission of the offence; (iii) being in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence; (iv) conspiring with others to effect the commission of the offence.
Council	The Barossa Council
Detriment	Includes – (a) Loss or damage (including damage to reputation); or (b) injury, harm (including psychological harm), damage (including damage to reputation) or loss; (c) intimidation or harassment; or (d) discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment; or (e) threats of reprisal (which may be expressed or implied, and/or conditional or unconditional)
Disclosure	Means an appropriate disclosure of public interest information made by an Informant to a Relevant Authority. <u>For Environmental and Health Information -</u> A person makes an appropriate Disclosure of Environmental and Health Information if the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority and the person - (i) believes on reasonable grounds that the information is true; or (ii) is not in a position to form a belief on reasonable grounds about the truth of the information, but believes on reasonable grounds that the information may be true and is of sufficient significance to justify its disclosure so that its truth may be investigated <u>For Public Administration Information –</u> A person makes an appropriate Disclosure of Public Administration Information if they are a Public Officer and – (i) the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority; and (ii) the public officer reasonably suspects that the information raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public

	administration.
Elected Member	As stated in *the Local Government Act 1999*, member of a council means the principal member or a councillor of the Council. (Elected Member is commonly utilised to refer to Council Member.)
Employee	Refers to all Council's employees, whether they are working in a full-time, part-time or casual capacity.
Environmental and Health Information	Information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public (whether occurring before or after the commencement of the PID Act).
Fraud	Includes an intentional dishonest act or omission done with the purpose of deceiving.
Guidelines	Refers to the Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines issued pursuant to section 14 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*, and which are available on the Commissioner's website (icac.sa.gov.au).
ICAC Act	*Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012*
Informant	A person who makes an appropriate Disclosure of Environmental and Health Information; or Public Administration Information (together referred to as Public Interest Information).
Misconduct (in public administration) [As defined in section 5(3) of the ICAC Act]	Intentional and serious contravention of a code of conduct by a Public Officer while acting in his/her capacity as a Public Officer that constitutes a ground for disciplinary action against the officer; or other misconduct of a Public Officer while acting in his/her capacity as a Public Officer. Note: Reference to "a code of conduct" includes Council's related codes of conduct, in addition to any legislated Code of Conduct for Employees.
Office for Public Integrity (OPI)	The office established under Section 17 of the ICAC Act has the function to: (i) receive and assess complaints about public administration from members of the public; (ii) receive and assess reports about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration from inquiry agencies, public authorities and public officers;; (iii) to refer complaints and reports to inquiry agencies, public authorities and public officers or to determine to take no action in accordance with this section.
Public Administration	The administration of government policy (Macquarie dictionary). Defined at section 4 of the ICAC Act 2012 means: without limiting the acts that may comprise public administration, an administrative act within the meaning of the *Ombudsman Act 1972* will be taken to be carried out in the course of public administration.
Public Administration Information	Information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration (whether occurring before or after the commencement of the PID Act).
Public Interest information	There are two types of Public Interest Information: (a) Environmental and Health Information; and (b) Public Administration Information

Public Officer [See section 4 and Schedule 1 of the ICAC Act]	Includes: • a Council Member of Council, including the Mayor; and • an Employee or officer of Council; • a person performing contract work for Council; • a Volunteer of Council where they hold a delegation from Council or the Chief Executive Officer or in accordance with an Act, assist a Public Officer in the enforcement of the Act (it will be rare for a Volunteer to be a Public Officer) **Volunteer** is defined as: A person who is acting on a voluntary basis (irrespective of whether the person receives out-of-pocket expenses) [As defined in the *Work Health Safety Act 2012*]
Regulations	*Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019*
Relevant Authority	A person or entity that receives an appropriate Disclosure of Public Interest Information in accordance with the Act, as set out in Appendix A to this Policy.
Responsible Officer	A person(s) designated by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 12 of the PID Act who is (are) authorised to receive and act upon Appropriate Disclosures of Public Interest Information, and who has completed the relevant training course approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the *Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019*.
Supervisor	The person who is responsible for the management or supervision of the public officer who is the subject of a Disclosure of public administration information.
Victimisation	Occurs when a person causes Detriment to another on the ground, or substantially on the ground that the other person (or a third person) has made or intends to make an appropriate Disclosure of Public Interest information.

8. Version History

This Policy will be reviewed by the Policy Author in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within four years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

Version No.	Date.	Summary of Changes
1	15/10/2019	New Policy
2	20/12/2022	Updated to incorporate changes to the legislation under 2021 reforms (new document number)
3	21/08/2024	Added reference number to Supporting Processes and Documents
4	18/08/2026	Transferred to new corporate template Responsibilities section added Minor changes to wording

9. Further Information

This Policy is available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au. It can also be viewed electronically at Council's principal office at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa during ordinary business hours. A printed copy of this Policy can be obtained upon payment of a fixed fee.

Feedback regarding this Policy or its application can be made to the Customer Service Team on 8563 8444 or barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au in the first instance, who will refer you to the most appropriate officer.

10. Appendix A – Relevant Authorities

Where the information relates to…	**the relevant authority is…**
a public officer* *as defined and set out in Schedule 1 of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012* - relevantly, this includes members, officers and employees of local government bodies	either: • the person who is designated by the Guidelines as being taken to be responsible for management or supervision of the public officer; or • the person who is in fact responsible for the management or supervision of the public officer; or • the relevant responsible officer (as designated by the Council in accordance with section 12 of the PID Act)
a public sector agency or public sector employee	either: • the Commission for Public Sector Employment; or • the responsible officer for the relevant public sector agency
an agency to which the *Ombudsman Act 1972* applies	the Ombudsman
a location within the area of a particular council established under the *Local Government Act 1999*	a member, officer or employee of that Council
a risk to the environment	the Environment Protection Authority
an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial	the Auditor-General
the commission, or suspected commission, of any offence	a member of the police force
a judicial officer	the Judicial Conduct Commission
a member of Parliament	the Presiding Officer of the House of Parliament to which the member belongs
a person or a matter of a prescribed class (no prescribed persons/classes have been identified)	an authority declared by the regulations to be a relevant authority in relation to such information

public interest information - being: • environmental and health information (information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public); or • public administration information (information that raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration)	• the OPI; • a Minister of the Crown; or • any other prescribed person or person of a prescribed class

Public Interest Disclosure Process

TheBarossaCouncil

1. Document control

Process Number:	CD/22/20	**Council Resolution Number:**	
Document Owner:	Chief Executive Officer	**Document Author:**	Manager Governance and Office of the Mayor and CEO
Approval Date		**Next Review Date:**	

Principal Officer Statement of Intent

This Process has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of sections 12(4) of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* (the PID Act). As Chief Executive Officer of The Barossa Council (Council), and the Principal Officer for the purposes of the PID Act, I expect that the implementation and operation of the Act will support:

- transparency and accountability in Council's practices; and
- the Disclosure, in the public interest, of information about substantial risks to public health or safety, or to the environment, and about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration.

This Process and Council's *Public Interest Disclosure Policy* are designed to enable that to occur by ensuring that proper procedures are in place for the making and managing of a Disclosure, and by providing appropriate protections for those who make a Disclosure.

The Barossa Council, its Members, Employees, and officers support the intent of the Act and the protection of Informants who make Disclosures in accordance with the objectives of the Act, and the genuine and efficient consideration and action in relation to information provided in a Disclosure.

Any questions about this Process or Council's *Public Interest Disclosure Policy* should be directed in the first instance to the Responsible Officer/s, whose details are contained in clause 3 of this Process.

Martin McCarthy

Chief Executive Officer

2. Purpose

2.1. The Barossa Council is committed to:

2.1.1. upholding the principles of transparency and accountability in its practices;

2.1.2. the protection of informants who make public interest Disclosures; and

2.1.3. the efficient consideration and action in relation to information provided in a public interest Disclosure;

and, encourages the making of appropriate Disclosures that reveal public interest information in accordance with this Process and the Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

2.2. Council is also committed to:

2.2.1. referring, as necessary, appropriate Disclosures to another Relevant Authority;

2.2.2. where the Disclosure relates to corruption, or serious or systemic misconduct of maladministration in public administration, reporting the Disclosure directly to the Office for Public Integrity (OPI) in accordance with the Guidelines and requirements of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1993* (ICAC Act);

2.2.3. otherwise facilitating the investigation of appropriate Disclosures in a manner which promotes fair and objective treatment of those involved; and

2.2.4. rectifying any substantiated wrongdoing to the extent practicable in all the circumstances.

2.3. This process provides guidance for:

2.3.1. informants seeking to make an appropriate Disclosure of Public Interest Information in accordance with the PID Act and Council's Public Interest Disclosure Policy; and

2.3.2. The Barossa Council's Responsible Officers, Elected Members, Employees, and officers who receive and action appropriate Disclosures in accordance with the requirements of the PID Act and the Independent Commission Against Corruption's Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines (the Guidelines).

3. Scope

3.1. This Process applies to appropriate Disclosures of Public Interest Information that are made in accordance with the PID Act, by public officers including Council Members, Officers and Employees of the Council, and by members of the public.

3.2. This Procedure is intended to complement the reporting framework under the ICAC Act, and designed to complement the existing communication channels within Council and to operate in conjunction with other existing policies, including the:

- Public Interest Disclosure Policy;
- Fraud, Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Prevention Policy;
- Reporting Fraud, Corruption, Misconduct and Maladministration Process
- Code of Conduct for Council Employees;
- Elected Members Behavioural Policy and Process;
- Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy
- Complaints Handling Process

4. Confidentiality

4.1. **Confidentiality**

4.1.1. The identity of an Informant will be maintained as confidential in accordance with the Act where the conditions of the PID Act are specifically met.

4.1.2. A recipient of an appropriate Disclosure may only divulge the identity of an Informant where:

- the recipient believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to divulge the identity of the Informant in order to prevent or minimise an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person, and the identity of the Informant is then divulged to a person or authority that the recipient believes on reasonable grounds is the most appropriate authority or person to be able to take action to prevent or minimise the imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person (e.g. SAPOL, SafeWork SA, SA Ambulance, Environment Protection Agency); or
- the recipient has been issued with a notice from the OPI advising that the identity of the Informant is required by the OPI, in which case the recipient must disclose the identity of the Informant to the OPI; or
- doing so is necessary for the matter to be properly investigated (but only to the extent necessary to ensure proper investigation); or
- the Informant consents to his/her identity being disclosed - this should be in writing where reasonably practicable.

4.2. **Divulging Information related to the Disclosure**

4.2.1. The Act does not expressly require any other information relating to a Disclosure (including, for example, the nature of the allegations) be maintained as confidential, but before making a decision to release or divulge any information provided as part of an appropriate Disclosure, consideration must be given to whether divulging the information would result in or be construed as an act of Victimisation.

4.2.2. In the event that a decision to release or divulge any information provided as part of an appropriate Disclosure is made, it must be done with the Chief Executive Officer's consent (or the consent of a Director if the Disclosure relates to the Chief Executive Officer) and the Employee or Elected Member making that decision must document the rationale for release as a file note, recorded and stored in accordance with section 9 of this Process.

4.3. **Anonymous Disclosure**

4.3.1. Informants wishing to remain anonymous are required to ensure that the Disclosure is sufficiently supported by necessary details enabling the matter to be properly investigated and be prepared to speak directly to the Responsible Officer.

5. Making and Receiving a Disclosure)

5.1. **Making a Disclosure**

5.1.1. In relation to Council, the PID Act provides protection for Informants where Disclosures are made:

- by a member of the public or a Public Officer about environmental and health information which the Informant reasonably believes to be true or which the Informant believes may be true and is of sufficient significance to warrant Disclosure, regarding a location within the Council area; and/or
- by a Public Officer with a reasonable suspicion about public administration information regarding either a location within the Council area or a Public Officer who may be an Elected Member, Employee or officer of Council.

5.1.2. Disclosures should generally, and wherever possible, be made or directed in the first instance to the Responsible Officer, who has the responsibility for receiving appropriate Disclosures.

5.2. **Considerations In Determining Where to Direct a Disclosure**

5.2.1. Nothing in this Process prevents a person from making a Disclosure to another Relevant Authority, including a Relevant Authority external to Council (see Appendix A of the Policy). This is a choice to be made by the Informant at their discretion.

5.2.2. When choosing to make a Disclosure internally, Disclosures relating to an Elected Member, Public Officer or Employee, including the Chief Executive Officer, should usually be made to the Responsible Officer.

5.2.3. Any Disclosure relating to a person designated as a Responsible Officer should be made to another Responsible Officer, or failing this, to a Relevant Authority external to the Council (such as the OPI – refer to Appendix A of the Policy).

5.2.4. Any Disclosure relating to public administration information about a Public Officer who is an Elected Member, Public Officer or Employee may be made to a Responsible Officer, or to the person responsible (either in fact, or as may be designated by the PID Act), for the management or supervision of the Public Officer who is the subject of the Disclosure (i.e. the Supervisor).

5.2.5. If there is a reasonable suspicion of Corruption, or of Maladministration or Misconduct that is serious or systemic, it must be reported to the OPI in accordance with the ICAC Act, Direction & Guidelines for Public Officers (available on the ICAC website icac.sa.gov.au).

5.2.6. Any Disclosure relating to Maladministration or Misconduct that does not meet the threshold for obligated reporting by a Public Officer, may be reported to OPI in accordance with the PID Act and/or ICAC Act.

5.2.7. If a Disclosure contains allegations of Fraud or Corruption, the Informant should report the matter in accordance with Council's Fraud and Corruption Policy, which provides that:

- If the Disclosure relates to Corruption in public administration, it will be reported to the OPI; and
- If the Disclosure relates to Fraud, it may be reported to the Responsible Officer or directly to SAPOL.

5.3. **Secure Handling of Disclosure Information Upon Receipt**

5.3.1. Appropriate measures are to be undertaken to ensure that a Disclosure is received and handled securely.

5.3.2. Any postal items marked 'Confidential – PID Responsible Officer' or 'Confidential – Public Interest Disclosure' must be referred to one of Council's Responsible Officers without opening the item.

5.3.3. Any correspondence, notes, supporting documents or any other information relating to the Disclosure must be stored securely in accordance with clause 9 of this Process.

5.3.4. Any information that is stored in Council's Customer Request Management System must be stored with strict access controls, as a confidential Customer Request entry.

5.3.5. Employees, Public Officers, Elected Members and Responsible Officers must ensure that any discussions or communication regarding a Disclosure, where these are necessary, are conducted in such a way as not to breach any of the confidentiality requirements of the PID Act, which are outlined in the Policy and Process.

5.3.6. A Responsible Officer will be the primary point of contact for liaising with any external Relevant Authority making the referral and the Policy and Process should be followed as closely as possible to achieve an outcome.

5.4. **Immediate Action Upon Receipt of a Disclosure**

5.4.1. On receiving a Disclosure of public interest information relating to a location within the Council area, the recipient of the Disclosure must:

- If the content of the Disclosure suggests that there is an imminent risk of serious physical injury or death to any person or the public generally, immediately communicate such information to the most appropriate agency (eg. SAPOL, SafeWork SA, SA Ambulance, Environment Protection Authority). The Responsible Officer must be notified in the event that this measure is taken and kept appraised of any developments. However, in doing so, the Elected Member, Employee or officer must also have regard to clause 7 of this Process;
- If there is a reasonable suspicion that the matter involves Corruption, or serious or systemic Misconduct or Maladministration report the matter to the OPI;
- If received by an Elected Member, Employee or Officer, ask the Informant whether they consent to the details of their identity being provided to a Responsible Officer, and in doing so advise the Informant that a failure to provide that consent may mean that the Disclosure cannot be properly investigated;
- If received by an Elected Member, Employee or Officer, refer the Disclosure to a Responsible Officer and, in doing so comply with the wishes of the Informant with respect to whether details of their identity may be divulged; and
- Notify the OPI of the Disclosure in accordance with Guideline 1(4) of the Guidelines, (refer to Appendix 2). The unique reference number provided by the OPI should be recorded, and if the Disclosure is referred to another agency, then to that agency.

5.4.2. Responsible Officers should provide guidance and support to the Elected Members, Employees or officers who receives Disclosures to ensure compliance with this Process, the Guidelines and the Act.

5.4.3. A flowchart outlining the Disclosure Process is at Appendix 1 to this Process.

5.5. **Acknowledgment of Receipt of the Disclosure**

5.5.1. Where possible, acknowledgement of receipt of the Disclosure will be provided to the informant in writing, within 5 business days of the Disclosure being received by Council, and in doing so will provide a copy of (or links to) the Policy and Process to the Informant.

6. Preliminary Assessment of Disclosure

6.1. **Consideration of Preliminary Assessment**

6.1.1. Upon receipt of a Disclosure, the Responsible Officer (or Supervisor where relevant) will undertake a preliminary assessment to determine if the information disclosed justifies further action, including a decision as to whether the Disclosure:

- Is frivolous, vexatious or trivial (in which case, no further action will be taken in relation to the Disclosure);
- Involves a matter which has already been investigated or acted upon by a Relevant Authority and there is no reason to re-examine the matter or there is other good reason why no action should be taken in respect of the matter (in which case, no further action will be taken in relation to the Disclosure);
- Requires referral to another Relevant Authority external to the Council;
- Seeking of legal advice; or

- Warrants investigation or further action in accordance with Council's policies and processes and/or referral to an Assessor or Investigator for a formal investigation and report to Council or the Chief Executive Officer.

6.2. **Reporting by the Responsible Officer and Supervisor**

6.2.1. Where the Disclosure relates to public administration information about a Public Officer who is an Elected Member, Employee or Public Officer of Council and it is made to the Supervisor, the Supervisor will conduct the Preliminary Assessment instead of the Responsible Officer. The Supervisor will report the outcome of his/her determination following the Preliminary Assessment to the Responsible Officer to action.

6.2.2. Where the Disclosure is made to the Supervisor, as soon as possible after conducting the preliminary assessment and notifying the applicant of this Process, the Supervisor will notify the OPI of the Disclosure in accordance with Guideline 1(4) of the Guidelines, (refer to Appendix 2). If the Disclosure was referred to another agency the unique reference number provided by the OPI should be provided to that agency. The unique reference number provided by the OPI should also be provided to the Responsible Officer.

6.2.3. Following a Preliminary Assessment the Responsible Officer must report the determination to the Chief Executive Officer, unless the Disclosure relates to the Chief Executive Officer, then the report should be made to the Mayor.

Any report prepared in accordance with this Clause will not disclose particulars that will or are likely to lead to the identification of the Informant, unless the circumstances in Clause 9.1 of this Process apply.

6.2.4. Where it is determined the Disclosure warrants referral to an external body or other Relevant Authority, the Responsible Officer will undertake the referral, including ensuring that all necessary information is communicated accordingly.

Where the Preliminary Assessment is being undertaken by the Supervisor, they will include this recommendation in the Preliminary Assessment Report to the Responsible Officer for action.

6.2.5. Where the Officer determines the Disclosure requires any other action to ensure the matter is properly addressed, they will include the recommended action details in the Preliminary Assessment and Determination Report.

6.3. **Notification of Preliminary Assessment**

6.3.1. If the identity of the Informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Responsible Officer will notify the Informant of the outcome of the determination, in writing, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the Preliminary Assessment has been made, and in any event within 30 days of receipt of the Disclosure. In doing so, the Responsible Officer must advise the Informant of:

- Any action that has been, or will be taken in relation to the Disclosure; or
- If no action is being taken in relation to the Disclosure, the reason/s why.

6.3.2. If the Responsible Officer fails to notify the Informant in accordance with this clause, the Informant may be entitled to protection in relation to any subsequent Disclosure of that information to a journalist or Member of Parliament in accordance with the PID Act.

6.3.3. If the Informant is dissatisfied with the Responsible Officer's determination, it is open to him/her to report the Disclosure to another Relevant Authority external to Council.

6.3.4. If the Disclosure was made directly to the Responsible Officer, or if the Responsible Officer is aware that the Disclosure has not been reported to the OPI in accordance with Guideline 1 of the Guidelines, as soon as reasonably practicable following the Preliminary Assessment and notification to the Informant of the matters determined in the Preliminary Assessment, the Responsible Officer must use the dedicated online notification form at icac.sa.gov.au to notify the OPI of the Disclosure, and in doing so,

include all necessary information required under Guideline 1(4) of the Guidelines (refer Appendix 2).

- The unique reference number issued by the OPI must be provided to any other person or Relevant Authority to which the Disclosure may be referred.

6.3.5. If the Disclosure came to the Council by way of a referral from a Minister, and if, following the Preliminary Assessment the Responsible Officer determines that no action is to be taken, the Responsible Officer must ensure that the Minister is notified and the reason/s for the decision to take no action.

6.4. **Referrals**

6.4.1. Where the Responsible Officer determines, following the Preliminary Assessment, that a Disclosure warrants an investigation under Council's policies and processes, then it will be forwarded to the Assessor to deal with the matter in accordance with Council's policies, processes and/or usual operations.

6.4.2. Where a relevant Council policy or procedure for investigating a Disclosure of that kind applies, that policy or procedure will apply in conjunction with the Public Interest Disclosure Policy and this Process. However, nothing in this Process derogates the responsibilities and obligations conferred by the PID Act and Guidelines, including reporting and confidentiality requirements, and timelines for notifying the Informant at prescribed stages of the management of the Disclosure, which will continue to apply.

6.4.3. The Assessor shall be determined by the Responsible Officer at their discretion.

6.4.4. Examples of referrals to relevant Assessors include:

- In most cases, for environmental and health matters, the Assessor will be the Manager Health Services andCommunity Safety for investigation. However, where there is another senior officer who has the necessary delegations and authorisations to investigate the Disclosure, then the Disclosure may be referred to that senior officer.
- Alternatively, where the Responsible Officer determines it necessary and appropriate, they may refer the Disclosure to an appropriately qualified or experienced Independent Investigator external to Council, for investigation. In conducting their investigation, the Independent Investigator must consider the factors in this Process.

7. Investigation

7.1. **Investigation Procedure**

7.1.1. Where a referral has been made by the Responsible Officer following determination that the Disclosure warrants further investigation, the investigation process must explore the substance of the Disclosure to determine whether there is evidence in support of the matter/s raised, or, alternatively, to refute the allegations raised in the Disclosure.

7.1.2. Information relating to the allegation should be collated as quickly as possible. This may involve taking steps to protect or preserve documents, materials and equipment.

7.1.3. Consideration should be given to the information collected to draw conclusions objectively and impartially.

7.1.4. Procedural fairness should be observed in the treatment of any person who is the subject of the Disclosure.

7.1.5. Recommendations should be made based on the conclusions drawn concerning remedial or other appropriate action.

7.1.6. Any investigation must be conducted in confidence. Normally, the Assessor or Independent Investigator will not be provided with the identity of the Informant. However, where the identity of the Informant is divulged to the person conducting the investigation, for example, in order to ensure that the matter is properly investigated the Assessor or Independent Investigator must keep the identity of the Informant confidential unless the circumstances in Clause 10.1 apply.

7.1.7. The Assessor or Independent Investigator must keep the Responsible Officer informed of the expected timeframes for completion of the investigation and the provision of his/her investigation report.

7.1.8. Where it is unlikely that the investigation will be completed within 90 days from the receipt of the Disclosure, the Responsible Officer will, within the 90 day period, provide the Informant of:

- written notice of an extension of time;
- notify the Informant when the investigation is expected to conclude: and
- when the Informant can expect to receive notification of any action taken.

7.1.9. If the Responsible Officer fails to notify the Informant in accordance with this clause, the Informant may be entitled to protection in relation to any subsequent Disclosure of that information to a journalist or Member of Parliament in accordance with the PID Act.

7.2. **Reporting Following the Conclusion of an Investigation**

7.2.1. Upon finalising an investigation, the Assessor or Independent Investigator must prepare an investigation report to the Responsible Officer that will contain the following details where applicable):

- The allegation(s);
- An account of all relevant information received including any rejected evidence, and the reasons why the rejection occurred;
- The conclusions reached and the basis for them; and
- Any recommendations arising from the conclusions, including any remedial action which should be taken by the Council.

7.2.2. The report must be accompanied by:

- The transcript or other record of any verbal evidence taken, including tape recordings; and
- All documents, statements or other exhibits received by the Assessor or Investigator and accepted as evidence during the course of the investigation.

7.2.3. Any report prepared in accordance with this clause will not disclose particulars that will or are likely to lead to the identification of the Informant, unless the circumstances in clause 10.1 of this Process apply.

8. Taking of Action

8.1. **Notification of Action**

8.1.1. If the identity of the Informant is known to the Responsible Officer or is reasonably ascertainable, the Responsible Officer will notify the Informant of the outcome of any action taken (including investigation), or that no action is being taken, in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable after any action identified in the Preliminary Assessment and Determination Report or Investigation Report has been taken and, in any event, within either:

- 90 days of receipt of the Disclosure; or
- Such longer period as may be specified by written notice given by the Responsible Officer to the Informant in writing within that 90 day period.

8.1.2. The notice described in clause 7.1.1 should include:

- Any action that has been, or will be taken in relation to the Disclosure; or
- If no action is being taken in relation to the Disclosure the reason/s why.

8.1.3. If the Informant is dissatisfied with the responsible Officer's determination or the action taken it is open to him/her/them to report the Disclosure to another Relevant Authority external to the Council.

8.2. **Taking of Action**

8.2.1. The Responsible Officer must take whatever action is, in his/her discretion, considered appropriate in the circumstances having regard to the matters identified in the Investigation Report, including but not limited to:

- If the matter relates to a Disclosure of public administration information, referring the matter to the Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Manager People & Culture for disciplinary action and/or investigation except if the matter relates to the Chief Executive Officer in that case the matter shall be referred to the Mayor and Senior Manager People & Culture;
- If the matter relates to a Disclosure of environmental and health information, referring the matter to the Chief Executive Officer and the relevant Director for prioritisation and remediation/action;
- Ensuring that appropriate action is taken in accordance with the Assessor or Independent Investigator's Report.

However, noting that the final determination with respect to any action taken, lies with the officer, Employee or Council with the appropriate delegations and authorisations to take such action, in accordance with Council Policies, Processes and legislation.

8.3. **Reporting of Action Taken**

8.3.1. As soon as reasonably practicable following the action being taken and notification of action being provided to the Informant, the Responsible Officer must use the dedicated online notification form at icac.sa.gov.au to notify OPI of the action taken in relation to the Disclosure and in doing so, must ensure that the details required by Guideline 2 of the Guidelines are included in the OPI notification.

8.3.2. This step must also be followed if the matter is referred to Council by another agency or Relevant Authority.

8.3.3. If the Disclosure came to the Council by way of a referral from a Minister, the Responsible Officer must ensure that the Minister is notified of the action taken in relation to the Disclosure, and the outcome of any such action.

8.4. **Final Report and Recommendation**

8.4.1. Upon finalising any action required in relation to a Disclosure, the Responsible Officer must prepare a Final Report to the Chief Executive Officer (or Mayor if the Disclosure relates to the CEO) to action as s/he considers appropriate:

- The subject of the Disclosure;
- An account of the steps taken by the Responsible Officer in accordance with this Process, including, where appropriate, enclosing a copy of any Investigation Report;

- Conclusions reached as a result of the steps taken in response to the Disclosure and the basis for them; and
- Any recommendations arising from the conclusions, including any remedial action which should be taken by the Council.

8.4.2. The Final Report prepared in accordance with this clause must not disclose particulars that will or are likely to lead to the identification of the Informant, unless the circumstances in clause 10.1 of this Process apply.

8.4.3. The Chief Executive Officer may, at his/her discretion, inform the Elected Members, on a confidential basis, about a Disclosure in accordance with clause 4.1 of the Policy.

9. Secure Handling and Storage of Information

9.1. The Responsible Officer must ensure accurate records of an appropriate Disclosure are securely and confidentially maintained, including notes of all discussions, phone calls and interviews. The files cannot be named or labelled in such a way that identifies the Informant. All correspondence, documents, reports, and other information relating to a Disclosure must be stored in Council's record management system with restricted access controls.

9.2. In the event that a person's appointment as a Responsible Officer is terminated, the person must provide all information to the newly appointed Responsible Officer or another Responsible Officer and having done so, will continue to be bound by a duty of confidentiality in respect of an Informant's identity and the information received as a result of the Disclosure.

9.3. Elected Members, Employees or Public Officers who may receive Disclosures must ensure that all information, documents and notes are forwarded to the Responsible Officer for secure storage and permanently deleted or removed from the Elected Member, Employee or officer's computer, email systems and files.

9.4. Supervisors who receive Disclosures of public administration information must forward all information, documents and notes to the Responsible Officer with their Supervisor's Preliminary Assessment Report and delete or remove any information relating to the Disclosure from their email systems and files.

10. Information Protection

10.1. Council will take action as appropriate in the circumstances of the relevant Disclosure/s to protect Informants from Victimisation, and/or from being hindered or obstructed in making a Disclosure. Such action may include acting in accordance with the following risk minimisation steps:

10.1.1. Awareness and/or training, as appropriate, to all Workers and Elected Members on the Policy and Process;

10.1.2. Talking, or writing to any affected parties;

10.1.3. Ensuring transparency, clarity, and accessibility in terms of Council's policies and process for dealing with Public Interest Disclosures, rights and protections to Informants, and rights and responsibilities of those affected by, or are the subject-matter of a Disclosure;

10.1.4. Referring the matter to the Chief Executive Officer for proposed reassigning of work tasks or other human resource adjustments pertaining to the person who is the subject matter of the Disclosure, or where appropriate the Informant or other Worker, in accordance with Council's Employee Code of Conduct;

10.1.5. As set out in this Process and/or by referring the matter to SAPOL and/or another Relevant Authority or agency as appropriate – e.g. OPI;

10.1.6. Disciplinary action by Council or Chief Executive Officer for any failure to comply with the requirements of this Process or the Policy (including with respect to divulging the identity of an Informant), in accordance with the relevant Codes of Conduct;

10.1.7. When making policy and process, or operational decisions, ensuring that consideration is given to the matters contained in this Policy and Process.

11. Responsibilities

11.1. **Principal Officer**

11.1.1. Is responsible for ensuring that one or more appropriately qualified Employees are designated as Responsible Officers of Council for the purposes of the PID Act and undertake any training required by the Regulations.

11.1.2. Must ensure the name and contact details of each Responsible Officer of Council are made available to Employees, Officers, and Elected Members, by including these details in this Process.

11.1.3. Must ensure that this Process is prepared and maintained in accordance with the Act and Guidelines.

11.2. **Designated Responsible Officers**

11.2.1. Must receive and manage appropriate Disclosures relating to the Council and ensure compliance with the Policy, Process, Guidelines, and the PID Act, in relation to any such Disclosures.

11.2.2. Must provide advice to Elected Members, Employees and Officers in relation to the administration of the PID Act.

11.2.3. Must liaise as required with the Informant and any person conducting an investigation, including but not limited to:

- legal advice
- SAPOL
- the Ombudsman or other appropriate agency

in relation to any investigation process undertaken in accordance with the Process and provide support to the Informant and facilitate any protection (as necessary and appropriate in the circumstances of the Disclosure) in accordance with the Policy, Process and PID Act.

11.2.4. Must complete any training courses approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the *Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) (noting the Commissioner may not deliver the training).

11.2.5. May carry out any other functions relating to the PID Act.

11.2.6. In making any determination or taking any action under this Policy or pursuant to the Process, the Responsible Officer is authorised to incur costs in accordance with the Council's Budget for that purpose, with the approval of the CEO or Director, unless the Disclosure relates to the CEO, then with the approval of a Director.

11.2.7. **Council's designated Responsible Officers are:**

- Joanne Moen

  Director, Corporate Services and Business Innovation

  jmoen@barossa.sa.gov.au

  08 8563 8324

- Janine Harding

  Manager, Governance and the Office of the Mayor and CEO

  jharding@barossa.sa.gov.au

  08 8563 8401

- Darren Hurst

  Manager Health Services and Community Safety

  dhurst@barossa.sa.gov.au

  08 8563 8491

- By Mail

  Confidential – Public Interest Disclosure

  Attention: Responsible Officer

  PO Box 867

  Nuriootpa SA 5355

11.3. **Elected Members, Employees and Officers of Council**

11.3.1. Are responsible for ensuring that they comply with this Process and the Policy when dealing with any Disclosure, including complying with directions from the Responsible Officer.

11.3.2. Must immediately refer any Disclosure made to them by a member of the public or a Public Officer to the Responsible Officer unless it has been made to them in their role as the Supervisor of a Public Officer who is the subject of a Disclosure.

11.3.3. Upon receipt of a Disclosure from an Elected Member, Employee or Officer of Council, the Responsible Officer will deal with the Disclosure in accordance with the processes described in this Procedure, and within the authority granted by the Public Interest Disclosure Policy and the PID Act.

11.4. **Informants**

11.4.1. It is the Informant's responsibility to ensure that any correspondence is appropriately marked as being confidential. Any postal correspondence that is not marked as being confidential and specifically addressed to a Responsible Officer will be opened by Council's Information Services section and may not receive the same level of confidentiality.

11.4.2. Council staff are bound by confidentiality provisions under the Local Government Act and will ensure in these circumstances confidentially is maintained by immediately identifying any documents as confidential, sealing them and providing to a Responsible Officer.

11.4.3. Where a Disclosure is made by telephone by an Informant, the recipient of the Disclosure will take a file note of the conversation, and where possible, ask the Informant to verify the notes for instance by signing, or email verification or other acceptable communication.

11.4.4. If an Informant believes that his/her Disclosure is not being dealt with appropriately or in accordance with the Policy or Process, they should contact the Responsible Officer in the first instance.

11.5. **Training**

11.5.1. Council's Responsible Officers will have training in the Public Interest Disclosure Act and reporting, approved by the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (noting the Commissioner may not undertake the training).

11.5.2. Council's Workers, Elected Members and officers will have general awareness training at the commencement of the Policy and Process, and refresher training as necessary. New Workers will have training incorporated into their induction as required.

12. Legislation and References

Legislation

- *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*
- *Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019*
- *Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act 2012*
- *Local Government Act 1999*
- ICAC Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines
- Instrument of Appointment as a Responsible Officer

Related Policies

- Public Interest Disclosure Policy

13. Definitions

Act	*Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*
Assessor	Determined by the Responsible Officer at their discretion. A relevant senior Worker who has the skills, qualifications, authorisation and delegation (whether directly from Council or sub-delegation from the Chief Executive Officer) to deal with such matters in accordance with Council's policies, processes and / or usual operations.
Business Days	A day when the Council is normally open for business, i.e. Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays and when Council's principle office may be closed (e.g. over the Christmas holiday period).
Commissioner	The person holding or acting in the office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption
Corruption in Public Administration [as defined in section 5(1) of the ICAC Act]	(a) An offence against Part 7 Division 4 (Offences relating to Public Officers) of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935, which includes the following offences: (i) bribery or corruption of Public Officers; (ii) threats or reprisals against Public Officers; (iii) abuse of public office; (iv) demanding or requiring benefit on basis of public office; (v) offences relating to appointment to public office; or (b) an offence against the Public Sector (Honesty and accountability) Act 1995 or the Public Corporations Act 1993, or an attempt to commit

	such an offence; or (ba) an offence against the Lobbyists Act 2015, or an attempt to commit such an offence; or (c) Any of the following in relation to an offence referred to in a preceding paragraph: (i) aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of the offence; (ii) inducing, whether by threats or promises or otherwise, the commission of the offence; (iii) being in any way, directly or indirectly, knowingly concerned in, or party to, the commission of the offence; (iv) conspiring with others to effect the commission of the offence.
Council	The Barossa Council
Detriment	Includes – (a) Loss or damage (including damage to reputation); or (b) injury, harm (including psychological harm), damage (including damage to reputation) or loss; (c) intimidation or harassment; or (d) discrimination, disadvantage or adverse treatment in relation to a person's employment; or (e) threats of reprisal (which may be expressed or implied, and/or conditional or unconditional)
Disclosure	Means an appropriate disclosure of public interest information made by an Informant to a Relevant Authority. <u>For Environmental and Health Information</u> - A person makes an appropriate Disclosure of Environmental and Health Information if the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority and the person - (i) believes on reasonable grounds that the information is true; or (ii) is not in a position to form a belief on reasonable grounds about the truth of the information, but believes on reasonable grounds that the information may be true and is of sufficient significance to justify its disclosure so that its truth may be investigated <u>For Public Administration Information</u> – A person makes an appropriate Disclosure of Public Administration Information if: (i) they are a Public Officer; and (ii) the disclosure is made to a Relevant Authority; and (iii) the Public Officer reasonably suspects that the information raises a potential issue of corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration.
Elected Member	As stated in *the Local Government Act 1999*, member of a council means the principal member or a councillor of the Council. (Elected Member is commonly utilised to refer to Council Member.)
Employee	Refers to all Council's employees, whether they are working in a full-time, part-time or casual capacity.

Environmental and Health Information	Information that raises a potential issue of a substantial risk to the environment or to the health or safety of the public generally or a significant section of the public (whether occurring before or after the commencement of the Act).
Fraud	Includes an intentional dishonest act or omission done with the purpose of deceiving.
Guidelines	Refers to the Public Interest Disclosure Guidelines issued pursuant to section 14 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*, and which are available on the Commissioner's website (icac.sa.gov.au)
ICAC Act	*Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2012*
Informant	A person who makes an appropriate Disclosure of Environmental and Health Information; or Public Administration Information (together referred to as Public Interest Information).
Maladministration (in public administration) [As defined in section 4(1) of the Ombudsman Act 1972]	Maladministration in public administration – a) means – (i) conduct of a public officer, or a practice, policy or procedure of a public authority, that results in an irregular and unauthorised use of public money or substantial mismanagement of public resources; or (ii) conduct of a public officer involving substantial mismanagement in or in relation to performance of official functions; and b) includes conduct resulting from impropriety, incompetence or negligence; and c) is to be assessed having regard to relevant statutory provisions and administrative instructions and directions.
Misconduct (in public administration) [As defined in section 4(1) of the Ombudsman Act 1972]	Intentional and serious contravention of a code of conduct by a Public Officer while acting in his/her capacity as a Public Officer that constitutes a ground for disciplinary action against the officer; or other misconduct of a Public Officer while acting in his/her capacity as a Public Officer. Note: Reference to "a code of conduct" includes Council's related codes of conduct, in addition to any legislated Code of Conduct for Employees.
Office for Public Integrity (OPI)	The office established under Section 17 of the ICAC Act has the function to: (i) receive and assess complaints about public administration from members of the public; (ii) receive and assess reports about corruption, misconduct and maladministration in public administration from inquiry agencies, public authorities and Public Officers; (iii) to refer complaints and reports to inquiry agencies, public authorities and Public Officers or to determine to take no action in accordance with this section;
Public Administration	The administration of government policy (Macquarie dictionary). Defined at section 4 of the ICAC Act 2012 means: without limiting the acts that may comprise public administration, an administrative act within the meaning of the Ombudsman Act 1972 will be taken to be carried out in the course of public administration.
Public Administration Information	There are two types of Public Interest Information: (a) Environmental and Health Information; and

	(b) Public Administration Information
Public Officer [See section 4 and Schedule 1 of the ICAC Act]	Includes: • a Member of Council, including the Mayor; and • an Employee or officer of Council; • a person performing contract work for Council; • a Volunteer of Council where they hold a delegation from Council or the Chief Executive Officer or in accordance with an Act, assist a Public Officer in the enforcement of the Act (it will be rare for a Volunteer to be a Public Officer) **Volunteer** is defined as: A person who is acting on a voluntary basis (irrespective of whether the person receives out-of-pocket expenses) [As defined in the *Work Health Safety Act 2012*]
Regulations	*Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019*
Relevant Authority	A person or entity that receives an appropriate Disclosure of Public Interest Information in accordance with the Act, as set out in Appendix A to the Policy.
Responsible Officer	A person(s) designated by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 12 of the Act who is (are) authorised to receive and act upon Appropriate Disclosures of Public Interest Information, and who has completed the relevant training course approved by the Commissioner for the purposes of the *Public Interest Disclosure Regulations 2019*.
Supervisor	The person who is responsible for the management or supervision of the Public Officer who is the subject of a Disclosure of public administration information.
Victimisation	Occurs when a person causes Detriment to another on the ground, or substantially on the ground that the other person (or a third person) has made or intends to make an appropriate Disclosure of Public Interest information.

14. Version History

This Process will be reviewed by the Policy Author in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within four years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

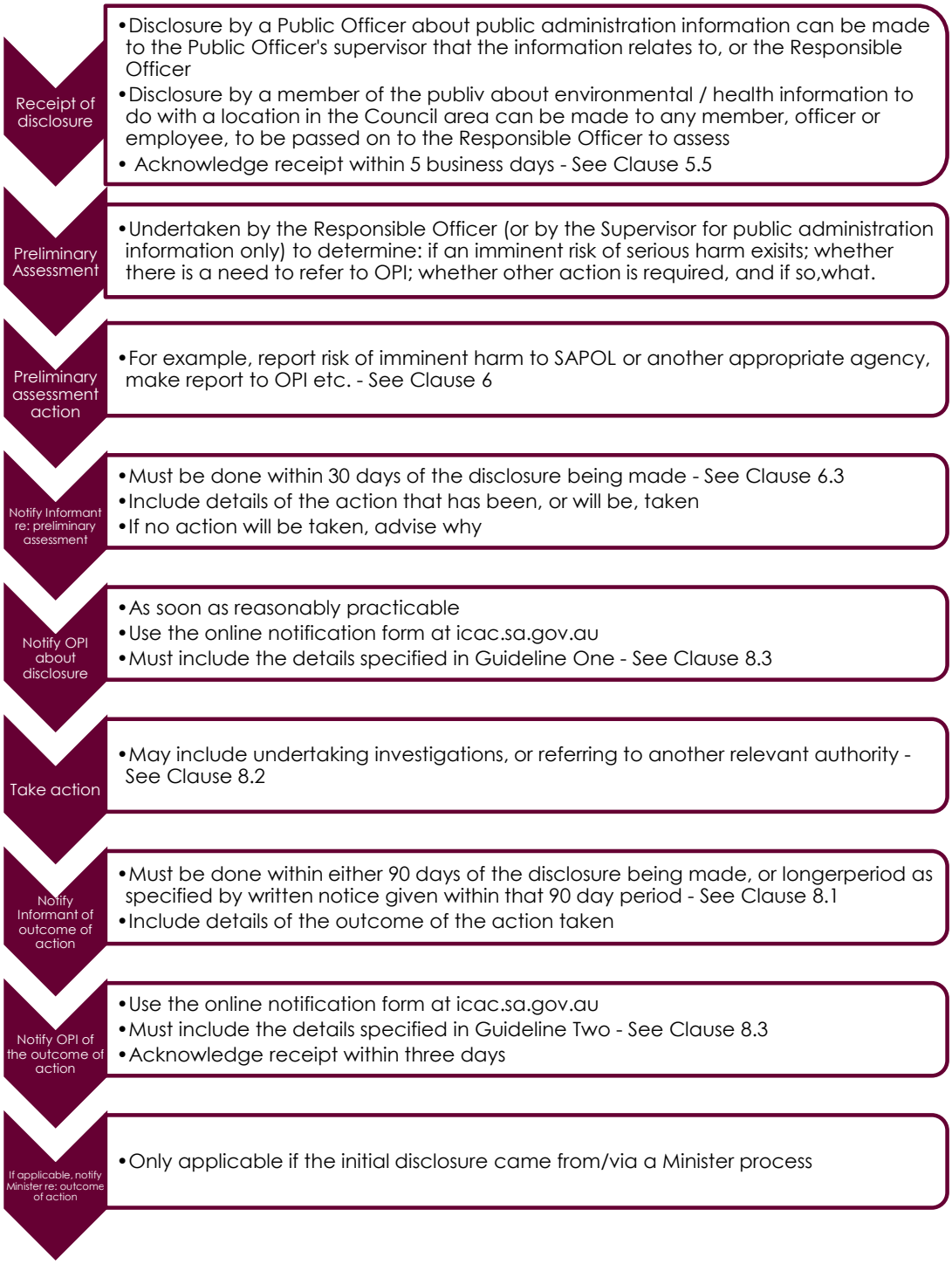
Version No.	Date	Summary of Change/s
2	15/10/2019	Review
3	10/11/2022	New Document Number Scheduled Review in line with the Policy to encompass legislative changes to Local Government Reform, and to put into new template
4	21/05/2024	Update to Responsible Officers
5	18/08/2026	Transferred into new corporate template Update to Responsible Officers Minor changes to the wording

15. Further Information

This Process is available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au. It can also be viewed electronically at Council's principal office at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa during ordinary business hours. A printed copy of this Process can be obtained upon payment of a fixed fee.

Feedback regarding this Process or its application can be made to the Customer Service Team on 8563 8444 or barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au in the first instance, who will refer you to the most appropriate officer.

16. Appendix 1 – Notification Process Flowchart



DEBATE REPORT

7.1 Office of the Mayor and CEO

7.1.5 VARIATION TO DELEGATIONS REGISTER - UPDATES TO LEGISLATION

Author: Governance Officer
26/52197

PURPOSE

To provide Council with the opportunity to consider updated and new provisions identified through legislative amendments for delegation to the Chief Executive Officer under various legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council in exercise of the power contained in section 44 of the *Local Government Act 1999,* section 9(2) of the *Supported Residential Facilities Act* and section 100 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, hereby delegates the powers and functions under the following Acts and specified in the proposed delegation updates contained at Attachment 1 to the position of Chief Executive Officer:

a. *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*
b. *Liquor Licensing Act 1997*
c. *Local Government Act 1999*
d. *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*
e. *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Regulations 2017*
f. *Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
g. *Supported Residential Facilities Act 1992*

REPORT

Background
Council has powers and functions that must be performed under a range of legislation. In most cases, the relevant Acts grant these powers and functions directly to Council. The ways in which Council may exercise its powers and functions are:

- when the Council itself exercises the power or function at a formally constituted meeting; and

- where the legislation enables it, a power or function may be delegated to a Council employee, in most cases being the Chief Executive Officer.

Delegations enable Council to delegate its powers and functions to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who in turn may sub-delegate to Council staff who have the relevant expertise and experience to improve the efficiency and timeliness of carrying out Council's decisions.

From time to time, legislation upon which Council's delegations are based change, requiring Council to review its relevant delegations on a periodic basis. Council may review its delegations at any time.

Introduction
In early 2020, the Local Government Association (LGA) advised councils it was undertaking a comprehensive review of the delegations' templates and revised its approach to the service offered to councils. The resulting framework established a simpler and contemporary approach that will improve ease of use, reduce legal risk, and enhance flexibility for Council.

Each power and function now consist of a short description only, replacing the historic approach which substantially replicated the text of the legislation. This framework also expands the number of delegable provisions across Acts that were not previously included as part of the delegations.

Discussion
The statutory power of delegation under section 44 of the *Local Government Act 1999* enables the delegation of the statutory powers and functions vested or conferred on a council. Other statutory delegation powers permit the delegation of powers or functions vested in a council in a particular capacity (e.g. as a relevant authority under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2011* or an enforcement agency under the *Food Act 2001*). A column providing for the capacity in which the Council is acting is included in the tables of delegable statutory powers and functions. This is to assist Governance Officers to identify the powers and functions which are relevant to the Council and which the Council wants to delegate. It will also assist Council in ensuring the correct powers of delegation are referenced in the instrument of delegation.

The framework is not intended to provide a compliance manual for delegates exercising statutory functions and powers. Providing guidance as to the legal requirements for the valid exercise of that delegated power or function is not the purpose of an instrument of delegation or sub-delegation. The purpose is to record formally the delegation of statutory functions or powers. The delegate or sub-delegate is responsible for exercising the delegated power or function lawfully. This requires compliance with:

- any conditions or limitations on the delegation;
- any statutory requirements which apply to the exercise of the power or function; and
- relevant principles of administrative law.

Updates
Periodic updates to legislation are facilitated by the LGA and their legal partners at Norman Waterhouse Lawyers.

In this periodic update of delegations there have been changes to five pieces of legislation being:

Dog and Cat Management Act 1999
Deleted
- Power to issue directions in order to comply with an order.

Liquor Licensing Act 1997

Changed

- Power to lodge a complaint regarding behaviour and noise accessing or egressing from a premises.

Local Government Act 1999

Changed

- Provision numbering change – no alteration to delegation.

Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016

New

- Provisions related to determining exemptions from local nuisance.
- Provisions to enable recovery of costs of urgent litter clean up from a public place.
- Requirements for issue and registration of a nuisance and litter abatement notice.
- Action on non-compliance with a notice.

Changed

- Minor rewording - no change of intent to delegations.

Deleted

- Singular delegation deleted due to expanding clauses in issuing a notice.
- Procedural matter on a person, not Council.

Local Nuisance and Litter Control Regulations 2017

Deleted

- Removal of fixing a fee.

Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 – Instrument A

New

- Clauses under Practice Directions 4 and 18.

Deleted

- Consideration of an existing Land Management Agreement during a development authorization.
- Clauses under Practice Directions 3 and 10.

Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 – Instrument B

New

- Consideration of an existing Land Management Agreement during a development authorization.
- Determination of fees when undertaking assessments.

Deleted

- Consideration of an existing Land Management Agreement during a development authorization.
- Clauses under Practice Directions 12 and 18.

Supported Residential Facilities Act 1992

Deleted

- Undertake functions determined under the Act.

Summary and Conclusion
Council is now asked to review and endorse the delegations as at Attachment 1.

The delegations within this report do not detail the entirety of the delegation framework, only those provisions that have been recently amended via legislative change.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Updates to Delegations Register - August 2026

Supporting references
No further supporting references.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS7 Governance - Provision of governance advice and support in the discharge of legislative responsibilities for policy development, delegations and authorisations, internal review of Council decisions, delegations and authorisations, Native Title claims

Legislative Requirements
Council may delegate a power or function vested or conferred under a range of legislation, it may be made to any employee of Council, a Council Committee or an authorised person.

In this report, powers are being delegated under powers of the Local Government Act 1999 and Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

The delegation register is available on Council's website.

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.

   Effective delegations enable staff to effectively and legally deliver services to the community.

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.

Effective delegations enable staff to manage risks in accordance with legislative requirements and Council's Enterprise Risk Framework.

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.

Effective delegations enable staff to align finances to its vision and strategy for ongoing financial sustainability.

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.

Effective delegations enable staff to manage risks in accordance with legislative requirements.

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.

Effective delegations enable staff to manage risks in accordance with legislative requirements.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Employees are informed through established internal procedures of any variation to instruments of delegations that affect their position.

Council's Register of Delegations is made available to the public via Council's website www.barossa.sa.gov.au as required by the *Local Government Act 1999*.

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT ACT 1995

DELETED Provisions

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
459904	Dog and Cat Management Act 1995	section 53(1)	Issue directions to each owner or person responsible for a dog regarding complying with order		council

LOCAL NUISANCE AND LITTER CONTROL REGULATIONS 2017

DELETED PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
461007	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Regulations 2017	regulation 6(1)(b)	Fix a fee for an application under section 19(2) of the Act		council

INSTRUMENT A - INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION UNDER THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT 2016, REGULATIONS, PLANNING & DESIGN CODE AND PRACTICE DIRECTIONS OF POWERS OF A COUNCIL AS: A COUNCIL; A DESIGNATED AUTHORITY; A DESIGNATED ENTITY

NEW PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations
853669	State Planning Commission Practice Direction 4 - Restricted Development	clause 7(5)	107. How the Commission will Proceed with Assessment of Restricted Development 107.1 The power pursuant to clause 7(5) of the State Planning Commission Practice Direction 4 – Restricted Development (PD4) to provide comments or a report to the Commission.	
853670	State Planning Commission Practice Direction 18 Outline Consent	clause 5(1)(b)	115.The power pursuant to clause 5(1)(b) of the State Planning Commission Practice Direction 18 – Outline Consent (PD18) to provide advice to an applicant that if the application were to be made for planning consent, the council would request the Minister to give notice under Section 94(1)(g) of the PDI Act.	

DELETED PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations
326101	Instrument of Delegation under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, Regulations, Planning & Design Code and Practice Directions of Powers of a Council as a Council; a Designated Authority; a Designated Entity (Instrument A)	s192(18)	46.Land Management Agreements 46.14The power pursuant to Section 192(18) of the PDI Act to take into account the existence of an agreement under Section 192 of the PDI Act when assessing an application for a development authorisation under the PDI Act.	
386005	State Planning Commission Practice Direction - 3 (Notification of Performance Assessed Development Applications) 2019	cl6(3)(b)	108. Responsibility to Undertake Notification 108.1 The power pursuant to clause 6(3)(b) of the State Planning Commission Practice Direction – 3 (Notification of Performance Assessed Development Applications) 2019 (PD3) to determine the relevant fee as being appropriate to cover the relevant authority's reasonable costs in giving public notice of the application under Section 107(3)(a)(i) of the PDI Act.	
386010	State Planning Commission Practice Direction 10 (Staged Occupation of Multi-Storey Buildings) 2020	cl5(2)	114. Conditions that Must be Met for the Staged Occupation of a Partially Completed Building 114.1 The power pursuant to clause 5(2) of the State Planning Commission Practice Direction 10 (Staged Occupation of Multi-Storey Buildings 2020 (PD10) to, agree to partial occupancy of a partially completed multistorey building.	

INSTRUMENT B – INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION UNDER THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT 2016, REGULATIONS, PLANNING AND DESIGN CODE AND PRACTICE DIRECTIONS OF POWERS OF A COUNCIL AS A RELEVANT AUTHORITY

NEW PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations
853775	Instrument of Delegation under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, Regulations, Planning and Design Code and Practice Directions of Powers of a Council as a Relevant Authority (Instrument B);	s192(18)	15. Land Management Agreements 15.1The power pursuant to Section 192(18) of the PDI Act to take into account the existence of an agreement under Section 192 of the PDI Act when assessing an application for a development authorisation under the PDI Act.	
853776	State Planning Commission Practice Direction - 3 (Notification of Performance Assessed Development Applications) 2019	clause 6(3)(b)	35.Responsibility to Undertake Notification 35.1The power pursuant to clause 6(3)(b) of the State Planning Commission Practice Direction – 3 (Notification of Performance Assessed Development Applications) 2019 (PD3) to determine the relevant fee as being appropriate to cover the relevant authority's reasonable costs in giving public notice of the application under Section 107(3)(a)(ii) of the PDI Act.	

DELETED PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations
803708	State Planning Commission Practice Direction 12 - Conditions	clause 6	34. Notification of Deemed Planning Consent Notice 34.1 The power pursuant to clause 6 of the State Planning Commission Practice Direction 12 – Conditions Consent (PD12), where a person has issued a Deemed Planning Consent Notice (the Notice) to the relevant authority pursuant to Section 125(2) of the PDI Act, to upon receipt of the Notice, provide a copy of the Notice to: 34.1.1any other relevant authority that has given or is considering another development authorisation relating to the same development; and 34.1.2if the application was referred to a prescribed body under Section 122 of the PDI Act – to that prescribed body or bodies; and 34.1.3if the owner of land to which the application related is not a party to the application – to the owner of the land; and 34.1.4if any person has made a representation to the relevant authority in respect of the proposed development – to that person or persons; and 34.1.5in the case of restricted development, the Environment, Resources and Development Court.	
736956	State Planning Commission Practice Direction 18 Outline Consent	cl5(1)(b)	63. Circumstances in Which Outline Consent May be Granted 36.1The power pursuant to clause 5(1)(b) of the State Planning Commission Practice Direction 18 Outline Consent (PD18) to provide advice to an applicant that if the application were to be for planning consent, the council would request the Minister to give notice under Section 94(1)(g) of the PDI Act.	

LIQUOR LICENSING ACT 1997

CHANGED PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
460317	Liquor Licensing Act 1997	section 106(2)(b)	Lodge a complaint under section 106(1) regarding unduly offensive, annoying~~, disturbing~~ or ~~inconvenient activity~~disturbing, noise or behaviour ~~relating~~from persons at or making their way to or from, or entertainment at, licensed premises		council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1999

CHANGED PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Delegate	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
822914	Local Government Act 1999	section 55B~~(6~~(5)	Apply to SACAT for an order disqualifying a member of the council from the office of member under the Local Government Act		Not to be sub-delegated.	council

LOCAL NUISANCE AND LITTER CONTROL ACT 2016

NEW PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
853153	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(2a)	Waive requirement to provide site nuisance management plan if satisfied anticipated adverse effects: •are not reasonably able to be avoided; and •are of limited nature and to form that opinion and be so satisfied		council
853154	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(3)	Be satisfied applicant's site nuisance management plan sets out measures to prevent, minimise or address anticipated adverse effects		council
853155	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(4a)	Extend period for which a declaration under section 19 operates		council
853156	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(4b)(a)	Determine manner and form of application for extension of a declaration under section 19		council
853157	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(4b)(c)	Require any information in connection with an application		council

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
853158	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(6)(a)	Determine: •date declaration under section 19 has effect from; and •period declaration under section 19 remains in force		council
853159	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(6)(b)	Revoke a declaration under section 19		council
853160	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	Section 22A(1)	Require a person to pay council's reasonable costs and expenses in taking action to clean up litter from a public place		council
853161	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 22A(2)	Include costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the council in taking samples or in conducting tests, examinations, monitoring or analysis		council
853162	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 22A(3)	Specify in a note under section 22A period within which amount is to be paid to the council		council
853163	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 22A(4)	Recover amount payable to the council as a debt		council
853164	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act	section 30(2)	Include in a notice under section 30 the specified matters and/or requirements		council

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
	2016				
853165	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30(2b)	Require a plan of action to include the specified matters and/or requirements		council
853166	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30(2c)	Include in a notice requiring a plan of action under section 30 that person comply with requirement to satisfaction of the council and to form the opinion and be satisfied the requirements have been complied with		council
853167	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30(8)(a)	Vary or revoke a notice issued under section 30 on application of person to whom notice issued if satisfied appropriate in the circumstances and to form that opinion and be so satisfied		council
853168	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30(8)(b)	Vary or revoke a notice issued under section 30 on own initiative		council
853169	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30(8a)(b)	Determine requirements regarding manner and form of application under section 30(8)(a) and information to be included		council
853170	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30A(1)	Apply to Registrar-General for registration of nuisance abatement notice		relevant authority

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
853171	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30A(4)	Provide to the Registrar-General notice of any variation to a notice registered under section 30A		relevant authority
853172	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30A(7)	Apply to the Registrar-General to cancel the registration of a notice		relevant authority
853173	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30A(8)	Apply to the Registrar-General to cancel the registration of a notice in the specified circumstances.		relevant authority
853174	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30A(9)	Notify an owner or occupier of the relevant land in writing if: •notice is registered under Section 30A(3); •a notice of the variation of a notice is registered under section 30A(4); the cancellation of the registration of a notice		relevant authority
853175	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 31(8)	Sell or dispose of litter or a substance, material or thing removed from premises under section 31		council
853176	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 31(9)	Apply proceeds of sale in order specified		council

CHANGED PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
460970	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(6)	Specify~~a date of expiry~~ in a declaration under section 19 date declaration has effect from and period it remains in force		council
460971	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 19(7)	Publish a declaration under section 19 or any variations or extensions to a declaration on a website determined by the council		council

DELETED PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
460980	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 30(8)	Vary or revoke a notice issued under section 30		council
460995	Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016	section 40	Require a person required by or under the Act to provide information to the council to verify the information by statutory declaration		council

SUPPORTED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES ACT 1992

DELETED PROVISIONS

#	Delegation Source	Provision	Item Delegated	Conditions & Limitations	Capacity of Council
461282	Supported Residential Facilities Act 1992	section 9(1)(c)	Undertake other functions assigned to the council by the Supported Residential Facilities Act		council

DEBATE REPORT

7.2 Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation

7.2.1 EVENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM 2026/27

Author: Senior Manager Economic Activation and Strategy
26/49164

PURPOSE

This report relates to the allocation of funding through Council's new Event Sponsorship Program, for events being held throughout the 2026/27 financial year.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(1) Endorse the recommendation to allocate funding to events as provided in Table 1 of this report (below) in response to applications made to the 2026/27 Event Funding Program.

(2) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to distribute residual unspent funds from the Event Funding Program.

REPORT

Background
At its Ordinary Council Meeting of 28 January 2025, Council approved a temporary pause of the Community Assistance Scheme (CAS) which was the mechanism by which community groups and organisations could access Council assistance through funding to support community led initiatives, including events.

With the commencement of the Economic Activation and Strategy business unit, whose remit includes event attraction and delivery, the opportunity has been identified that the Events team are in the best position to provide a centralised experience for event organisers and community groups in the coordination of events, including: the provision of event-based compliance advice and event approvals, Council facility and site bookings advice, coordination of required logistics for events as well as the coordination of any funding programs to assist event organisers to deliver their events successfully.

At its Ordinary Council Meeting of 19 May 2026, Council approved a new Event Sponsorship Framework (refer Attachment 1) and allocated $30,000 from the existing 2026/27 operational budget to fund events hosted during the financial year.

Council's Community Development team will continue to manage other Council funding initiatives implemented to replace the CAS program under reforms being developed by that group.

Introduction
Following Council's endorsement of the Framework, Council officers launched the Event Sponsorship Program for the 2026/27 financial year. The Program was promoted across social media, Council's website, media release, via Barossa Australia membership e-mails, direct e-mail to existing event organisers and via other agency avenues.

Applications closed on 30 June 2026, with a total of 31 applications being received and a total of $137,200 in financial sponsorship requested. Additional to financial requests, other services delivered by Council directly were also requested such as provision of traffic management and waste management services.

Discussion
To assess applications received, an assessment panel was formed, made up of three Council Officers:

- two officers from the Economic Activation and Strategy Team, and
- one officer from the Community Development Team.

No Conflicts of Interest were declared by any of the assessment panel members.

Assessment panel members were asked to individually assess each application against eligibility and assessment criteria as provided in the Event Sponsorship Framework.

The assessment panel then came together to discuss and agree on:

- Events to be recommended to receive funding support;
- The level of financial support/funding support recommended for those events (*Table 1 below*); and
- Events not recommended to receive funding support (*Table 2 below*).

Recommendations made by the assessment panel were then reviewed by Council's Executive Leadership Team.

Note: Council has historically provided in-kind services to many existing events. In-kind services have been requested by those existing events in their funding applications. Other events, including new events have requested in-kind services. These estimated costs have been captured in the tables below.

Table 1 – Event Funding Recommendations

Event Organiser	Event	Tier Level Applied	Tier Level Agreed	Financial Support Requested	Financial Support Recommended	Comments
Angaston Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Society	The Angaston Show	Tier 2	Tier 2	$5,000	$2,000	Existing Event: Estimated additional $2,000 provided to the event in-kind for logistics (inc waste management and facility cleaning)
Angaston Community Business Alliance	Angaston Christmas Parade	Tier 2	Tier 2	$5,000	$4,000	Existing Event: Estimated additional $3,300

						provided to the event in-kind for logistics (inc road closures, waste management, facilities cleaning)
Barossa & District Pipe Band	Winter Flame 2027	Tier 2	Tier 2	$5,000	$1,000	Existing Event: Estimated additional $2,000 provided to the event in-kind for logistics (inc road closures, waived facility hire fee, waste management)
Barossa Christmas Parade	Barossa Christmas Parade	Tier 2	Tier 2	$5,000	$4,000	Existing Event: Estimated additional $3,300 provided to the event in-kind for logistics (inc road closures, waste management facilities cleaning)
Barossa Farmers Market	The Barossa Food Loop – Monthly Cooking Demo	Tier 2	Tier 2	$4,800	$2,500	Nil in-kind support requested
Barossa German Language Assoc, Inc	Barossa Konzert 2026	Tier 3	Tier 3	$2,000	$1,000	New Event: Request for waive of hall hire fee ($200)
Barossa Outdoors	The Big Paddle – Warren Reservoir Floatfest	Tier 2	Tier 2	$3,500	$1,000	New Event: Request for additional waste management services $250
Barossa Rodeo	Barossa Rodeo	Tier 2	Tier 2	$4,500	$1,500	Nil in-kind support requested
Menglers Peak Distillery	Cocktail Crayz at the Square	Tier 2	Tier 2	$3,000	$500	New Event: Request for waive of venue hire fees and additional waste management $500
Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade and Street Party	Mount Pleasant Christmas Parade and Street Party	Tier 3	Tier 3	$2,000	$2,000	Existing Event: Estimated additional $3,300 provided to the event in-kind for logistics (inc road closures, waste management,

						facilities cleaning)
Mount Pleasant Farmers Market	SA Spring Garden Festival	Tier 2	Tier 2	$5,000	$2,000	Nil in-kind support requested
Mount Pleasant Progress Association	*Foundation Stone Centenary Day; *24hr Theatre Challenge; *Square and Bush Dance; Centenary Final Event; *Slava Grigoryan Classical Occasion	Tier 1 & 2	Tier 3	$23,250	$500	New Event: Request for waive of facility hire fee and additional waste management, $1,250 (across 4 events)
Mount McKenzie Hall Inc	Hall Centenary Celebrations (1926-2026)	Tier 3	Tier 3	$2,000	$500	New Event: Request for waste management $250
Southern Barossa Alliance	Lyndoch Xmas Street Party	Tier 2	Tier 2	$6,000	$4,000	Existing Event: Estimated additional $3,300 provided to the event in-kind for logistics (inc road closures, waste management facilities cleaning)
Total Funding Recommended					**$26,500**	**Approx $19,650 in logistics support**

Table 2 – Events not recommended for funding or could be redirected to other sources of funding.

Event Organiser	Event	Funding Requested	Comments
Bayside Harley Owners Group (HOG) Chapter Inc	SA State HOG Rally	$10,000	New Event (one off): No clear demonstration wider economic or community benefit aligning with Council's strategic objectives.
Community Helpers Inc	Community Helpers Barossa Community Thrift Market	$10,000	New Event: Limited evidence to demonstrate broader economic outcomes. The event cannot run without achieving full amount of funding requested. Further (unknown level) logistical support also required of Council. Could offer logistical support if the event organisers can source other funding sources.
Corryton Burge	Golden Griffin Night Market	$5,000	Existing Event: The event is held on commercial premises and demonstrates the capacity to

			operate independently through ticket sales and/or other commercial revenue streams.
ENHANCE Barossa Mental Health Inc	Cabaret for Mental Health	$5,000	New Event: The event is able to proceed without Council financial support. An in-kind contribution, including waived hall hire and waste management services, may be more appropriate. Referral to the Community Development team should also be considered.
KG Event Management	Barossa Bakers Brunch (part of Vintage Festival)	$5,000	New Event: The application provides insufficient budget detail to justify the requested funding. Based on the information provided, the event appears to have estimated costs of approximately $1,500, making the request for $5,000 difficult to assess.
Kies Family Wines	Gather in the Barossa 2027	$10,000	Existing Event: Gather Round in the Barossa has not been confirmed for 2027. If Gather Round returns, this event would be considered for funding as part of the Live and Local in Lyndoch program.
Kies Family Wines	Saturday at Sunset – Barossa Twilight Music Series	$7,500	Existing Event: The event is held on commercial premises and demonstrates the capacity to operate independently through ticket sales and/or other commercial revenue streams.
Kies Family Wines	Christmas at Sunset	$2,000	Existing Event: The event is held on commercial premises and demonstrates the capacity to operate independently through ticket sales and/or other commercial revenue streams.
Kies Family Wines	German High Tea Series	$3,500	Existing Event: The event is held on commercial premises and demonstrates the capacity to operate independently through ticket sales and/or other commercial revenue streams.
Kies Family Wines	Father's Day German Fest	$2,000	New Event: The event is held on commercial premises and demonstrates the capacity to operate independently through ticket sales and/or other commercial revenue streams

Mount Pleasant Progress Association	Australia Day Breakfast	$650	Fund through Council's Australia Day Budget
The Tony Kuchel Skin Cancer Foundation	Tony Kuchel Memorial Round Up	$2,000	Existing Event: The event is able to proceed without Council financial support. An in-kind contribution, including providing traffic management and waste management services, may be more appropriate. Referral to the Community Development team should also be considered.

Summary and Conclusion

The total funding pool for the Event Sponsorship Program for 2026/27 financial year is $30,000. As a result of the number of applications received and the level of funding requested, the program this year was highly competitive.

A total of 31 applications were received for the Event Funding Program for the 2026/27 financial year with a total financial request of $137,200.

It is recommended that 17 events receive financial support as well as in-kin support as outlined in Table 1, above. Total finance support recommended across the 17 events is $26,500. This amount is included in the 2026/27 operation budget. It is further recommended that the Mount Pleasant Progress Association Australia Day event is funded through funded via an existing alternate budget line for the Australia Day event held in Tanunda each year.

Upon Council endorsement of the recommendations made:

- Council officers will prepare Event Sponsorship Agreements which will outline terms and conditions for the use of funds as well as reporting/acquittal of fund requirements;
- Council officers will provide feedback to unsuccessful events and offer alternative funding programs that may be available.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Event Sponsorship Framework ⇩

Supporting references

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan

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

Strategic Outcome

- We are a destination of choice.
- We look to maximize community economic return.

- We partner with and support local business.
- We strive to support income and job stability and growth for the future in support of quality-of-life outcomes.

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 Events Sponsorship Program provides direct benefits to the community in providing a transparent framework to seek financial support for events to ensure the sustainability and success of events across the Council area that foster participation, align with Council's strategic objectives across community wellbeing, cultural vitality, economic development, environmental sustainability and capacity building, and bring visitors to the region.

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.

Environmental sustainability measures have been embedded in the Events Sponsorship Framework and broader event management program.

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 program is proposed to be funded within existing annual operating budget provisions for events within the Economic Activation and Strategy business unit.

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.

N/A

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.

The 2026/27 Event Sponsorship Program increases transparency, equity and parity in the provision of financial support to event organisers, including community groups who have historically had unclear or uncertain access to funding support for town-based events on an ongoing basis. It is anticipated that the annual Event Sponsorship Program will improve relationships, trust and overall event success by coordinating financial assistance early in the event planning cycle.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

After Council endorsement of the Event Sponsorship Framework at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 19 May 2026, Council Officers commenced the rolling out of the Event Sponsorship Program for 2026/27 financial year. The program was communicated by direct e-mail to existing event organisers, media release, social media promotion, e-newsletters including the Visitor Economy and Events, Economic Development and Barossa Australia newsletters.

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Events Sponsorship Framework

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1. Introduction

Purpose

This document sets out The Barossa Council's clear approach and process when considering providing financial sponsorship to events. Any financial assistance considered by Council will be for events that align strongly with Council strategic plans and directions (see below).

The Barossa Council is committed to supporting and hosting events that align with community well-being outcomes, promote inclusivity, and celebrate connection while furthering economic growth and sustainability.

Scope

Applicable to any event organiser seeking financial support from The Barossa Council.

Atop of any financial assistance that Council may provide to support events, it should be noted that Council also usually provides "in-kind" services, where required of the event, such as road closure management and advertising, waste services and event promotion.

2. Definitions

- **Event:** A planned occurrence that has a specific purpose and is aimed at a defined target audience
- **Sponsorship:** Financial support provided by Council
- **In-Kind:** Support services provided by Council for the event (e.g. promotional services, waste management).
- **Sponsorship Agreement:** The Agreement between Council and the Event Organiser which sets out financial sponsorship being provided by Council for the event and the conditions of which the support is provided.

3. Strategic Alignment & Objectives

Events seeking financial sponsorship must clearly align with one or more of the following:

- Strategic outcomes of the "Barossa Community Plan 2024-2044".
- Strategic outcomes of the "Local Economic Development Plan 2022-2027", and works alongside the 'Wellbeing and Inclusion Strategy 2026-2030' (subject to Council adoption)

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4. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be legally registered entities with an ABN.
- Hold current Public Liability Insurance ($20M+ coverage) at the time of the event.
- Clearly demonstrate alignment with Council objectives and outcomes.
- Demonstrate capacity and experience to deliver the event successfully.
- Have no outstanding compliance issues or debts with Council.
- An unincorporated organisation must be auspiced by an incorporated organisation

5. Ineligible Events

Council sponsorship will not support events or groups:

- Direct promotion of political, religious, gambling, or tobacco interests
- Involved in activities harmful to public health, environment, or ethical standards.
- That cannot demonstrate benefit to the broader community.
- Applicants who have not satisfactorily acquitted previous Council grants or who have outstanding debts to Council or who are subject to legal action.
- Events that have already been held.
- Events being held outside of The Barossa Council local government area.

6. Financial Sponsorship Funding Structure

Tier	Financial Sponsorship	Typical Event Scale
Significant Event	$10,000 +	Events are of international, national or state significance. Likely to significantly impact the local economy (including driving high-level overnight visitation/length of stay in region) and positive social impact on local communities.
Tier 1: Major Events	$5,001–$10,000	Events are of state or regional significance and are likely to make high level positive impact on the local economy (including driving overnight visitation) and provide positive social impact on local communities.
Tier 2: Community Events	$2,001- $5,000	Events are of regional or local significance and are likely to provide positive impact on the local economy but likely to provide higher level positive social impact on local communities.
Tier 3: Small Local Events	Up to $2,000	Events are of local significance. Small community events.

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7. Application & Assessment Process

Application Steps (annually, indicative)

1. **Round opens:** End of May.
2. **Applications close:** By end of June.
3. **Eligibility check:** Council officers to ensure applications are compliant with eligibility criteria.
4. **Assessment:** Council officers from Economic Development Activation and Strategy and Community Development teams.
5. **Recommendations and endorsement of Council:** Council report with recommendations presented at the August Ordinary Council meeting.
6. **Notification:** event organisers notified of outcomes of Council meeting August.
7. **Sponsorship Agreement:** sponsorship agreements issued to event organisers August.

Funding Application Form

Please submit your application by completing the online form.

The funding application form is made up of eight sections as follows:

1. Applicant Details
2. Event Overview
3. Strategic Alignment
    a. Community Wellbeing
    b. Cultural Vitality
    c. Economic Impact
    d. Environmental Sustainability
    e. Capacity Building
4. Funding Request
    a. Cash
    b. In-kind
5. Event Marketing
    a. Council acknowledgement
    b. Marketing plan (required for Significant, Tier 1 & 2 events)
6. Event Management
    a. Event Management Plan (required for Significant, Tier 1 & 2 events)
7. Event Budget
    a. Detailed budget
    b. Financial statement (starting balance)
    c. Other confirmed Funding or sponsorship
    d. Volunteer Hours
8. Declaration & Attachments
    a. Attach: Event Management Plan
    b. Attach: Budget
    c. Attach: Marketing Plan

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Assessment Criteria & Weightings (Detailed):

Information contained within your Funding Application and supporting documentation will be assessed against the criteria below.

Criteria	Weight (%)	Key questions for assessment
Strategic Alignment & Objectives	40%	Does the event clearly align with Council strategic directions and objectives?
Community Benefit & Inclusivity	30%	Does the event enhance community participation, diversity, and inclusion?
Capability & Experience	20%	Can the applicant deliver the event successfully based on experience and capability?
Financial Viability & Value	10%	Is the budget realistic, and does the event provide value for money?

8. Sponsorship funding Payments

Significant, Tier 1, and Tier 2 events

Payment of financial sponsorship to approved Significant, Tier 1, and Tier 2 events will be as follows:

50% funding available to applicants on:

- Submission of Event Application with supporting documents as required
- Event Sponsorship Agreement as been returned to Council signed by the event organiser.

Applicant to provide a tax invoice for the first payment to Council after the agreement is signed and the Event Application has been submitted with all relevant supporting documentation.

Balance 50% funding available to applicants on:

- delivery of event; and
- completion of event acquittal documentation (this must be within 30 days of completion of the event).

The second invoice should be submitted after the event has been delivered along with a Post Event Evaluation and Acquittal report. This invoice will be processed once the Post Event Evaluation and Acquittal form is satisfactorily completed (assessed by the Visitor Economy & Events team) and any outstanding payments to Council have been settled.

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Tier 3 Events

Payment of sponsorship funding to approved Tier 3 events will be as follows

100% funding available to applicants on:

- Submission of Event Application with supporting documents as required.
- Event Sponsorship Agreement has been returned to Council signed by the event organiser.

Applicant to provide a tax invoice for the first payment to Council after the agreement is signed and the Event Application has been submitted with all relevant supporting documentation.

9. General Terms & Conditions

- Applicants must apply through the online application form.
- Additional information must be provided to Council as and when requested and will not be accepted after the event funding round is closed.
- Successful applicants will be required to complete a Funding Agreement within the term specified. Failure to meet the conditions of the Funding Agreement will void the agreement.
- All funding must be used for the purpose as outlined in the application.
- To vary the purpose for the funds, written permission must first be obtained from Council.
- Any funding not expended by the event must be returned to Council.
- Any event that does not occur for any reason is terminated, or cannot be completed, or the event organiser becomes insolvent, may not be entitled to any or all of the funding allocation.
- The support provided by Council must be acknowledged in all publications, materials, media releases, announcements and activities relating to the event.
- Successful organisations agree to the Council using information from their event in its Annual Report and other Council publications.
- Applicants must indicate and be transparent of all other sources of funding they have sought, are seeking and/or have received in relation to the event in their budget.
- Any Council services provided to events that is over and above what has been agreed to by Council at the time of event approval (eg excessive waste removal, additional amenity cleans, site remediation fees), will be on-charged to the event organiser.

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10. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

Sponsored events are required to submit a post-event acquittal report (within 1-month post-event):

- Attendance & demographic information.
- Actual outcomes measured against initial objectives.
- Promotional acknowledgment evidence (photos, media coverage).
- Simplified financial acquittal (budgeted vs actual).
- Tier 3 events may provide a brief summary

11. Ethical & Compliance Standards

- All events must adhere to Council's ethical guidelines and legal requirements.
- Explicit prohibition on events promoting tobacco, gambling, unethical practices.
- Conflict-of-interest declarations required with applications.

12. Sustainability Expectations

Events must demonstrate commitment to sustainability:

- Waste minimisation and recycling.
- Use of sustainable and locally sourced products.
- Compliance with Council's sustainability objectives.

13. Transparency & Accountability

- Sponsorship allocations, decisions, and outcomes publicly disclosed via Council website, Annual Report, and meeting minutes.

14. Document Governance & Review

- Reviewed every four years or sooner if Council requirements change.
- Responsible officer clearly identified for queries and management (aligned with Event Management Lead).

Document Appendices:

- **Appendix A:** Sponsorship Application Form Template
- **Appendix B:** Assessment Rubric Template.
- **Appendix C:** Post-Event Report Template.
- **Appendix D:** Conflict of Interest Declaration Form.

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DEBATE REPORT

7.2 Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation

7.2.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PROCESS

Author: Team Leader Communications and Marketing
26/51462

PURPOSE

To endorse the new Community Engagement Policy, Process and Framework, following community consultation, and ensure Council meets legislative requirements by aligning this new policy and process with the Community Engagement Charter.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the new Community Engagement Policy and supporting Community Engagement Process and Framework as per Attachments 1-3, which will replace the existing Public Consultation Policy.

REPORT

Background
Council first adopted its Public Consultation Policy in March 2010. Since this time, the Policy has been updated and revised to align with changes as required of the *Local Government (Accountability and Governance) Amendment Act 2015*.

In December 2025, the South Australian Government introduced a new Community Engagement Charter that sets updated requirements for how councils engage with their communities.

As per legislative requirements, Council endorsed the draft Community Engagement Policy, Process and Framework for community consultation at its 16 June 2026 meeting, noting the new policy must be adopted before 11 September 2026.

Introduction
Under the *Local Government Act 1999* (the Act) Council is required to maintain a Community Engagement Policy. Under transitional regulations in South Australia, Council must adopt a new Community Engagement Policy that aligns with the Minister's Community Engagement Charter within nine months of 11 December 2025.

The new Charter replaces the previous Public Consultation requirements in the Act and introduces a clearer, tiered approach to community engagement.

Discussion
The Community Engagement Policy (Attachment 1) and supporting Process (Attachment 2) will replace Council's existing Public Consultation Policy and provide a clear framework to guide how Council plans, undertakes and communicates community engagement activities. The framework is summarised at Attachment 3.

Aligned with the new Community Engagement Charter, the Policy and Process introduce a clearer, tiered approach to community engagement, recognising that the level of engagement should reflect the significance and impact of decisions. The Policy and Process outline:

- Council's formal commitments, statutory obligations and minimum standards for engaging with the community
- The level of engagement required based on the significance and impact of decisions
- The methods and channels Council will use to undertake community engagement
- Roles and responsibilities for planning and delivering engagement
- How feedback will be considered and communicated back to the community.

As per legislative requirements, Council was required to consult with community throughout the Council area and consider feedback received before formally endorsing the new Community Engagement Policy and supporting process. Two submissions were received during the consultation period and were considered, but neither identified issues affecting the policy or process.

Summary and Conclusion:
The Community Engagement Policy, Process and Framework are presented to Council for endorsement following consultation with the community. During the consultation period, two submissions were received. These were considered but did not identify any issues affecting the policy or process, and no amendments to the document were made as a result. The new policy will replace Council's existing Public Consultation Policy.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Community Engagement Policy
Attachment 2 Community Engagement Process 2026
Attachment 3 Community Engagement Framework
Attachment 4 Community Engagement Policy - Feedback

Supporting references

Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

BS3 Communications and Engagement - Management of media, social media, digital communications, branding and strategy, special projects, grants and research, corporate publications, community engagement and events.

Legislative Requirements
The South Australian Government Gazette – 11 December 2025 No 71 p.4898

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.

Engagement costs vary depending on the tools used

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.

The Policy and Process clearly demonstrate Council's commitment to engaging with the community and considering their views as part of its decision making process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Consultation was undertaken with the Barossa community from 1 July to 29 July 2026 utilising several channels including Council's website, social media platforms and local newspapers. Two submissions were received as part of the consultation process. Neither raised matters that impacted the policy or process and no changes to the documents were required as a result.

Community Engagement Policy

TheBarossaCouncil

1. Document control

Policy Number:	*13/16094*	**Council Resolution Number:**	
Document Owner:	*Director Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation*	**Document Author:**	*Senior Manager Economic Activation and Strategy*
Approval Date		**Next Review Date:**	

2. Statement of Intent

2.1. The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that The Barossa Council (Council) meets its legislative obligations under section 50A of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter (the Charter) published in the South Australia Government Gazette on 11 December 2025, regarding public consultation by:

2.1.1 Meeting the requirements set out in the Act and the Charter.

2.1.2 Using appropriate and cost-effective engagement methods which are relevant to the specific circumstances of each decision, activity or process.

2.1.3 Providing for appropriate participation by the local community, key stakeholders and interested parties.

2.1.4 Using feedback to enhance decision making.

2.1.5 Providing information on the reasons for decisions or actions of Council, where reasonable and appropriate.

2.2. This policy is a statement of Council's general position in relation to community engagement (public consultation), as required under the Act and the Charter.

3. Policy Statement

3.1. Council is committed to open, accountable, and responsive decision making, which is informed by effective communication and engagement between Council and the community. Including communities in decision-making processes is important to the successful development of appropriate and informed decisions and policies by Council.

3.2. Council's community includes people who live, work, study, own property, conduct private or government business, visit or use the services, facilities and public spaces and places of Council. Council recognises that a community may be a geographic location (community of place), a community of similar interest (community of interest) or a community of affiliation, practice or identity (such as industry or sporting clubs).

3.3. The preparation and adoption of this policy fulfil Council's obligations under section 50(A) of the Act. The following principles in the Charter have been considered in the preparation of this policy:

3.3.1 Community members should have reasonable, timely, meaningful and ongoing opportunities to gain access to information about proposed decisions, activities, processes of and to participate in relevant processes;

3.3.2 Information about issues should be in plain language, readily accessible and in a form that facilitates community participation;

3.3.3 Participation methods should seek to foster and encourage constructive dialogue, discussion and debate in relation to proposed decisions, activities and processes of councils;

3.3.4 Participation methods should be appropriate having regard to the significance and likely impact of proposed decisions, activities and processes; and

3.3.5 In so far as is reasonable, communities should be provided with information about how community views have been taken into account and reasons for decisions or actions of Council.

3.4. When required Council will undertake public consultation in accordance with mandatory requirements as detailed within the Act, the Charter and this policy.

3.5. Council may, in its absolute discretion, determine in relation to a matter for which it is required by the Act and/or the Charter to follow its community engagement policy, to undertake a step or steps in addition to those set out in this policy. However, council is not required to consider and/or determine whether or not to undertake any additional step or steps in relation to such a matter before taking any action or making any decision in relation to such a matter.

3.6. **Public Consultation Categories**

3.6.1 The Charter addresses minimum mandatory community engagement activities for matters where the Act requires public consultation to be undertaken.

3.6.2 The Charter establishes different categories of consultation for matters, as follows:

- **Significant – Annual business plan and rating policy**
  - Adopting an Annual Business Plan - section 123(3)(b)
  - Changes to basis of rating, declaring differential rates, imposing a separate rate, service rate or service charge, or changing the basis on which land is valued for the purpose of rating - section 151(5)(e)
- **Significant**
  - Representation reviews - section 12(7)
  - Development and review of Strategic Management Plans - section 122(6)
  - Changes to use of differential rating - section 156(4a)(b)
  - Revocation of classification of land as community land - sections 194(2)(b)
  - Community Land Management Plans - adoption - section 197(1)
  - Community Land Management Plans – significant amendments - section 198(3)
  - Alienation of community land by lease or license - section 202(2)
  - Making bylaws (section 249)
- **Standard**
  - Substantial changes to opening hours and place of principal office - section 45(3)
  - Community Engagement Policy - section 50A(6)(b)
  - Council behavioural support policies - section 75F(6)
  - Access to meetings and documents - section 92(5)

- Power to make orders - section 259(2)(b)

- **Local**
  - Proposed permit or authorisation for alteration or use of a road for business purposes when there are works and traffic impeded for more than 48 hours (with a detour in place) or where no detour will be available - section 223(1)
  - Proposed planting of vegetation on a road – significant impact - section 232(b)

- **Inform**
  - Minor changes to opening hours and place of principal office - section 45(3)
  - Proposed permit or authorisation for alteration or use of a road for business purposes when there are works and traffic impeded for less than 48 hours and the Council ensures that a detour is in place - section 223(1)
  - Election information - section 13A (2) of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*

3.7. The table in Part 4 of the Community Engagement Process sets out the engagement activities that Council will undertake to meet the requirements of each matter for which public consultation must be undertaken in accordance with the Act and the Charter

3.8. Council recognises there may be decisions, activities and processes where the Act and Charter are silent in relation to community engagement, but for which community engagement may nevertheless be appropriate.

4. Scope

4.1. This policy applies to Elected Members sitting as the Elected Body, Council Employees, contractors, agents, and consultants acting on behalf of Council.

4.2. This policy applies to decisions, activities and processes undertaken by the Council, a delegate of the Council or a person exercising power on the Council's behalf, where public consultation is required to be undertaken in accordance with the Act, the Charter, or this policy. A reference in this policy to 'Council' includes a reference to a delegate or other person exercising power on the Council's behalf.

4.3. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the implementation of this Policy, establishing the consultation level, reporting outcomes of the consultations to Council, reviewing the Policy, and determining elements within the supporting process.

4.4. This policy does not apply where the Council is exercising powers and functions under any other Act. Where there are consultation requirements under other legislation, e.g. the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, those specific processes take precedence over this policy.

4.5. This policy excludes:

4.5.1 Non-legislated community engagement.

4.5.2 Internal engagement with staff, which is managed through separate organisational policies and processes.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. Specific engagement activities to be undertaken in relation to any particular decision, activity or processes shall be determined on a case-by-case basis, by:

5.1.1 Council, by resolution;

5.1.2 the CEO;

5.1.3 a delegate with the power to undertake community engagement under the Act, the Charter or this policy; or

5.1.4 a delegate with power to make a decision or undertake an activity or process that requires community engagement under the Act, the Charter or this policy.

5.2. Council, the CEO or a delegate is not required by this policy to undertake, or to consider or determine whether to undertake, additional engagement activities or engagement methods. Such a decision is at the absolute discretion of the decision maker.

6. Legislation and References

Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999*, section 50 and 50A
- Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter
- Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 Section 13A

Supporting Documents

- The Barossa Council's Community Engagement Process
- The Barossa Council's Community Engagement Promise
- Local Government Association's Community Engagement Handbook

Related Policies

- Internal Review of Council Decisions Policy

7. Definitions

Act	*Local Government Act 1999)*
Charter	The Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter, published in the South Australia Government Gazette on 11 December 2025.
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	means the Chief Executive Officer of a council and includes a Deputy or other person acting in the office of Chief Executive Officer.
Community	includes ratepayers, residents and service specific customers (i.e. internal staff as customers, program participants etc.).
Community Engagement	See consultation.
Consultation	involves the sharing of information and the exchange of views between employers and the persons or bodies that must be consulted and the genuine opportunity for them to contribute effectively to any decision-making process to eliminate or control risks to health or safety. The extent and nature of the consultation will vary between workplaces and the different situations.
Council	The Barossa Council in its entirety as an organisation.
Public	includes all people who live, work, study, own property, conduct private or government business, visit or use the services, facilities and public spaces and places of The Barossa Council.

8. Version History

This Policy will be reviewed by the Policy Author in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within four years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

Version No.	Date.	Summary of Changes
1	16/03/2010	New Policy
2	16/04/2013	Policy was significantly updated to provide details of requirements and occasions when Council must follow its Policy and where there are specific alternate processes.
3	26/09/2016	Significant re-work of policy due to amendments from the Local Government (Accountability and Governance) Amendment Act 2015.
4	19/05/2020	Policy updated to incorporate the Public Access and Public Consultation Notice (No 2) 2020, issued by the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government pursuant to section 302B of the Local Government Act 1999 in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
5	19/07/2022	Removal of COVID-19 Pandemic legislative changes no longer applicable from 21 June 2022.
6	28/01/2025	Updated template with minor formatting and grammatical changes.
7		Transferred to new corporate template. Added responsibilities section. Alignment to new legislated Community Engagement Charter. Significant rework of the policy to align with the Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter under the *Local Government Act 1999* Retitled Policy

9. Further Information

This Policy is available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au. It can also be viewed electronically at Council's principal office at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa during ordinary business hours. A printed copy of this Policy can be obtained upon payment of a fixed fee.

Feedback regarding this Policy or its application can be made to the Customer Service Team on 8563 8444 or barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au in first instance, who will refer you to the most appropriate officer.

Community Engagement Process

TheBarossaCouncil

1. Document control

Process Number:	*CD/26/11*	**Council Resolution Number:**	
Document Owner:	*Director Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation*	**Document Author:**	*Senior Manager Economic Activation and Strategy*
Approval Date		**Next Review Date:**	

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this process is to outline Council's compliance with the Community Engagement Policy.

3. Scope

3.1. This process outlines how Council will engage with the community, ensuring engagement activities are community centric, accessible, inclusive and undertaken in a transparent and genuine manner.

3.2. Where Council is required under the Act to engage with the community Council will comply with the minimum mandatory requirements for each category of matters set out in the Charter.

4. Process

4.1. The Community Engagement Policy and Charter establish five categories of engagement, each reflecting the significance of the decision and the level of community interest it is likely to generate. These categories are:

4.1.1. **Significant (Annual Budget and Business Plan & Rating Policy)**: decisions related to Council's adoption of its annual business plan or proposed changes to the basis of Council rates.

4.1.2. **Significant:** decisions that Council makes that have a significant impact on most or all ratepayers and residents, or the wider community or area.

4.1.3. **Standard:** decisions that Council makes that benefit from community input across the Council area.

4.1.4. **Local:** decisions that impact on identifiable smaller group of residents/ratepayers or a local area.

4.1.5. **Inform:** matters where Council provides information to a community impacted by a decision.

4.2. The following table sets out the engagement activities that Council will undertake to meet the public consultation requirements in the Act and Charter.

4.3. In circumstances where more than one engagement activity is specified, there is no obligation on Council to utilise all engagement activities in respect of each Charter requirement.

4.4. The examples provided in the table and non-exhaustive and Council may, but is under no obligation to, use different approaches that are not specified in the table, depending on the matter Council is engaging on.

Mandatory community engagement requirements

Charter requirement	Mandatory minimum actions to achieve Charter requirement	Charter Category					Engagement activities
		Significant ABP and Rating Policy	Significant	Standard	Local	Inform	
Website	Publish information about the matter that can be easily found on a Council website.	X	X	X	X	X	Information will be published on Council's website
News publication	Publish information about the matter in a local news publication (print where available, but otherwise digital) that circulates in the Council area and is not produced by the Council.	X	X				Information published in a print or digital newspaper, community newsletter or other (non-council) publication circulating in the area of Council
Consult with the whole Council area	Consider appropriate forms of notifications to the Council area. Consider whether additional information or notification should be made available to the community to bring their attention to the matter and to support participation.	X	X	X			• Information published on Council's website • Information published on a Council owned social media platform • Information made available at Council Office, branch offices and libraries in Nuriootpa, Lyndoch and Mt Pleasant. • Advertisement published in local newspaper(s) • Consider if roadside and/or site specific signage is suitable for this engagement. • Information published in a print or digital newspaper, community newsletter or other (non-council) publication circulating in the area of Council • Information published in Council publications (either print or digital) where appropriate.
Invite submissions	Provide information about how the community can make a submission, including timeframe.	X	X				Engagement material provides information about how the community can make a submission, including the minimum 21-day timeframe for submissions. • Written submissions (email, online or letter) • Completion of a survey or feedback form (if appropriate) • Attendance at a Council or public meeting, workshop or community forum.

Charter requirement	Mandatory minimum actions to achieve Charter requirement	Charter Category					Engagement activities
		Significant ABP and Rating Policy	Significant	Standard	Local	Inform	
Explain decision making process	In material prepared explain what the Council proposes to do, why it proposes to do it, and what it seeks to achieve. Explain how community feedback will inform the Council's decision.	X	X				• Information published on a website maintained by Council • Information made available at Council Office, branch offices and libraries in Nuriootpa, Lyndoch and Mt Pleasant. • Consider information published on a social media platform maintained by Council
Seek and consider feedback from the community—significant matters	Consider how best to invite feedback from the community. Provide a minimum community engagement period of 21 days to enable the community to provide feedback. Include a summary of community engagement feedback to the Council ahead of the decision.	X	X				• Community Engagement period open for a minimum of 21 days. • Summary of community engagement feedback considered by Council ahead of decision Feedback from the community sought via: • Written submissions (email or letter) • Completion of survey or feedback form • Provision of an online response via social media • Attendance at a Council meeting or public meeting, workshop or community forum • Report presented to a Council meeting for consideration by Council members
Public Meeting	Hold a public meeting where the community is invited to provide submissions (written or verbal) on the matter. The public meeting may be part of a Council meeting or a separate event.	X					• A public meeting inviting the community to attend will be held either as part of a Council meeting, or as a separate event, to provide written or verbal submissions on the matter. The public meeting will be advertised: • via Council's website • on Council owned social media platform • Advertisement published in local newspaper(s)
Council meeting invitation	Invite people who have made a written submission to attend a Council meeting to speak to their		X				• People who made written submissions will be invited (via email or letter) to attend a

Charter requirement	Mandatory minimum actions to achieve Charter requirement	Charter Category					Engagement activities
		Significant ABP and Rating Policy	Significant	Standard	Local	Inform	
	submission before the decision is made.						Council meeting and speak to their submissions before a decision is made.
Seek and consider feedback from the community	Consider how best to invite feedback from the community Provide information about how community feedback will inform the Council's decision. Ensure an appropriate period of time is provided to enable communities to provide feedback.			X	X		Feedback will be invited by • Written submissions (email or letter) • Completion of a survey or feedback form • Provision of an online response via social media • Attendance in person, by representative or via electronic means at a Council meeting or public meeting • Report presented to a Council meeting for consideration by Council members • Information published indicates that feedback received will be taken into account by the Council before making a decision • Community Engagement period open for a period of 21 days or such other period as determined by Council
Consult with local community	Consider appropriate forms of notifications to the area within the Council affected by the Council decision or action. Consider whether additional information or notification should be made available to the local community to bring their attention to the matter and to support participation.				X		• Consider information published on a social media platform maintained by Council • Consider information published in targeted letters or leaflet drops to the area within the Council affected by the Council decision or action (as appropriate) • Consider information being made available at Council offices, libraries and/or community centers in the area within the Council affected by the council decision or action • Consider advertisement published in local newspaper within the council affected by the Council decision or action

Charter requirement	Mandatory minimum actions to achieve Charter requirement	Charter Category					Engagement activities
		Significant ABP and Rating Policy	Significant	Standard	Local	Inform	
							• Consider signage in local locations eg. shopping centres, libraries, community spaces • Consider pop-up/engagement sessions at a local venue or public space.
Information to the whole Council area	Provide information to the whole of the Council's community if it may be directly affected by the Council decision or action.					X	• Information published on Council's website • Consider information published on a social media platform maintained by Council • Information made available at Council offices, libraries • Consider advertisement in local newspapers • Consider information published in Council's corporate publications (print or digital)
Information to local community	Provide information to the local community that may be directly affected by the Council decision or action.					X	• Consider information published on a Council website • Consider information published on a social media platform maintained by Council • Consider information published in targeted letters or leaflet drops to local community that may be directly affected by the Council decision or action • Consider information made available at Council offices, libraries and/or community centers in the local community that may be directly affected by the Council decision or action • Consider signage in a local location eg. Reserve, shopping centre, library

4.5. The Council will provide opportunities through multiple techniques and channels for community to provide feedback and engage on a range of matters. Engagement will be timely and meaningful and written in plain language with information openly accessibly to the community.

4.6. The following channels (techniques) may be used to drive community engagement and participation:

4.6.1. Online via The Barossa Council website

4.6.2. Organic and paid social media

4.6.3. Direct emails to key stakeholder lists

4.6.4. Publication in Council newsletters

4.6.5. Other direct mail publications or letter drops, as appropriate

4.6.6. Community surveys (online and printed versions)

4.6.7. Advertising in media outlets as deemed appropriate

4.6.8. Media releases to appropriate media outlets and community groups

4.6.9. Community forums and stakeholder meetings

4.6.10. Promotional displays including posters, flyers

4.6.11. Community representation to Council meetings or workshops

4.7. In accordance with the Policy, feedback can be submitted

4.7.1. Online via Council's website (survey or open-ended response)

4.7.2. Email via yoursay@barossa.sa.gov.au

4.7.3. Post addressed to 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa SA 5351

4.7.4. In person at Council's Principal Office, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa or via phone on 8563 8444

5. Responsibilities

5.1. Specific engagement activities to be undertaken in relation to any particular decision, activity or process shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by:

5.1.1. Council, by resolution

5.1.2. The CEO;

5.1.3. A delegate with the power to undertake community engagement under the Act, the Charter or the Community Engagement Policy; or

5.1.4. A delegate with the power to make a decision or undertake an activity or process that requires community engagement under the Act, Charter or Policy.

6. Legislation and References

Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1999*
- Local Government (Elections) Act 1999
- Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter

Related Policies

- Community Engagement Policy

7. Definitions

Act	*Local Government Act 1999*
Charter	The Minister for Local Government's Community Engagement Charter, published in the South Australia Government Gazette on 11 December 2025.
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	means the Chief Executive Officer of a council and includes a Deputy or other person acting in the office of Chief Executive Officer.
Community	includes ratepayers, residents and service specific customers (i.e. internal staff as customers, program participants etc.).
Community Engagement	See consultation.
Consultation	involves the sharing of information and the exchange of views between employers and the persons or bodies that must be consulted and the genuine opportunity for them to contribute effectively to any decision-making process to eliminate or control risks to health or safety. The extent and nature of the consultation will vary between workplaces and the different situations.
Council	The Barossa Council in its entirety as an organisation.
Public	includes all people who live, work, study, own property, conduct private or government business, visit or use the services, facilities and public spaces and places of The Barossa Council.

8. Version History

This Process will be reviewed by the Policy Author in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within four years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

Version No.	Date	Summary of Change/s
1	13/5/2026	New Process to support the new Legislated Community Engagement Charter and Policy

9. Further Information

This Process is available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au. It can also be viewed electronically at Council's principal office at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa during ordinary business hours. A printed copy of this Process can be obtained upon payment of a fixed fee.

Feedback regarding this Process or its application can be made to the Customer Service Team on 8563 8444 or barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au in first instance, who will refer you to the most appropriate officer.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

TheBarossaCouncil

YOUR BAROSSA YOUR SAY

Our Community Promise

We believe that every voice matters.

We commit to engaging early, honestly and consistently by putting our community at the centre of every decision that impacts them.

Your voice will be heard

Your input will matter; and we will always tell you what we did with your feedback

COMMUNITY FIRST

- Engage early: before decisions are made, not after
- Come to where you live, work and play
- Design engagement around community needs, not Council convenience
- Ensure community input genuinely shapes outcomes
- Close the loop: we commit to telling you what we heard and what we did

ACCESSIBLE

- Provide multiple ways to engage including online, in-person, written and phone
- Use plain language free of jargon
- Offer engagement 24/7 through accessible digital platforms
- Make information easy to find, read and understand
- Respond to queries and feedback in a timely manner

INCLUSIVE

- Actively seek participation from underrepresented voices
- Respect diverse opinions, cultures and lived experiences
- Balance economic, environmental, social and cultural perspectives
- Provide face-to-face opportunities to build trust
- Support First Nations peoples' voices

TRANSPARENT

- Communicate openly and honestly about what drives decisions
- Be clear about what the community can and can't influence
- Share how engagement outcomes were used in
- decision-making
- Notify the community when plans change and explain why
- Comply with the Local Government Act and all applicable policies

Scaling our ENGAGEMENT

HOW we engage

The following techniques are used to drive community engagement and participation:

- Online via the Council website
- Organic and paid social media
- Direct emails
- Council publications (digital and print)
- Letter drops
- Community surveys (online and printed
- Advertising
- Media releases
- Community forums and stakeholder meetings
- Signage, posters, flyers
- Community representation to Council meetings or workshops

Whatever your preference, there's a way for you to have your say.

1 INFORM
We keep you informed about decision that affect you with clear, timely updates

2 LOCAL
Targeted engagement with residents and groups directly impacted by a local decision

3 STANDARD
Broader community input sought across our area for decisions that benefit from your voice

4 SIGNIFICANT
High transparency and dialogue for decisions with major impact on ratepayers and residents

5 SIGNIFICANT +
Our highest standard annual business plan, rating policy and decisions affecting all

WE KNOW IT'S WORKING WHEN
You tell us we communicated openly and honestly, and you feel heard and included in decision-making

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU
Engagement is not just a process it's how we build trust, share ownership and make better decisions together

Community Engagement Policy and Process Consultation Data

Feedback received	Officer comments
Dear Mr. McCarthy, I write regarding the advertisement, The Barossa Council's Draft Community Engagement Policy and Process, which appeared in The Leader on July 1. With Council planning on updating the way it engages with our community, I thought it timely to assist with some feedback from the local community on the draft Community Engagement Policy and Process which will replace the existing Public Consultation Policy. As a leading company, well invested in helping to keep the Barossa community informed about local news for the past 107 years, The Leader has been proud to play its part in assisting our local councils wherever and whenever we can. At the same time we are extremely grateful to The Barossa Council for all the support it provides to The Leader in the form of newspaper advertising, commercial printing work and providing our newspaper with news articles and photographs. In reality I think it fair to say that both The Leader and The Barossa Council are so very often seen as working hand in hand together in helping to promote so much of the good work and new development that has taken place and is continuing to take place. So, with the Draft Community Engagement Policy and Process, on behalf of The Leader, may I say that our company shall be most honoured to continue working with The Barossa Council into the future. With kindest personal regards, Tony Robinson, Managing Director **The Leader Newspaper**	Does not influence or change the policy or process.
Having just read the draft of Council's Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan, where the Community Voice register, Wellbeing Networks, etc. are key community engagement features in development - these features/opportunities do not seem to be reflected/aligned with the current draft of the CE policy, procedure, or framework documents	The existing Policy and Process align with Council's Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan (as referenced in the Plan). Key stakeholders are not referenced in the policy or process as they are captured in the actions relating to consultation and form part of a cohesive approach with Communications and Marketing and Community Development teams. Relevant key stakeholders (including Wellbeing Network and Community voice register) are identified in individual communications plans.

DEBATE REPORT

7.2 Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation

7.2.3 MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT AS AT 31 JULY 2026

Author: Senior Accountant
26/51876

PURPOSE

The monthly finance report update as at 31 July 2026 provides information on the financial position and performance of the Council, including notes on material trends and transactions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the monthly finance update report as at 31 July 2026, as provided at Attachment 1.

REPORT

Background
The monthly finance report as at 31 July 2026 is at Attachment 1. This report has been prepared comparing the year-to-date actuals at the end of the period, to the original adopted 2026-27 budget, as approved at the June 2026 Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Monthly Finance Report Council July 2026

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 2026-27, as required by the relevant legislation. This report is advising Council of the monthly finance position compared to that budget.

MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT

AS AT 31 July 2026
For Year Ending 30 June 2027

Uniform Presentation of Finances

	Notes	% Actual Expenditure to Revised Budget	Original Budget (Full-Year) $'000	Actual Result (Year-to-Date) $'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		*Operating*		
Operating revenue			57,406	44,269
Less: Operating expenses		**8.21%**	(58,149)	(4,518)
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)			**(742)**	**39,752**
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES:				
Net Outlays on Existing Assets		*Capital*		
Capital expenditure on renewal and replacement of existing	*1*	0.51%	(9,243)	(37)
Add back: Depreciation, amortisation & impairment			12,718	1,060
Add back: Proceeds from sale of replaced assets			(465)	0
Subtotal			**3,010**	**1,023**
Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets				
Capital Expenditure on new and upgraded assets	*1*	9.13%	(21,525)	(795)
Add back: Amounts received specifically for new and upgraded assets			3,713	(185)
Subtotal			**(17,812)**	**(979)**
Net Lending/(Borrowing) for the Financial Year			**(15,545)**	**39,795**
Total % Capital Budget Spent		**5.22%**		

NOTES

1) 2026-2027 capital expenditure to end of July 2026 includes:	**$**
-Creative Industries Centre - The Big Project	637,117
-Plant/Vehicles - Open Spaces Dual Cab Truck	148,794
-Road Resealing	26,697
-STEDS Pump Stations	23,575

DEBATE REPORT

7.3 Infrastructure and Environmental Services

7.3.1 ENDORSMENT OF ASSUMED APPROVAL - SECTION 221 - TANUNDA

Author: Principal Engineer
26/38468

PURPOSE

Council approval is sought to conditionally endorse the historical encroachment and use of Council public road reserve for a number of Tanunda properties operating under an assumed Section 221 approval.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council conditionally endorse the historical encroachment and use of Council public road reserve for several identified Tanunda properties operating under an assumed Section 221 approval.

REPORT

Background
Any private modification or construction on Council Road Reserve land or Council property requires Council approval, pursuant to Section 221 of the *Local Government Act 1999*:

Section 221 – Alteration of Road

1. A person (other than the council or a person acting under some other statutory authority) must not make an alteration to a public road unless authorised to do so by the council. Maximum penalty: $5,000.
2. A person makes an alteration to a public road if the person —
   (a) alters the construction or arrangement of the road to permit or facilitate access from an adjacent property; or
   (b) erects or installs a structure (including pipes, wires, cables, fixtures, fittings and other objects) in, on, across, under or over the road; or
   (c) changes or interferes with the construction, arrangement or materials of the road; or
   (d) changes, interferes with or removes a structure (including pipes, wires, cables, fixtures, fittings or other objects) associated with the road; or
   (e) plants a tree or other vegetation on the road, interferes with vegetation on the road, or removes vegetation from the road

Discussion
It has come to the attention of Council staff that a number of properties in Murray Street, Tanunda, have encroached beyond their private property boundary out on to the adjacent public road reserve. This may be by the construction of private fencing, shedding, landscaping, overgrowth of vegetation, or the parking of vehicles within a fenced area – assuming an informal extension of their private property. Some uses

have been formalised through the issue of a Section 221 permit, while others have assumed approval, but operating without approval sought or provided.

Authorisation to alter or occupy a public road reserve under Section 221 of The Local Government Act is provided to the applicant/person, not to the property, therefore, at the time of sale of a property all previous Section 221 approvals issued are required to be renegotiated and agreed with Council for ongoing use. Relevant insurances in accordance with Section 221 legislation are required to be produced.

The local area approval of all existing identified encroachments in the precinct is being requested in this report to protect the current users of Council land (both approved and unapproved), and to provide reassurance to property owners that Council does not intend to request removal / rectification works until the land is otherwise required. At the time of future sale of the properties a new Section 221 application is required by the new owner to re-establish formal consent for ongoing use of Council land.

It is noted that historical encroachment and ongoing unapproved land use does not provide a precedence for continued use of Council land.

Approval of pre-existing uses will ensure that both Council and the property owner is covered should there be an incident on the land.

Summary and Conclusion
Property owners will be requested to provide written acceptance of the following approval conditions:

- Any structure or landscaping is required to not obstruct access and use of the verge land by Council, service authorities or the general public.
- Any gates or openings are not to be locked or restrained to prevent public access,
- Council is not liable for injury, damage or loss resulting from the installation of the structure on the road verge.
- Council reserves the right to, at any time, rescind any agreement or approval, or change the terms of any agreement or approval should the requirements of Council or the use of the land change. In the event that the approval or agreement is rescinded, the property owner is required to remove any structures or landscaping and restore the verge land back to pre-existing condition.
- Any further alterations to the verge land or structures on the land (including planting of vegetation), will require a further separate Section 221 application requiring Council approval prior to construction or alteration. Approval of any further applications will depend on the nature of the application, and it will be at Council's discretion, after assessment of the proposed alteration, whether or not to approve any further applications should they be lodged.
- The land use permit holder must disclose to any intending purchaser of land abutting the defined area that defined area is public road and as such does not form any part of any abutting land parcel.

Identified Property owners will be contacted individually and advised of the approval decision and offered the option to formalise the approval either now or upon sale of their property.

Council records will be updated to note the above conditions and requirements on each property with existing identified encroachments.

Council's Risk team will document and note that the Chief Executive Officer has reviewed and agreed to accept the risk, as investigations have confirmed that this is accepted to be very low risk that has existed for decades without any known incidents.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Nil

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)

Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999, Section 221

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.

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.

This outcome protects the current users of Council land (both approved and unapproved), in the identified Tanunda precinct and provides reassurance to property owners that Council does not intend to request removal / rectification works until the land is otherwise required.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nil

DEBATE REPORT

7.3 Infrastructure and Environmental Services

7.3.2 TANUNDA - ROAD RENAMING - GROCKE STREET

Author: Principal Engineer
26/48477

PURPOSE

To rectify the duplication of name Grocke for road names in Tanunda.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council having reviewed the report and relevant policy, noting that the renaming of Grocke Street, Tanunda does not impact any resident:

(1) Waive the need to provide public notice of the proposal under clause 4.5.2 of the Selection of Road and Public Place Names Process as it does not impact any resident and may cause confusion for those living on Grocke Way, Tanunda, and

(2) Rename Grocke Street, Tanunda, to Bothe Street, in accordance with the process outlined in Council's Property Identification Policy and Public Consultation Policy.

REPORT

Background
During a recent desktop review of Council's road names, Council staff became aware of a duplication of the use of the "Grocke" road name in Tanunda.

The duplication of a road names within a township creates confusion of property addressing and location, especially for emergency services, post and council services. This situation will require rectification, with one of the existing Grocke road names required to be renamed.

Discussion
The two existing Grocke road names in Tanunda are as follows:

Grocke Way, off Basedow Road in central Tanunda, was named by Council in 2009. This sealed road forms the entrance to the Sovereign Estate land division and has 18 property addresses assigned to it. (Refer attached plan)

Grocke Street, off Barossa Valley Way at the southern end of Tanunda, has existed for many decades but was not identified on Council's asset management system until very recently. This unmade no through road located between the side boundaries of numbers 50 and 52 Barossa Valley Way, is

approximately 50 metres long, is not identified by a street name blade and has no property addresses assigned to it. (Refer attached plan).

Should Grocke Street (south Tanunda) be extended to the west to accommodate possible land division in the future, it will have property addresses assigned to it at that point. Due to no existing property addresses currently required to be changed, Council staff recommend that the name of this road be renamed to prevent any possible confusion and disruption to property owners in the future.

Public road renaming and name selection is required to be in accordance with The Barossa Council "Property Identification Policy" and the associated "Selection of Road and Public Place Names Process".

Section 4.2 of the Policy "Sources for Road Names" states:

4.2.1 Sources for road names may include,

- Aboriginal names taken from the local aboriginal language;
- Early explorers, pioneers and settlers;
- Elected Members with a term of service greater than 10 years;
- Local identities of significant achievement in their field;
- Local history;
- Thematic names such as flora, fauna etc;
- War / casualty lists;
- Commemorative names.

In sourcing an appropriate possible alternative road name, Council staff referred to a list of names for future road naming in the Tanunda area obtained from the previous District Council of Tanunda and lodged with The Barossa Council in May 2007.

The name "Bothe" is the first name recorded on this list.

Summary and Conclusion
It is recommended that the name Grocke Street (south Tanunda) be changed to prevent possible confusion and disruption to property owners in the future.

There are currently no existing properties with an address to Grocke Street, making the renaming of this road presently more a proactive risk mitigation measure and administrative process.

With reference to the list prepared by the previous District Council of Tanunda, it is recommended to rename Grocke Street to Bothe Street.

If the road name change was to be pursued, Council's Property Identification Policy would be implemented parallel with the Public Consultation Policy.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Grocke Street - Grocke Way - Tanunda - layout plan ⇩

Supporting references
Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan

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.
- We have connected transport infrastructure and networks.

Corporate Plan

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

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.

   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.

Public road names are selected in accordance with The Barossa Council "Property Identification Policy" and the associated "Selection of Road and Public Place Names Process".

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

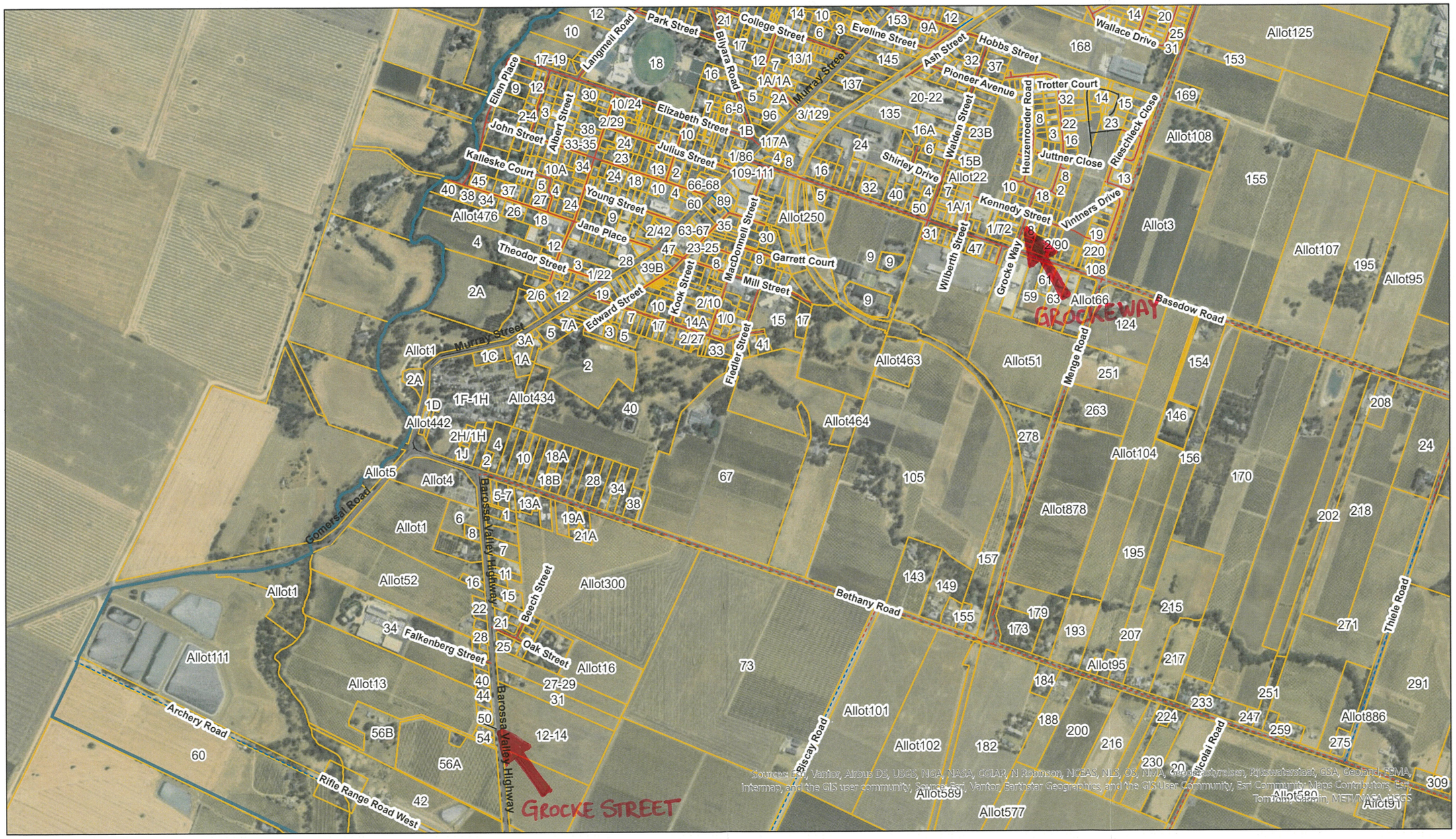
Clause 4.5.2 of the Selection of Road and Public Place Names Process requires public notice of a proposal to change a road name. It is recommended that no formal community consultation needs to be undertaken in these circumstances as there are no property addresses associated with Grocke Street. Further, issuing a notice has the real possibility of confusing existing residents on Grocke Way, Tanunda.

Council continues to receive and consider suggested names for street/road naming from community groups and other individual sources. Road re-naming is required to be undertaken in accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy.

Current Time: 5/08/2026 5:25 PM

Tanunda Township

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the product, location and attribute data can not be guaranteed. Council accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Any feedback on omissions or errors would be appreciated.



Scale: 1:10,745

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 km

The Barossa Council

Legend

- Boundaries - Local Government Area
- Roads - DPI Roads
- <Null>
- Formed built up (FBU)
- Formed non built up (FNBU)
- Sealed built up (SBU)
- Sealed non built up (SNBU)
- Unformed built up (UFBU)
- Other
- Barossa Roads
- Property

Owner Details
World Imagery
Low Resolution 15m Imagery
High Resolution 60cm Imagery
Citations
2.4m Resolution Metadata

N

DEBATE REPORT

7.3 Infrastructure and Environmental Services

7.3.3 NURIOOTPA CENTENNIAL PARK NETBALL AND TENNIS COURT LIGHTING UPGRADE - REQUEST TO BRING FORWARD FUNDS

Author: Manager Assets and Capital Delivery
26/50366

PURPOSE

The Nuriootpa Oval Lighting Upgrade (which was delivered in 2025-26FY) came in under budget and the Office for Recreation Sport and Racing (ORSR) Grant has supported redirecting the remaining $78,000.00 towards installing six light poles achieving 350lux at the Nuriootpa netball and tennis courts.

The proposal is to move $102,000.00 from 2027-28FY forward to 2026-27FY to optimise the available ORSR Grant to upgrade the Nuriootpa Court Lighting.

RECOMMENDATION
That Council:

(1) Endorses the bringing forward of $102,000.00 from 2027-28FY to 2026-27FY to upgrade the Nuriootpa netball and tennis court lighting and,

(2) Endorses the funding model confirming Council, Club and Office for Recreation Sport and Racing Grant contributions towards the project budget totalling $200,000.00.

REPORT

Background
The Nuriootpa Oval Lighting Upgrade (which was delivered in 2025-26FY) came in under budget. This resulted in $78,000.00 of unallocated grant funding from ORSR towards lighting at the Nuriootpa Centennial Park (NCP). ORSR has supported redirecting the remaining $78,000.00 within NCP towards installing six light poles achieving 350lux at the Nuriootpa netball and tennis courts in 2026-27FY.

Discussion
With the Nuriootpa Oval Lighting Upgrade (which was delivered in 2025-26FY) coming in under budget the opportunity to optimise the remaining grant funding can be realised.

ORSR advised that we could submit a variation request to redirect the remaining funds to another project, providing the project is at the same location, meets the grant guidelines and we can still match the funding amount 50-50 which we have done and ORSR have amended the grant details (attached) to include the installation of six light poles achieving 350lux at the Nuriootpa netball and tennis courts.

The Court Lighting Upgrade project meets these requirements and is a pre-approved project by Council.

We had not expected to achieve grant funding to deliver this project in 2026-27FY, and as per the 2026-2027Annual Business Plan and Budget funding was anticipated to be delivered in the 2027-28 year.

We are now seeking to bring $102,000.00 of this forward so we can optimise the available grant money from the oval lighting upgrade and execute the court lighting upgrade.

Working with the tennis and netball clubs, below is the funding model we propose and should the Council support bringing forward the $102,000.00 contribution, we will be able to progress with the court lighting upgrade immediately.

Funding Model		
Council	$	102,000.00
Nuriootpa Netball Club	$	10,000.00
Nuriootpa Tennis Club	$	10,000.00
ORSR Grant	$	78,000.00
Total	**$**	**200,000.00**

Please note, the above funding model is based on a single quote, should we proceed with the project a formal RFQ process will be undertaken aligning with Council's procurement guidelines.

Summary and Conclusion
The Nuriootpa Oval Lighting Upgrade (which was delivered in 2025-26FY) came in under budget and the ORSR Grant has supported redirecting the remaining $78,000 towards installing six light poles achieving 350lux at the Nuriootpa netball and tennis courts.

The proposal is to move $102,000.00 from 2027-28FY forward to 2026-27FY to optimise the available ORSR Grant to upgrade the Nuriootpa Court Lighting and requires endorsement by Council.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 ORSR - Office for Recreation Sport and Racing - Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program 2-25-2-26 - Variation of Grant Agreement - CRSFP24180 - acceptance ⇩

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

- We plan for and deliver infrastructure to enhance our places.

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.

Council has approved subject to grant funding expenditure for the renewal of the Nuriootpa Centennial Park tennis/netball courts. Approval is sought to bring forward a portion of this to match to available grant funding to undertake stage 1 of the project.

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 has been undertaken with both the netball and tennis clubs.

OFFICIAL

Reference: CRSFP24180

Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

145B Railway Terrace
Mile End, SA 5031

Tel 1300 714 990
ABN 81 213 956 472

orsr.sa.gov.au

Mr Joshua Norton
Club President
Nuriootpa Rover Football Club Incorporated
13 Penrice Rd
Nuriootpa SA 5355

Dear Mr Norton

Re: Variation of Grant Agreement - Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program - CRSFP24180

I refer to the Grant Agreement executed between the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing (**'Government Party'**) and Nuriootpa Rover Football Club Incorporated (**'Recipient'**) for the following Purpose: To install four light towers achieving 300 lux at Nuriootpa Centennial Park Oval, Nuriootpa.

Your request for a variation to the Agreement has been considered and, on this occasion, has been approved. The following clauses shall be amended in their entirety to read:

Attachment 1 – Grant Details

Item 9	Purpose	To install four light towers achieving 300 lux at Nuriootpa Centennial Park Oval and install six light poles achieving 350 lux at Nuriootpa Centennial Park Netball and Tennis Courts, Nuriootpa.

Other than this amendment, all the other provisions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect.

The Government Party confirms that this variation will take immediate effect and the Recipient hereby acknowledges and accepts the terms specified in this variation to the Agreement. A copy of the variation should be retained for the Recipient's purposes.

Should the Recipient dispute this variation to the Agreement, please contact Funding Services on 08 8429 3697 or ORSR.Grants@sa.gov.au within 10 business days.

Yours sincerely

Jason Matte
MANAGER FUNDING SERVICES
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

27 July 2026

OFFICIAL

DEBATE REPORT

7.3 Infrastructure and Environmental Services

7.3.4 ANGASTON CWA MEMORIAL RESTROOMS - POST PUBLIC CONSULTATION UPDATE

Author: Director Infrastructure and Environmental Services
26/51137

PURPOSE

The Angaston Women's Memorial Restroom requires structural works to be undertaken. As a result, consultation was undertaken with the community to gain feedback on preliminary concept designs to potentially improve the amenities and future use of the space.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, having reviewed the Angaston CWA Memorial Restrooms public consultation feedback:

(1) Instruct that the following options be redeveloped for assessment of Council:
- Option 1 (Preference 1) – Enclosed Community Function Room
- Option 2 (Preference 2) – Function Pavillion
- Option 4 (Preference 4) – No additional Improvements, just fix structural damage

(2) Requests the new options be presented to Council prior to further public consultation.

REPORT

Background
At is Ordinary Meeting on the 27 January 2026 Council approved to undertake stakeholder engagement for opportunities to improve the amenities and spaces of the Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms. Council was provided with three options that had been developed (as preliminary concept plans), these were subsequently released to the public for community consultation.

Introduction
This report will outline the preferred options from those presented as well as the common themes received through the public consultation process

Discussion
The Angaston Women's Memorial Restroom community consultation commenced on 15 July 2026 and closed at 5.00pm on 5 August 2026. Throughout this period, consultation was undertaken through multiple channels including options to

complete an online survey, submit written feedback via email or post; and to attend a community pop-up onsite on 30 July 2026 from 4.00pm to 5.30pm.

As part of the consultation, the community was asked to provide feedback on specific design options to potentially improve the functionality of the space. The consultation was based on the three options previously presented to Council, with a fourth option also provided to the community of "no additional improvements, just fix structural damage".

Strong interest and responses from the community were received as part of the consultation. At closing, Council received 233 survey responses, 3 responses registered at the pop-up session and 31 direct feedback responses received via email or letter.

The options as a part of the consultation were:

Option 1 (Preference 1) – Enclosed Community Function Room

Option 2 (Preference 2) – Function Pavillion

Option 3 (Preference 3) – Open Picnic Pavillion and Pergola

Option 4 (Preference 4) – No additional Improvements, just fix structural damage

The online survey feedback tool used during consultation required respondents to provide a preference in relation to the options provided. The summary of preferences is as follows:

Survey Results – 233 Responses

First Preference	Count	% of Responses
Preference 1	60	26.2%
Preference 2	47	20.5%
Preference 3	33	14.4%
Preference 4	89	38.9%
Total Responses	233	100.0%

Preference 1 (60 responses)

Primary themes

- Enclosed community function space
- Children's parties and family gatherings
- Mothers' groups
- Community meetings and small events
- Kitchen and catering facilities
- All-weather use
- Increased activation of Memorial Reserve

Important secondary themes

- Retain the building's heritage character
- Dedicated women's facilities
- Accessible and family-friendly amenities

Common sentiment

"Create a community hub that can be used year-round while respecting the history of the building."

Preference 2 (47 responses)

Primary themes
- Sympathetic restoration
- Preserve heritage significance
- Respect the Women's Memorial purpose
- Repair rather than redevelop
- Improve functionality without major structural change

Common requests
- Dedicated female toilets
- Parenting facilities
- Improved accessibility
- Modest internal upgrades

Common sentiment
"Restore and improve the building while preserving its purpose and heritage value."

Preference 3 (33 responses)

Primary themes
- Open pavilion concept
- BBQ and picnic facilities
- Public access without bookings
- Family recreation
- Community gathering space

Secondary themes
- Women's toilets remain important
- Heritage values should still be respected
- Better shelter and accessibility

Common sentiment
"Provide an open, flexible community shelter integrated with the park."

Preference 4 (89 responses)

Primary themes
- Retain the building substantially as it is
- Heritage conservation
- Preserve memorial significance
- Strong support for dedicated female toilets
- Opposition to unisex-only facilities
- Respect community-funded history

Consistent concerns
- Loss of women's facilities
- Loss of the memorial purpose
- Commercialisation or booking-only models

- Over-development
- Lack of parenting and breastfeeding facilities

Common sentiment

"Repair and preserve the Women's Memorial Restroom while retaining dedicated facilities for women and families."

An overall summary is as follows:

While responses differ on whether the preferred future is a **function space**, **restoration project**, or **open pavilion**, there is common alignment on three key areas:

1. Retain and respect the heritage and memorial significance of the building.
2. Provide dedicated facilities for women, mothers and families.
3. Improve community use without losing the building's identity and purpose

Direct Feedback – 31 responses

Overview
Across the 31 submissions received outside of the online survey (attached), only a minority explicitly named a preferred option (as was presented during the consultation).

Submissions received included those from individuals, but also organisations including Angaston Community & Business Alliance (ACBA), South Australian Country Women's Association Angaston Branch, Angaston Lutheran Church and Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia (Adelaide Chapter).

From those who did offer a preferred option, Option 4 to fix the structural issues of the building was the preferred option (with additional commentary and consideration on toilet configuration), followed by Option 1.

Most submissions highlighted concerns about the toilet design and heritage of the building and there were consistent community sentiments acknowledging:

- Structural repairs are needed
- Unisex toilet design not supported. The community wants separated female, male and accessible facilities.
- Some form of family or baby change facility is required
- The buildings memorial history should be retained

A summary of the feedback revealed the following themes:

Toilet configuration (raised in ~18 submissions)
By far the most repeated concern, the submissions overwhelmingly opposed unisex-only toilet designs, calling instead for clearly separate male, female, and accessible facilities. Reasons given included:

- Safety and dignity for women and girls, including specific reference to domestic violence/trauma survivors needing spaces free from male presence
- Hygiene/comfort concerns raised by both women and men
- A cited example of unisex toilets being avoided by students at a local high school

- Several submissions framed the absence of a female-only toilet as ironic or unacceptable given the building's identity as a *women*'s memorial

Heritage and memorial significance
Several submissions acknowledged the building's origin as a community fundraised, debt-free project dedicated to women who served in WWII, noting its listing on the Australian War Memorial's Places of Pride register.

These submissions argued that:

- Structural repair should not be combined with a change of purpose
- Converting the building into commercial/function space (kitchen, bookable venue, retail) contradicts its memorial intent
- Any signage should retain the words "Women's Memorial"
- Restoration, not reinvention, is the appropriate approach **(Option 4 was the most cited preference)**
- A conservative approach should be undertaken

Family and accessibility provisions
Multiple submissions called for improved family and accessibility infrastructure, including:

- A parents'/baby-change room, separate from general toilets
- An adult change facility for people with disabilities (noted as a gap not just in this project but in a nearby recent Council redesign)
- Fully accessible public toilets

Function space / commercial use
A smaller number of submissions supported the enclosed function space concept, acknowledging:

- Potential use for community events if Option 1 or 2 was chosen (e.g., Easter services)
- The idea of a hireable, all-weather, vandal-resistant enclosed space usable by community groups (mothers' groups, birthday parties, meetings) was appealing
- Opportunity to extend the project to activate the entire reserve as a community/tourism/event space

Some submissions also raised concerns regarding the cost of the project including:

- The cost of engaging architects to produce concept designs before community consultation occurred
- Broader Council spending and transparency
- Whether a cost-benefit analysis exists for hire-fee revenue versus upgrade cost
- A preference for redirecting funds to other under-maintained facilities (e.g., Angaston Town Hall Annex kitchen) rather than adding new function infrastructure on this site

Summary and Conclusion
A significant amount of feedback was received with 264 individual responses provided generating strong and insightful feedback that will inform the development of two to three additional options including an option to undertake a minor refurbishment and fixing of the structural issues.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Angaston CWA - public consultation - feedback received via email or post - summary

Supporting references
Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

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 feedback highlights the community's sentiment about how public amenities need to be provided to ensure suitable service delivery.

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.

Upon determination of the final design costings will need to be presented to Council should they exceed the currently approved 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.

The impacts of not undertaking further design development and consultation with the community could significantly impact Council's reputation, given the significant volume of the feedback, community views and the strong significance this building holds for many people.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Further consultation will be required should new design options be developed. A consultation plan will be developed and presented to Council prior to any further consultation being undertaken.

[redacted]

From: Bobbie Thiel [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2026 7:25 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms Consultation - feedback

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear Council Team,

I'm writing because I am genuinely concerned and saddened by the explanation given about "structural issues" that justify redesigning the Angaston Women's Memorial Rest Room. As someone who has lived in the Valley for over fifty years, with family roots deeply entwined in this place, it is difficult to watch parts of our shared heritage placed at risk of change in the name of progress — and the loss of history that comes with it.

This building carries a rich and deliberate origin story. In the 1940s, local women identified a vital need for a dedicated "rest centre" or public amenities building in the heart of town. Rather than erecting a purely decorative monument, they chose to create a *memorial* — a functional space honouring the women who served and supported the community during World War II.

From 1948 to 1953, the community fundraised tirelessly, insisting the building would not open until it was entirely free of debt. Built from local stone, its foundation stone proudly states it is "A tribute to the women who served", and the plaque inside reinforces its dedication to the magnificent local women who supported the war efforts. This building is not just infrastructure — it is a testament to community resourcefulness, women's leadership, and Barossa identity.

It also stands as a symbol of the women who shaped the Valley long after the war — women like Maggie Beer, whose creativity helped define Barossa food culture, and Ashton Hurn, now South Australia's Opposition Leader, whose leadership reflects the strength and capability of Barossa women stepping into public life. Alongside them are the countless unnamed women who carried families, farms, traditions, volunteer work, and the women of World War II whose resilience inspired the building itself. Preserving the Women's Memorial Rest Room is a way of honouring all of them — past and present.

I understand that the building needs repair and potentially updated to comply with today's building codes. However, the current proposal — to refurbish and reconfigure the building into a kitchen, BBQ area, open picnic pavilion, enclosed function space, or even a bookable venue or leased retail space — raises serious concerns. These options fundamentally alter the building's original purpose, layout, and memorial intention.

Before any structural repairs are undertaken, I believe it is essential to ask whether reconfiguring a memorial building into commercial or recreational spaces is appropriate. The Women's Memorial Rest Room was created as a tribute, not as a function centre or retail opportunity. Its value lies in its history, its symbolism, and its connection to the women who built and shaped this valley.

There are community groups in the Valley working hard to keep local traditions alive in organic, grassroots ways — groups like the **Barossa Valley Historical Society**, which preserves local stories, archives, and heritage sites; the **Barossa German Heritage Society**, which protects the region's Prussian and German cultural roots through language, customs, and historical education; and the **Barossa Valley Archives & Historical Trust**, which safeguards documents, photographs, and community records. These organisations quietly maintain the cultural fabric of the Barossa every day. Redirecting funds toward strengthening groups like these and potentially inviting them to help honour the space in its original purpose, would support living heritage far more than altering a memorial building.

1

The Barossa's roots lie in the families — many of them Prussian women — who came here and built the foundations of this community. Women were central to establishing farms, churches, social groups, and the cooperative spirit that shaped the valley long before wine or tourism defined it. Their labour, resilience, and leadership created the Barossa's identity, and even as the valley continues to change, that heritage remains the constant thread. Preserving a memorial dedicated to these women feels even more important. It honours the people who created the Barossa's strength, keeps their story alive, and stands as a solid monument for future generations — and something meaningful that gives visitors a richer, more authentic understanding of the area's history.

I would appreciate more clarity on what the specific structural issues are, and whether alternatives were considered that would allow the building to be repaired and preserved *without* reconfiguring or repurposing it. Restoration, rather than reinvention, seems far more aligned with the building's history and meaning.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

Warm regards,

Bobbie Lee-Ann Thiel

[redacted]

Vines and industries can be replaced, but history cannot — once it is gone, it is gone forever.

[redacted]

From: Kristin Wohlers [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 18 July 2026 5:28 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston restrooms

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

I would prefer option 1 or two- as a kitchen would be very handy!
Kristin Wohlers
Sculpture & Mosaic Artist
[redacted]

Ben Plane
Angaston SA 5353
[redacted]

18 July 2026

The Barossa Council
PO Box 867
Nuriootpa SA 5355

RE: Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms Consultation

To Whom It May Concern,

Having reviewed the consultation materials and concept plans, I support Council undertaking a refurbishment of the Women's Memorial Restrooms rather than limiting works to basic structural repairs. The site occupies a prominent location within Angaston and presents an opportunity to preserve a valued local landmark whilst improving its usefulness for residents and visitors.

Of the options presented, I strongly support **Option 3 - Open Picnic Pavilion and Pergola**.

In my opinion, Option 3 best reflects the purpose and setting of the Women's Memorial Restrooms and the surrounding memorial garden. The reserve is fundamentally a commemorative and public open space, and any redevelopment should respect this character while ensuring the site remains welcoming, accessible and available to all members of the community.

The open pavilion design provides practical public amenities while maintaining an open and inviting environment. Rather than creating an enclosed venue or function space, Option 3 allows the site to continue serving as a place for quiet enjoyment, reflection, informal gatherings and community use. It complements the memorial setting rather than competing with it.

I would also encourage Council to consider incorporating a small Angaston heritage and history trail as part of the refurbishment. The Women's Memorial Restrooms are located in a prominent position within the township and could serve as an ideal point on the existing walking trail through Angaston. A series of discreet interpretive plaques could tell the stories of the town's pioneers, local industries, significant buildings, military service, community organisations and the history of the memorial reserve itself. This would provide both an educational and tourism benefit while strengthening the connection between the memorial garden and the broader historical identity of Angaston. By linking the site with the existing heritage walk, the reserve could become both a place of remembrance and a gateway for residents and visitors to learn more about the rich history of the town.

I believe Option 3 offers several significant benefits:
- Preserves the memorial character and heritage significance of the site.
- Retains important public toilet facilities, including accessible amenities.
- Provides additional facilities for families, visitors and community members.
- Encourages passive recreation and informal community interaction.
- Maintains a welcoming and open environment within the memorial reserve.
- Enhances the attractiveness and usability of the space without overdeveloping it.

I would be pleased to assist Council with any further consultation or consideration of proposed improvements to the site. In particular, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to discussions regarding the memorial garden, integration with the existing heritage walk, historical interpretation and the ongoing community use of the reserve. Should Council seek further community input during the development of this project, I would be grateful for the opportunity to participate.

Thank you for considering my submission and for providing the community with the opportunity to contribute to the future of this important local asset.

Kind regards,

Ben Plane

[redacted]

From: Courtney Mackie [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 12:34 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston Women's Memorial Restroom Upgrades

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Good afternoon,

Thank you for opening up the Angaston Women's Memorial Restroom Upgrades for community consultation.

I have had a look at all 3 options, I think the enclosed function space is a wonderful idea.

This would become a usable hire space for local community groups such as mother's groups, community meetings, children's birthday parties etc and being all weather would mean it could be used year round.

Being enclosed would lit vandalism issues and ensure the space would remain clean and usable.

My biggest concern and it is glaringly obvious, is you have removed female bathrooms from the Women's Memorial Restrooms.

Unless I have missed some details in the plans, there are now no female bathrooms at all but more facilities for men?

Could please explain why you are removing female facilities and only catering for male only spaces and an accessible bathroom?

[redacted]

From: Michelle Holt [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 11:54 AM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] womens memorial upgrade

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Where are the female toilets!!!!!!!

Michelle Holt

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Em Saegenschnitter [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 3:37 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The women's memorial restroom issue

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

To whom it may concern,

I am going to be unable to attend the face to face session that will happen on July 30, But I want it known that this is my local park and public toilets for myself, my daughter and my very soon to be second child. (I am currently 9months pregnant and birthing within the next 2 weeks)

I have lived on penrice road for 10 years!
10 years of walking to this park and the last 6 has been with a child.

I have always appreciated the fact we had a female memorial restroom for all to use.
Women should be celebrated!
The women who fought and helped during our wars deserve to be remembered and respected for their sacrifices and service.
Taking away the female toilets and not encouraging family rooms its honestly disrespectful and disappointing to any woman who has been with the CWA, helped in the wars that we fought through and any family's in the local areas.
Again, women should be celebrated!
We are part of this community and we deserve a safe place to relieve ourselves and for our children to use.

For the upgrade itself, as it is designed in a park that many family's use, A women's restroom, a family room for children to use toilets aswell as areas for babies to be changed and a men's rest room for fathers/men and younger boys to use.

You can't deny the world we live in these days and the risks that are posed to children especially in a unisex environment.
We have to protect our children and women from anything that could possibly harm or interfere with life.

Please understand that women and children deserve safe spaces.
We deserve areas for our children to be able to have clean and safe spaces to use toilets and access changing facilities.
As a member of this community that uses this space frequently and appreciates its value. Please rethink and replan. Because the 3 suggestions you have posed are honestly disrespectful and disregarded to women when it's a women's memorial.

Kindest of regards,
Em Saegenschnitter

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 5:42 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston Womens Memorial Restrooms Consultation

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

As a community member of the Barossa Council I would like to see each of the proposed plans to include dedicated male, female and disabled toilets. Having a unisex toilet doing double time as the disabled toilet and the womens toilet and any male that chooses to use it is disgraceful. Invest the money and provide the three necessary toilets with each group then equally and safely catered for.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

Ainsley Beane

[redacted]

From: Christine Sherwood [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 1:15 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ANGASTON Women's Memorial

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear Barossa Council

Firstly; congratulations on again spending money on architectural designs before even asking what the community thinks about what should be done with this space. Can you please provide details of exactly how much you paid to get JBG Architectural to come up with designs without knowing what the community want THEIR rates money spent on. Complete transparency needs to become the norm before we get another financial disaster like Barossa Park. Give anyone $40 million dollars of taxpayers money & they could build something that actually pays for itself. Are we going to get an AFL game in 2027? I heard it from the CEO's mouth at the Sister City Dinner when the Grapevine people visited (my daughter was one of the students that went on the trip) that the Gathering Round bought in over 8 million dollars of business to the Barossa. Okay let's say it bought in even more this year, 10 million? 8 plus 10 = $18 million not $40 million. I don't place any accusations at the Barossa Council CEO. I believe he does the numbers correctly & warns appropriately. It's the behind closed door deals negotiated by our Mayor that land ratepayers in trouble.

First logical question to ask. What is the primary use of the location that this building is situated in? A children's playground & park. So nice to see yoga classes etc. also being run there. So if this is what it is primarily used for why try & turn it into a space for businesses? This is the location of where the ANGASTON Community Christmas Parade ends. This is a fantastic event that is widely supported & important for the community. And you propose to decrease the amount of toilets available in this space? I loved to know how you came to that conclusion.

I have worked in Local Government (including the Barossa Council) & am well aware of the Council owned facilities (parks, halls, etc.) that are under-utilised & don't make money. Council would love nothing more than to sell them off & reap a short term financial gain whilst wiping their hands of providing important community faculties. The obvious question to me is why not spend the money on upgrading the ANGASTON Hall Annex Kitchen to make it more "attractive" to potential business use than creating another space that will be under-utilised.

And I haven't even touched on the fact there isn't a designated women's toilet in this design.

I look forward to your response & the requested financial details of how much has already been spent & what the proposed budget is.

Kind Regards
Christine Sherwood

Sent from my iPad

[redacted]

From: Erica McGregor [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2026 3:27 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston War Memorial Rooms

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I would like to see the building footprint remain as original design with repairs done to the best standard The building used for people per original plan. A free safe space for locals and travellers thru Angaston I can see underpinning is necessary and I ain't no engineer. Keep ladies and gentlemen toilets separate. Share toilets get too smelly Other repairs and painting I believe it would be used by Barossa residents and travellers Please consider my thoughts

1

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 11:07 AM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Good morning

Recommendation: Adopt Option 4

I respectfully ask The Barossa Council to dismiss the pavilion-style redesign and instead adopt Option 4: underpin the rear corner, upgrade the toilets, preserve the local marble structure, and restore the Angaston Women's WW2 Memorial Rest Rooms for their intended purpose as a women's rest room.

As the woman who wrote to The Barossa Council two years ago requesting restoration of the Angaston Women's WW2 Memorial Rest Rooms, I again draw Council's attention to the Australian War Memorial Places of Pride listing, which recognises the building as a war memorial.

https://placesofpride.awm.gov.au/memorials/261720
"This building is dedicated to the
magnificent women who, in uniform
and at home, served humanity during
the war 1939-1945
Please treat it with care
and respect due, that it may long
be preserved to fulfill its purpose
Angaston Service people's
Memorial Committee
1945-1956"

Heritage significance

The building was established through local community effort and dedicated to women who served humanity in uniform and at home during the Second World War.

For that reason, changing its façade, character and historical purpose would diminish the memorial significance that the plaque asks the community to preserve with care and respect. This building has such significance, I believe it is a desecration of a war memorial to alter.

Practical community use

Council already has other meeting and pavilion-style spaces available, including the BBQs in the same park /the Railway Station playground area and the Angaston recreation park . There are available buildings and rooms in the Town Hall and Railway Station currently unused, so this memorial building does not need to be converted into another general-purpose venue for Councils financial gain.

A restored women's rest room, with upgraded toilets, a comfortable centre room, and a possible parent's room, would provide a distinctive and useful service for locals and visitors.

Weather and maintenance concerns

An open pavilion would be poorly suited to Angaston's cold, wet and windy conditions, particularly under trees and without adequate protection from the elements.

Opening out the building also risks creating a space that attracts birds, vermin, rubbish and leaf litter, increasing the likelihood that the memorial becomes neglected rather than respected.

Requested decision

I respectfully ask Council to reject the architects' pavilion-style designs and proceed with a restoration that retains the building's original structure, local marble, memorial character and intended public purpose.

- **Underpin the building and stabilise the rear corner.**
- **Upgrade and refurbish the toilets without replacing the purpose of the facility with a unisex pavilion model.**
- **Restore the centre room so it is comfortable, welcoming and respectful.**
- **Consider a parent's room, possibly using the side room, without adding a kitchen.**
- **Open the building during daylight hours as a women's rest room and memorial, a welcome stop for locals and tourists.**
- **Retain the Memorial Plague on the internal wall**

Thank you for reading and for considering a restoration approach that honours the women who went before us, protects the building's memorial purpose, and returns it to practical community use.

Dianne Klingner

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, 3 August 2026 11:37 AM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Womens Rest rooms Angaston

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2026 1:11 PM
To: John [redacted]
Subject: Re: Womens Rest rooms

Hello, John,

The toilet /parent room configurations will be a challenge to please everyone and abide by legislation.

As a mother/ Grandma and former childcare worker, safety would be my concern, I must admit that I would prefer the women's facility to the left, my opinion only but, my observation is that there may be more females /children use the park singularly than men /children,
Women's toilets to the right places the facility further away from the playground area, if other older children are left to play for a short time, supervision is closer.
A major concern for me in this design also is the adjacent Penrice Road traffic, for a mum who is attending her own personal needs or attending a baby with another small child or 2 running around, it becomes very dangerous, children tend to run and possibly head into the traffic, or down the back to the creek, closer to the playground one may hope that they see the playground attraction to return to that area.
It would be an additional cost, but maybe a fence/ barrier needs to be erected like the Murray Street side, some form of a safety barrier from Penrice Road
I understand that we cannot protect everyone all the time, but the Village Green toilets also open onto a road, the Adventure playground toilets open on to the bike track and I have seen near misses when people using the bike track are confronted with a person exiting the toilets, I have never quite understood these placements in a traffic area.

Just my thoughts
Once again thank you for your time and attention to this building,
I hope that you will keep in touch with any updates and resolutions
Regards
Dianne Klingner

The above response to email from John Angas to Dianne Klingner where it was suggested that a revised proposal could see male toilet to the left side and female to the right.

[redacted]

From: Heather Baum [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 3:17 PM
To: Your Say Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston CWA Rooms

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Good afternoon
I wish to put forward my views of the CWA ROOMS in Angaston.

I don't believe this heritage building should be demolished.
It's in need of refurbishment and maintenance (which it hasn't received for many years).
It is a very useful community building and could be further utilised as a meeting area if in a better condition.

The toilet facilities are well used by locals and visitors alike.

As a local ratepayer I feel it would be a total waste of money if this building was demolished.

Yours sincerely
Heather Baum
Nuriootpa SA 5355

[redacted]

From: Tim Hage [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 4:33 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Facilities in Angaston women's memorial building

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear council representatives

I urge you to reconsider the proposed renovations especially regarding changing the public toilet ammenities.

There are many existing unisex facilities being encouraged around this state, and I believe unfortunately cost over shadows community safety.
I have a young family, I'm middle aged male, and I feel uncomfortable using unisex toilets. I get unwanted looks from other parents when sharing toilet spaces with children, I get unwanted comments from women after using a unisex toilet.
And admittedly, should all genders be able to feel comfortable and safe and clean when using public toilets? I agree, men aren't the cleanest uses of toilets and I feel that women shouldn't have to put up with urine and fesses on toilet seats.
Unisex toilets aren't working for the students at Nuri High school as many students are refusing to use the school toilets during school hours!
The council needs too listen to the community on this one, it about comfortability and safety, not about minority groups.
If the medical paternity observe male and female, surely this council can do the same.

Kind regards
Tim Hage

Sent from my iPhone

[redacted]

From: Marion Howell - [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 3:58 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re CWA memorial rest rooms - Angaston

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear Barossa Council,

I am extremely disappointed in all 3 options proposed for the CWA memorial restrooms in Angaston. All of them look quite costly and not one of the options has a dedicated female bathroom or fully accessible bathroom space. This seems quite ironic given it is a country 'women's' association building.

Women need a space where they can be away from males, particularly if they have had trauma or been exposed to some form of domestic violence. They need a safe space where they can enter without being in the same restricted space that males access. All options provide a space where women can only access a unisex toilet by walking into a corridor alongside male users. This would leave some women feeling vulnerable and exposed. Given this building was built for the country women's association, aimed at embracing and encouraging the contribution of women in society, we want to ensure this space reflects a place where women feel safe at all times. The current designs do not provide this option. If you do have to incorporate only unisex bathrooms, then they must be facing with an immediate outside facing door, rather than making women walk down a small corridor to get to a cubicle.

Additionally, I am disappointed that the change facility does not incorporate any sort of adult change facility for those with disability. Given Barossa Council's public commitment to access and inclusion, this facility has not addressed the need for those who cannot use conventional toilet facilities and require access to an adult change facility. The Barossa Coop Building redesign missed the opportunity to incorporate adult change facilities. I have clients who must return home to be changed on day outings, as they cannot remain in the community due to limited access to adult change facilities.

How about council use this as an amazing opportunity to provide true accessibility options in the Barossa. Rather than spending HUGE amounts on fancy kitchens or bifold doors, retain the current area (with a bit of a facelift) as a publicly accessible space, for the safety of women, the dignity of those who need accessible spaces and for the whole community to enjoy without having to pay to hire the space. It is our town;, it is our building. Please listen to your community voice and meet the needs of all those who might use a facility, including those with no voice such as women who have suffered at the hands of abuse or those with disability needs greater than just wheelchair access.

Thankyou and kind regards,

Marion Howell

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Glen Brittain [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2026 6:07 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Cc: Glen Brittain
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ANGASTON CWA MEMORIAL REST ROOMS

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear Council
Can you please stop the wasteful, foolish spending of rate payers money on trying to convince us that the rest rooms are no longer fit for purpose.
Every building can develop some cracking over time especially when it is as old as this facility.
I'm sure some cost effective underpinning will fix any structural problem and then a little appropriate, historically sensitive refurbishment would be appreciated by the community and visitors alike.
As for being under-utilised I suggest that up grading some facilities in the meeting room and decorating the interior with historic photos and memorabilia would make make it very appealing to a variety of community organisations as a meeting area. It would also help if it was on the council website as part of the facilities available for hire.
The mayor's heavy handed approach to the fate of community facilities has got to stop as his time in office draws to a close. It's time the community needs came first not how many and how big the monuments are the mayor can leave as a memory of his time in office. The rate payers will never forget Mayor Bim Lange and the debt he has left us with.
Glen Brittain

The **Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms** occupy a prime position in the Angaston main street. The treasured landmark is currently underutilised and needs significant work to bring it up to standard with an engineer assessment identifying significant structural issues.

Before Council invests in fixing the structural issues, we want to know if you think the building should be refurbished to create a more usable space. This is your chance to shape the future of this building.

Council has worked with locals, JBG Architects, to present a number of different preliminary design concepts, each showing a different layout including options for a kitchen, BBQ area and restrooms.

Proposed options for use include an open picnic pavilion, right through to an enclosed function space that would be used as a bookable venue or leased retail space.

Does Council fix what's there or invest in a refurbishment to convert it into a more useable space? See the full plans and have your say on your preferred option before 5pm, Wednesday 5 August.

RECEIVED
29 JUL 2026
THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

Have Your Say

Which option appeals to you most?

Select a preference for each option. Ensure you only select each preference once.
Most preferred option = 1
Least preferred option = 4

	Preference 1	Preference 2	Preference 3	Preference 4
Enclosed community function space*	✓			
Function pavilion*			✓	
Open picnic pavilion and pergola*		✓		
No additional improvement, just fix				✓

the structural damage and keep as is*	○	○	○	○

How will this project increase the use of community spaces, facilities or places?*

A REFURBISHMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE USE AND HALT FURTHER DETERIORATION. PLEASE KEEP THE ORIGINAL STONE OUTER WALLS.

1000

This project will strengthen pathways for people or business to participate in the local economy.*

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	✓

This project will contribute to the vibrancy, activation or economic appeal of Angaston*

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
○	○	○	○	✓

About you

Interest in consultation*

- ✓ Interested for myself
- ○ Interested on someone else's behalf
- ✓ Interested as a community stakeholder
- ○ Other

Age*

- ○ 12 and under
- ○ 13 - 17
- ○ 18 - 24
- ○ 25 - 34
- ○ 35 - 44
- ○ 45 - 54
- ○ 55 - 64
- ✓ 65 +

How do you describe your gender?*

- ○ Male
- ✓ Female
- ○ Prefer not to say
- ○ Other

Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?*

- ○ Yes
- ✓ No
- ○ Prefer not to say

Do you identify as living with a disability?*

- ○ Yes
- ✓ No
- ○ Prefer not to say

Do you live in The Barossa Council area?*

- ✓ Yes
- ○ No

Disclaimer

We value your privacy and are committed to the ethical collection and use of data gathered through our community surveys and online forms. Responses will be collected in a deidentified format, meaning no personal information will be linked or stored. Your feedback may be used to evaluate and improve Council services, inform decision-making, and help us communicate with the community, including for marketing and promotional purposes. By participating, you consent to the collection and use of your information as described.

[redacted]

From: Merry Wyatt [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 5:45 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback re Women's Memorial Rest Room development - Angaston

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear Council,

I've looked at the various options proposed by Council to rectify issues associated with the Women's Memorial Rest Room in Angaston.

While I prefer Option Four where the Council makes necessary repairs to the structure such that the heritage charm of the building is retained, Option Four does not mention what will be done with the toilets, if anything.

As a consequence, I believe Option One may be a better, albeit much more expensive, choice. It allows for year round use - the function space can be protected from the weather where necessary. And the modern and accessible toilets will be available for the general public and users of the park.

I presume Council will charge a fee to hire the function space, either with or without the kitchen. In fact, the kitchen on its own could be hired. I don't think Option Three with BBQ's under the roof is a good idea. BBQ's can be (are already?) located in other parts of the park.

What kinds of functions does Council think it will be booked for? Family reunions, small parties/celebrations, meetings, etc. Council attests that the building is under-utilised at present. The new toilets will probably attract an increase in usage as a result of being up to date and with accessible features. The function space should also attract a certain level of usage. Has Council prepared a cost/benefit type of analysis about how much funding should be allocated to the upgrade, versus potential income/usage. The proposed hire fee will need to be suitably modest to ensure it does actually get booked.

HOWEVER, MY MAIN CONCERN IS that the words **"WOMEN'S MEMORIAL ..." must** be included in any prominent signage on the building. There are extremely few structures, buildings, statues etc. in Australia solely dedicated to women, which is quite appalling!

I will be among a large cohort of Barossa women who will be extremely disappointed if Council does not retain these words.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback,

Kindest regards

Meredith Wyatt

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Marg Kubisch [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 9:20 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] re Angaston Womens' Memorial restrooms Consultation

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Site plan Option 2.
This is my suggestion for this building.
Definitely keep the building.
Toilet suggestion to make it Male & Female seperate toilets, not unisex.

Kind regards,
Marg Kubisch

[redacted]

From: Shirley Nash [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 5:38 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Women's Memorial Rest rooms

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

I strongly disagree with your plan of only unisex toilets.
There should be at very least one Women's only toilet with facilities to change a baby Shirley Nash

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Merrilyn Ahrens [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 6:01 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Hi.

I like the idea of enclosed function area where it can be closed or open. Maybe a pergola out the front for outside entertaining as well. However I DO NOT WANT UNISEX TOILETS. I would like one mens, one women's, and the other can be disability and change room. Or 2 toilets for women and a mens one added at the rear of the women's so separate area is much more preferred. This will make women feel more comfortable and safe.
Merrilyn Ahrens

[redacted]

From: secretary@angaston.org.au
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2026 6:14 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submission to The Barossa Council : Future of the Angaston Women's Memorial Building
Attachments: Council Submission for Memorial Building 0726.pdf

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Hi,
Thank you for the opportunity for ACBA to provide a submission in respect to councils plans for the Womens Memorial Building.
Please find the submission attached.
Regards,

Sarah Day
Secretary
Angaston Community and Business Alliance

ANGASTON

1

Angaston Inc.

Angaston Community & Business Alliance
Submission to The Barossa Council
Future of the Angaston Women's Memorial Building
July 2026

ACBA Submission to Council

Subject: *ACBA Committee Submission – Angaston Women's Memorial Building Consultation*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the future of the Angaston Women's Memorial Building.

The Angaston Community & Business Alliance (ACBA) welcomes Council's decision to engage the community before determining the future of this important local asset.

The comments below reflect the views of the current ACBA Committee. Due to the consultation timeframe, the Committee has not undertaken formal consultation with the broader business community. However, we have encouraged businesses, residents and community organisations to provide their own feedback directly to Council so that a broad range of perspectives can be considered.

- encourage visitors to spend more time in Angaston;
- generate additional foot traffic to nearby businesses;
- support local events and festivals;
- strengthen Angaston's appeal as a visitor destination; and
- provide another high-quality community asset that contributes to the town's liveability.

The Committee believes this represents a better long-term return on Council's investment than simply undertaking structural repairs while retaining a building with limited ongoing purpose.

A Strategic Opportunity for Angaston

While the consultation focuses on the future of the Women's Memorial Building, ACBA believes this project presents a much broader opportunity.

Memorial Reserve occupies one of the most significant civic spaces in Angaston, connecting Murray Street with recreation facilities, community events and visitor experiences. The Committee encourages Council to view this project not simply as a building refurbishment, but as the first stage in activating Memorial Reserve as a vibrant community, tourism and event precinct.

Done well, this investment has the potential to become one of Angaston's key community gathering places while supporting local businesses, encouraging visitation and celebrating the town's unique history.

Preferred Option

After reviewing the concept plans, the ACBA Committee supports the **Enclosed Community Function Space**.

While each option provides improvements over the existing building, we believe the enclosed function space offers the greatest long-term value to the community.

It provides the flexibility needed to support a diverse range of community, cultural, educational and tourism activities throughout the year, transforming what is currently an underutilised building into a highly valued community asset.

Importantly, this option provides opportunities for year-round activation while respecting the heritage significance of the Women's Memorial Building.

Design Principles

The Committee encourages Council to design the facility around the following principles:

- Flexible and adaptable
- Accessible and inclusive
- Welcoming to residents and visitors
- Financially sustainable
- Respectful of heritage
- Connected to Memorial Reserve and Murray Street
- Able to support community events, tourism and economic activity
- Designed with future community needs in mind

A Flexible Community Hub

The building should be capable of supporting many different activities, including:

- Community meetings
- Playgroups and family programs
- School and youth activities
- Workshops and training
- Art exhibitions
- Small music performances
- Tourism experiences

- Wine tastings and educational events
- Visitor information
- Christmas activities
- Tour Down Under activations
- Small indoor markets
- Community celebrations
- Emergency coordination or community meeting point during emergencies

To support these activities, ACBA encourages consideration of:

- A community kitchen or kitchenette suitable for playgroups, workshops and catering
- Flexible furniture storage
- Large doors opening onto outdoor areas
- Audio-visual capability
- Good Wi-Fi throughout the facility
- Sufficient power and data points
- Durable finishes suitable for high community use

Outdoor Activation

The success of this project will depend as much on the surrounding outdoor space as the building itself.

We encourage Council to create an inviting, activated precinct incorporating:

- Covered outdoor seating
- Picnic facilities
- Landscaped gathering spaces
- Shade trees
- Lawn suitable for informal events
- Space for food or coffee vans
- Outdoor power outlets to support markets and community events
- Bike parking
- Bike repair station
- Drinking water refill station
- Dog water bowl
- Accessible pathways connecting Memorial Reserve with Murray Street

Given Angaston's location on the Barossa Bike Trail and the growth of cycling tourism, the Committee believes cycling infrastructure would significantly enhance the visitor experience while encouraging greater visitation to nearby businesses.

The Committee also encourages Council to consider future infrastructure requirements, such as EV charging facilities nearby, where appropriate.

Community Facilities

To ensure the building serves the whole community, consideration should be given to providing:

- Fully accessible public toilets
- Family facilities
- Baby change facilities
- Adult change table (where feasible)
- Gender-neutral cubicles
- Good internal and external lighting
- Solar lighting where appropriate
- Sensor-operated taps and fittings
- Rainwater harvesting for landscape irrigation
- CCTV covering external approaches to improve public safety

Celebrating Angaston's Story

The Committee believes this project presents an excellent opportunity to celebrate the stories that make Angaston unique.

Interpretation throughout the precinct could include:

- The history of the Women's Memorial Building and the women it commemorates
- Angaston's settlement and heritage
- The town's wine, agricultural and community history
- Visitor orientation and walking trail information
- Community noticeboard promoting local events and organisations

Supporting Local Business and Tourism

ACBA believes public infrastructure should contribute to both community wellbeing and economic vitality.

An activated community hub has the potential to:

- Encourage visitors to spend longer in Angaston
- Increase foot traffic into Murray Street

- Support local cafés, retailers and tourism operators
- Strengthen Angaston's appeal as a visitor destination
- Support festivals and community events
- Provide another quality venue for local organisations and businesses

The Committee believes this represents a significantly greater long-term return on Council's investment than undertaking structural repairs while retaining a building with limited ongoing purpose.

Looking Ahead

The Committee encourages Council to continue engaging with businesses, community organisations and event organisers during the next stage of design should the project proceed.

We also encourage Council to consider this project within the broader context of future planning for Memorial Reserve and the Angaston township, ensuring today's investment supports future opportunities for community activation, tourism, recreation and economic development.

Conclusion

The ACBA Committee strongly supports investment in the **Enclosed Community Function Space** and sees this as an opportunity to create a destination that reflects the aspirations of the Angaston community.

Rather than simply restoring an ageing building, we encourage Council to create a flexible, welcoming and well-utilised community hub that honours the site's history while serving the needs of future generations.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with Council on initiatives that strengthen Angaston as a vibrant place to live, work, visit and invest.

Kind regards,

Sarah Day
Secretary
Angaston Community & Business Alliance

APPENDIX

Potential Uses and Feature

Potential Uses	Desired Features
Community meetings	Community kitchen
Playgroups	Accessible amenities
School activities	Family facilities
Tour Down Under	Bike parking & repair
Christmas events	Water refill station
Art exhibitions	Outdoor power
Music performances	Free Wi-Fi
Wine tastings	Performance area
Visitor information	Heritage interpretation
Small markets	Community noticeboard
Emergency meeting point	Shade, lighting & CCTV

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2026 4:14 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston Memorial Reserve Rest Room

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

The Angaston Lutheran Church community look forward to the development of the Rest Rooms into function facility.
The combined churches of Angaston have used the park facilities in the past for Easter services and fully the support Options 1 or 2.
There has merit to attract many groups to use the function room and could bring more visitors to or town supporting the already developed children's playground and newly planted revegetation.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this development.

Kind Regards,
Susan Marschall - Vice Chair Zion Lutheran Church.

[redacted]

From: Kathryn Page [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 1 August 2026 4:19 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on proposed designs for the Angaston Women's Memorial Rest Room

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

To, the Barossa Council,

I am writing to provide feedback on the three proposed designs for the Angaston Women's Memorial Rest Room.

This is a facility I use often. I regularly stop in Angaston for goods and services while travelling between my places of residence in the Murraylands and Adelaide, and the women's memorial rest room is an important and valued stop for me. I strongly disapprove of all three designs. Each removes dedicated female-only toilets and converts the facilities to fully unisex use. This is a significant and unacceptable step backwards for women's and girls' safety, privacy, and dignity.

Female-only toilets and change rooms exist for clear, evidence-based reasons. They were established to provide women and girls with spaces free from male presence in situations involving undressing, vulnerability, and personal care. These spaces help mitigate the well-documented risks of male-pattern sexual violence, voyeurism, and entitlement. Removing female-only facilities, eliminates that protection and offers none of the safety, privacy, or dignity the original purpose of the memorial rest room was intended to uphold.

The current design also provides a thoughtful and safe area for parents with young children, whether mum or dad, with attached and easily accessible female toilets. This practical family-friendly arrangement is another reason the existing layout works well and should not be discarded.

Is the decision to design all toilets as unisex, linked to The Barossa Council's participation in the Rainbow Council Network and its commitment to the Rainbow Council Toolkit produced by the SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance (SARAA)? That toolkit promotes *gender neutral* toilets under the guise of *inclusion*. In doing so it completely disregards the fundamental reasons why women and girls need female-only facilities.

The absence of any female-only toilets is discrimination against the female sex. It is also a blatant safeguarding failure by Council for the reasons set out above. Unisex facilities do not provide equivalent protection. They increase opportunities for male access into spaces where women and girls are most exposed. The memorial rest room has historically served as a female-only facility; redesigning it to erase that status disregards the legitimate and ongoing need for single-sex spaces.

This traditional "ladies rest room" should show respect to the women of the past who fundraised in the community to create a dedicated women's all-purpose facility. Their efforts and intentions should not be forgotten.

I urge Council to reject the three proposed designs and instead retain or reinstate clearly designated female-only toilets. Any refurbishment should prioritise the safety, privacy, and dignity of women and girls rather than eliminate the very features that make the facility fit for its original purpose.

Thank you for considering this feedback. I look forward to a decision that upholds sex-based protections in public facilities.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Page

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 2 August 2026 7:10 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

I object to the exclusion of "women's" only toilet facilities in any of the proposed options for this site.

Kay Gerhardy

[redacted]

RECEIVED
04 AUG 2026
THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

Mrs. A. Backmeng
[redacted]

To: The Barossa Council.

As a long time resident of Angaston I would like to add my voice to the consultation process surrounding any proposed upgrade of the Womens Memorial Restrooms I would like to see the facade remain as is, any structural damage repaired and the toilet facilities upgraded.
The building is there for the use of the community - clearly visible to locals and visitors to our town looking for a restroom facility.
The toilets are in dire need of upgrading and the inclusion of a parents room would be greatly appreciated by parents with young children.
Key points to consider include accessibility functionality and safety.
I would like to see this facility become an asset to our town rather than the tired, sub-standard facility we see today.

Yours sincerely,
A Backmeng.

TO:
FROM:
SUBJECT:

29.7.2026

[redacted]

I am writing in reply to the leader, regarding the Womens Memorial rest rooms in honour of the women who served in WW II. It needs to be repaired and painted so can be used again not let to deteriorate needs new toilets also. To repair would be money well spent to Honour the Women of World War"

B Walko

RECEIVED
04 AUG 2026
THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

[redacted]

From: wendy koch [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 4:13 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston Women's Memorial Restroom
Attachments: Women's Memorial Restrooms.docx; Women's Memorial Restrooms.pdf

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Attached is a reply of concern to the future of the Angaston Women's Memorial Restroom restoration which is being submitted my members of the SACWA Angaston Branch.
Please include this in the replies you have received from concerned residents about the future of this heritage style building.

Kind Regards
Wendy Koch
Secretary
SACWA Angaston Branch

The South Australian Country Women's Association Inc.

24/7/2026

Barossa Council,

SACWA Angaston Branch members wish to convey their thoughts about the proposed upgrade to the Angaston Women's Memorial Restroom.

This venue was used as the SACWA meeting rooms up until June 2017 at which time the building became too unsafe to hold meetings due to the continued decline of the building. Cracks were obvious and over the time we were using the building for our meetings, there were a couple visits by council to assess the building but nothing was ever done to repair it. The time had come where we had to vacate these rooms and find an alternate venue. Members of the SACWA Angaston Branch feel this building does need some urgent repairs and upgrades, but this should be done in a way that retains the original design and purpose for which it was initially built. It is believed the SACWA Angaston Branch raised funds to contribute to the building of the restrooms back in the 1950's.

The park is used by locals and families year round and is often used by visitors to the Barossa. It is good that this building is finally being looked at to be upgraded as it has been in a terrible state for many years and a sad representation to the beautiful town of Angaston. Please consider keeping this building preserved in the way that it is and in honour of the women who served in World War Two. There is no need to change the design of the building as the current design represents the 1950's when it was built.

We were pleased to see the Barossa Council have taken note of all the comments on the Facebook page and hope those comments put forward by concerned members of the public are taken into consideration, especially the issue on toilet facilities. We as parents and grandparents are fully aware when out with children it is comforting to know there are safe and clean toilet facilities with access for special needs, female and male, not unisex. There is always a need when visiting a playground to wash sticky fingers, clean a grazed knee and shelter when the weather turns cold and wet. The building needs to be repaired and upgraded for the general public to use at no cost, as that is what the initial intention was. The idea of adding kitchen facilities and a function room is not necessary as that only limits access for the general public and will most likely incur a fee to use. To keep the upgrade at a lower cost would then allow funds to go towards the up keep in the future for it to be kept clean. Saving costs on this building could possibly go towards upgrading the kitchen in the Angaston Town Hall Annex, which desperately needs attention.

We look forward to a response and hope our concerns are taken into consideration. We would appreciate being kept informed and contacted if any issues are discussed at council meetings so representatives can attend the meeting.

Kind regards,
Members of SACWA Angaston Branch

To Planning department, Barossa Council 4/8/2026

[redacted]

Re: Angaston **Womens Memorial** Rooms Repairs, Re furbishment.

Having recently viewed the rooms and facilities, and also been a user for over 45 years

I note that 1.1 . yes, asbestos, where present, needs to be removed, safely.

1.2 The north east room needs repairs to the back brickwall

1.3 In the surrounding park there is a covered pavilion suitable for picnics.

1.4 Despite the park having play equipment for children, the rooms have no baby change table, area, or facilities.

I would recommend **Option 1** of the plan, retaining a fully enclosed room in the middle of the building. The room with the fireplace, and currently 2 entrances. Re furbish this room.

But with the following differences. or facilities.

2.1 Retain the 2 womens toilet cubicles and foyer entrance to it. Retain the sign explaining that women post WW11 raised money, for the facility. Fix ramp.

2.2 Retain the cubicle(s) in the mens toilets in south area. NOT UNISEX.

2.3 Upgrade the unisex disability cubicle as planned

..... 2.4 No need for kitchen in the North East room, instead a cubicle for a third womens toilet, or possibly unisex cubicle **and** a baby change room with washing sink.

Women need safe, female only spaces to use the toilet and sometimes change clothes. We need longer time in cubicles. When children are young, they are taken to the toilet by a parent/grandparent who supervises, and teaches use. Most often it is the female parent.

A narrow walk space within the existing mens toilet area, leading to 2 unisex cubicles would not necessarily be a safe space for women and girls/ accompanied boy children.

Over the decades, I have noticed that the fireplace room (middle room) is used in daytimes by local teenagers, as a warm or shaded, meeting and hang out space depending on the season. My opinion is that this is an appropriate use.

We do not need a function room with kitchen as Angaston has so many eating establishments, at varied price ranges.

Ms Robin Eagle. REagle [redacted]

RECEIVED

04 AUG 2026

THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

ART DECO & MODERNISM SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC
ADELAIDE CHAPTER

4-8-2026

Mr Martin McCarthy,
C.E.O. Barossa Council
Mr Bim Lange,
Mayor. Barossa Council

RE: The Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms

Dear Mr McCarthy and Mayor Lange,

The Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia has worked for more than thirty years to promote the identification, appreciation and conservation of our 20th century built heritage. As the Adelaide Chapter of ADMSA pointed out in our letter to you of 24/5/25, the 20th century was a time of massive social and technological change, with scarcely any facet of life remaining unaffected, and new categories of development evolving in response to emerging technologies, such as cinemas, mother and baby facilities, service stations, factories, residential flat buildings, bus stations, airport terminals, and a wider variety of residential forms.

Thus, we are pleased to note that one such building, the Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms, is now being considered for maintenance work and a possible upgrade to offer better facilities for the local community.

However, we are concerned to note that all three options presented in this consultation propose significant changes to parts of the fabric that shed light on its mid-century origin. While the striking, angular stonework would remain, none of the options given would retain the left, central and right front load-bearing window-wall sections with their coloured infill panels and combination of square and rectangular windows offset with prominent white timber framing. This approach was typical of buildings constructed in South Australia in the late 1950s, such as Barmera's 1957 Church of St Edmunds [photographed below the signature in this letter for comparison.]

ADMSA Adelaide Chapter believes that to lose these features would be to lose a significant part of the history of the building and undermine its ability to shed light on important mid-century social and design changes

If additional lighting is required to make the space more useful and amenable, this should be done via some other mechanism, such as additional window panels to the rear, which would also open up the view northward over Spring Brook.

Yours sincerely,

Chair, Preservation sub-committee, ADMSA Adelaide Chapter

1

Below: St Edmunds Church, Barmera, from Google Earth, 4-8-26

[redacted]

From: Jodie Kalleske [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 3:32 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Angaston WM Restrooms

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Angaston Women's Memorial Restrooms

To The Barossa Council

Another possibility to the four options offered could be:

The inside meeting space should be kept enclosed/locked for hired use only (Community events or private hire)

All toilets should be kept to allow maximum cubicles – fully renovated.
Underpinning carried out.
Possible cement retaining wall installed outside to the rear.
Black tubular fence installed right to the bridge fence along top edge of creek directly behind building.

Removal of inside wall between office & meeting space.
Basic corner kitchen with stainless benches & sinks installed to the rear right of building, (with possible island bench).

New floor to ceiling windows & doors installed front & windows only at rear.
Paved area, cut into same level as building at front with a few extra tables with bench seats (or low stone wall seating)
Possibly a simple patio roof shelter added to front of building – (possibly extended around to the RHS of building).

Another separate shelter with bbqs & stainless bench built outside on Murray st side. Possibly next to playground directly behind building with a table or two.

On another note:
A few more pieces of playground equipment are needed on playground directly behind. It's a bit empty.
Perhaps a basic merry go round & a few ride on things. (Like a car, animals etc)

I hope this helps in the right development of this historic building.

Kind regards
Jodie Kalleske (Angaston)

1

[redacted]

From: Janette Makaev [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 August 2026 4:47 PM
To: MBX Barossa
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

CAUTION: This Message originated outside your organization. Treat all attachments and hyperlinks with suspicion.

Dear Council,

1,000 characters is more than precise.

The Women's Memorial Restrooms honour the huge often unseen contribution women made to our community during war. One of very few memorials honouring women's contributions during war its aftermath!

Hopefully our War memorials aren't being repurposed it such a manner. They are sacrosanct! Brass plaques and all.

NOTHING in the new proposals honours the original intent of these restrooms & those who worked hard to establish it - a dedicated purposeful women's space & facilities to assist mothers & children with toileting, baby changing, menstruation, breastfeeding, a quiet warm safe space for shelter to clean messes, wash faces - do all those INVISIBLE things women do to make families function & outings happen.

It's In a small children's playground, the Women's Memorial Restrooms is being refurbished to erase any "identity of it being a women's-essential-space.

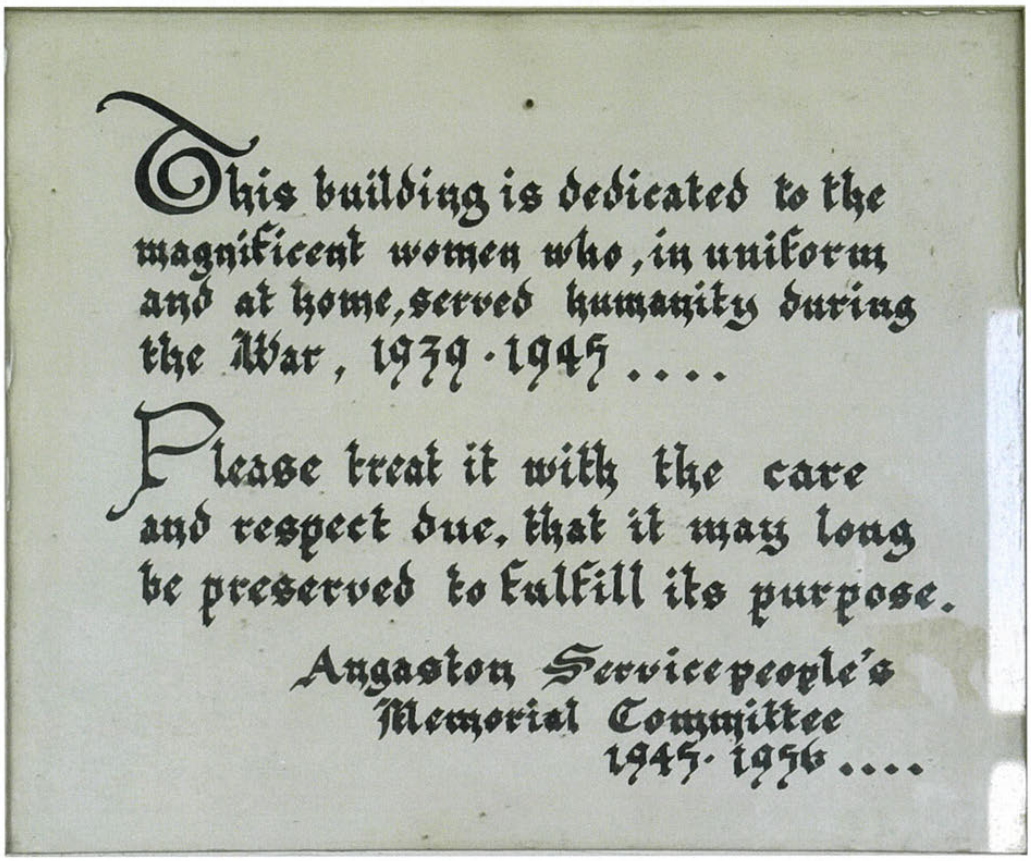
Why? to provide 3 all-purpose/no-purpose minimalist unisex toilets.

SHAME !
Just restore the WOMEN's MEMORIAL RESTROOMS building to its original purpose & WOW even enhance it by providing Baby Change Facilities & parenting/ family rooms & accessible unisex, uni-aged sanitary compartments (along with the Defibrillator) even though they aren't Federally mandated. How about being part of best practice!
Not a public demonstration of community/sovial enshittification.

The Memorial's commemorative plaque is in the foyer (not cast in bronze, but an artefact- a carefully handwritten note in ink on paper in a very simple diver frame) It says it all. Read it!

I have attached it to this email

Janette Makaev
Angaston
[redacted]


This building is dedicated to the magnificent women who, in uniform and at home, served humanity during the War, 1939-1945....
Please treat it with the care and respect due, that it may long be preserved to fulfill its purpose.
Angaston Service people's Memorial Committee
1945-1956....

DEBATE REPORT

7.4 Development and Community Services

7.4.1 MOBILE ROADSIDE VENDORS POLICY

Author: Manager Health Services and Community Safety
26/47338

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement of the Draft Mobile Roadside Food Vendors Policy and Mobile Roadside Vendor Location Rules and commence public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

(1) Endorse the draft Mobile Roadside Vendors Policy and Mobile Roadside Vendor Location Rules as per Attachment 1 and Attachment 2, to proceed for public consultation; and

(2) If no submissions are received following the public consultation period, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve and implement the final Policy and Rules.

REPORT

Background
The current Mobile Food Vendor Policy and Mobile Food Vendor Location Rules were due for review in May 2026.

The Mobile Roadside Vendor Policy is supported by the Mobile Roadside Vendor location rules. The policy and location rules seek to provide guidance to Council staff and mobile vendors who wish to conduct their business on Council road reserves in respect to their location . The rules apply a balanced approach to the management of Mobile Roadside Vendors, whilst acknowledging and supporting fixed food businesses.

Introduction
The Mobile Roadside Food Vendors Policy and Location Rules exist to provide guidance as to the circumstances and framework in which mobile vendors may operate from the roadside within The Barossa Council.

The purpose of the Policy and Location Rules are to provide consistency, fairness and supports both mobile food vendors and established food businesses and satisfies Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

While reviewing the current Policy and Location rules, consideration has been given to broaden the opportunity for other vendors (should they apply) to operate on the roadside.

Discussion
Recently, Council has received a request from a community member seeking permission to conduct roadside sales for products other than food or coffee. As the current Mobile Food

Vendor policy and location rules outlines requirements for the selling of only food, consideration needs to be given on whether to allow a broader opportunity for other items (e.g flowers) to be sold from the roadside throughout the Barossa Valley.

By providing the opportunity to other vendors, the draft Policy and subsequent location rules will assist the relevant staff in sound decision making when needing to assess an application.

Should this initiative be approved, the current Policy and Locations Rules would need to be retitled. To cover most possibilities, it has been proposed to retitle the draft Policy as Mobile Roadside Vendors Policy (attachment1), and the Location Rules being retitled Mobile Roadside Vendor Location Rules (attachment 2).

The draft Policy and Locations Rules have been amended to accommodate the opportunity for other vendors.

Summary and Conclusion
This policy aligns with other Local Government areas that have introduced a similar policy.

As the proposed changes may affect current established businesses, the draft Policy and Location Rules would benefit by being subjected to a Community Consultation process, which is outlined in the attachments

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Mobile Food Vendor Policy - 2026 Draft - Clean Copy ⇩
Attachment 2 Draft Mobile Roadside Vendor Location Rules - clean copy ⇩
Attachment 3 Draft Communications Plan - Mobile Roadside Vendor Policy ⇩

Supporting references
Nil

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

CS8 Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement - Conducting compliance, monitoring and responding to non-compliance associated with planning, building, swimming pool, fire safety, public health and safety

Legislative Requirements

Local Government Act 1999 – Section 222

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 updated policy and location rules will allow staff to assess and apply consistent decision making to mobile roadside vendor applications.

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.

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.

The policy and location rules provide clear guidelines for businesses wanting to trade from the roadside.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- The community will be invited to provide written submissions on the Draft Policy and Rules. These submissions will be considered at the conclusion of the consultation period.
- A Community Engagement plan has been prepared and is provided as Attachment 3.

Mobile Food Vendors Policy

TheBarossaCouncil

1. Document control

Policy Number:	CD/20/135	**Council Resolution Number:**	
Document Owner:	Director Development and Community Services	**Document Author:**	Manager Health Services and Community Safety
Approval Date		**Next Review Date:**	

2. Statement of Intent

2.1. The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework for which Mobile Roadside Vendors may operate within The Barossa Council area in a manner that supports mobile vendors, and satisfies Council's obligations under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

3. Policy Principles

3.1. Mobile Roadside Vendors must operate in a manner that enhances and contributes to the vibrancy of the region and within defined Location Rules as per the prevailing Council Mobile Roadside Vendors Location Rules.

3.2. Council seeks to apply a balanced approach to the management of Mobile Roadside Vendors through the provision of areas and guidelines where Mobile Roadside Vendors may operate whilst acknowledging and supporting various fixed businesses.

3.3. General Principles

3.3.1. Mobile Roadside Vendors shall not:

- Operate in contravention of Council's Mobile Roadside Vendor Location Rules or without a current Mobile Roadside Vendor Permit.
- Operate on main arterial roads under the management of Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, or other State or Federal Government Department or authority without consent of the relevant authority.
- Create or permit an adverse impact on road, traffic or pedestrian safety.
- Detract from the amenity of an area, or otherwise create a nuisance or hazard.
- Result in any increase in Council's existing levels or service levels in relation to rubbish removal, maintenance or civil works unless formally approved by Council.
- Operate in a manner that overtly diverts business or customers away from existing Fixed Businesses.

4. Scope

4.1. This Policy applies to all mobile roadside vendors operating on a public road or reserve within the Barossa Council.

4.2. Exclusion from this policy:

4.2.1. Mobile Food Vendors operating as part of a Council-approved event or function.

4.2.2. Mobile Food Vendors operating on private land with the consent of the owner of the land.

4.2.3. Food delivery services.

5. Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer

5.1. Ensuring that all Policies are reviewed and comply with relevant legislation.

Managers

5.2. All relevant Policies. Processes and Guidelines are made available and known to relevant Council employees.

Communications and Marketing

5.3 Ensure that this Police and relevant guidelines are made available on Councils website.

6. Legislation and References.

Legislation

- Local Government Act 1999 – Section 222
- Local Government (General) Regulations 2013

Policies

- Customer Service Policy
- Enforcement Policy
- Internal Review of a Council Decision Policy

Supporting Documents

- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Mobile Food Vending Operational Guidelines
- The Barossa Council Location Rules
- Mobile Roadside Vendors Application
- Mobile Roadside Vendor Permit
- Relevant guidelines, codes or rules issued by the State Government

7. Definitions

Application Fee	The relevant fee that is payable upon submitting an application for a Mobile Roadside Vendor Permit; which has been approved by Council and contained within the Fees and Charges Register

Authorised Person	Authorised Person means a person appointed by a council as an authorised person under Chapter 12 Part 3 of the Local Government Act 1999.
Fixed Food Business	An established and approved business on private property which has the primary purpose of, or a significant proportion of business relating to, the retail sale of food or beverages direct to the public, and includes: Cafes, restaurants, takeaway food businesses, bakeries, butchers, supermarkets, fast food outlets and some service stations.
Food	As Per the Food Act 2001, means any substance prepared or grown for human consumption.
Highway	Highway means— (a) A main road or a controlled-access road within the meaning of the Highways Act 1926; or (b) A road vested in the name of the Commissioner of Highways or the Minister to whom the administration of the Highways Act 1926 is committed; or (c) A road that is subject to a notice under section 26 of the Highways Act 1926
Mobile Roadside Vendor	Means the operation of a business or activity involving the provision or sale of food,beverages or other approved items from a vehicle.
Mobile Ice Cream Vendor	Refers to a mobile food vendor that is primarily engaged in the sale of ice cream. These vans have increased mobility and do not remain standing for any extended period of time, generally only stopping as hailed by customers, primarily in residential areas.
Moveable Sign	Has the same meaning as Council's Movable Sign By-law.
Private Land or Private Property	Means any land or area under private ownership or not under the care or control of The Barossa Council. For the purposes of this policy, private land also includes land or assets under the care and control of the State Government or a State Government body or agency.
Public Road	Has the same meaning as the Local Government Act, being— any road— (i) that is vested in a council under the Local Government Act, or another Act, or; (ii) that is placed under a Council's care, control and management as a Public Road after the commencement of the Local Government Act. And includes the areas commonly known as the road verges, nature strips and footpath areas.
Reserve	Reserve means community land reserved or dedicated as a Reserve or designated by the council as a Reserve.
Vehicle	Has the same meaning as the Road Traffic Act and includes: Motor Vehicles, Trailers, Caravans or Bicycles.

8. Version History

This Policy will be reviewed by the Policy Author in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, within three years or more frequently if legislation or Council's need changes.

Version No.	Date.	Summary of Changes
1	*16/05/2023*	New Policy
2		Transferred into new corporate template Added section for responsibilities Retitled to Roadside Mobile Vendor Policy to offer the opportunity of other types of selling to occur Deleted relevant areas that referred to food only selling Updated Roadside Vendor Location Rules to offer the opportunity of other types of selling to occur

9. Further Information

This Policy is available on Council's website at www.barossa.sa.gov.au. It can also be viewed electronically at Council's principal office at 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa during ordinary business hours. A printed copy of this Policy can be obtained upon payment of a fixed fee.

Feedback regarding this Policy or its application can be made to the Customer Service Team on 8563 8444 or barossa@barossa.sa.gov.au in first instance, who will refer you to the most appropriate officer.

TheBarossaCouncil
LLAO
CAFÉ DEL BOSQUE
MOBILE ROADSIDE VENDOR
LOCATION
RULES

Litter and waste

A Mobile Roadside Vendor must:

- Be self-sufficient and not rely on access to water, electricity or any other service.
- Ensure that all waste and waste water is contained on the vehicle and disposed ofin an approved manner.
- Not use Council provided public rubbish bins for the disposal of litter or waste. All rubbish or waste created by the business must be removed from the site.

Parking

A Mobile Roadside Vendor must:

- Select a site that does not unduly interfere with the movement or parking of vehicles or pedestrians.
- Select a site that does not obstruct access to any parking spaces or areas, including parking areas for people with disabilities.
- Comply with all existing signs or laws relating to the parking and movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

Signage

A Mobile Roadside Vendor must:

- Display no more than one movable sign directly adjacent the selected location in accordance with Council's Movable Sign By-laws.
- Not attach signage or any other object associated with the activity to any other structure, object, tree or other vegetation.
- Only display signage which advertises the Mobile Roadside Vendor or products available for purchase from the Mobile Roadside Vendor.

General

A Mobile Roadside Vendor must:

- Not operate in any caravan park without the permission of the Park Manager.
- Not operate outside of any Bushfire Safer Place on a day of Severe Fire Danger as declared by Country Fire Services (CFS).
- Not operate on any day of Extreme or Catastrophic Fire Danger as declared by CFS.
- Not provide or offer alcohol, including for sale, tasting or sampling.
- Ensure that the activity does not result in any deliberate damage to any asset, object or structure. Any damage including accidental damage deemed to be caused by the Mobile Roadside Vendor activity will be the responsibility of the permit holder.
- Comply with any reasonable direction or request from an Authorised Person, a member or officer of the South Australian Police or South Australian Country Fire Service.

Hours of operation

A Mobile Roadside Vendor must:

- Not operate between the hours of sunset and 7.00am unless formally approved by Council or a delegated officer.

Approvals or legislative requirements

A Mobile Roadside Vendor must:

Ensure compliance with any relevant provision of any relevant legislation, including (but not limited to):

a) The Mobile Roadside Vendor permit issued by The Barossa Council;

b) The Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005

c) The Barossa Council's By-laws

d) The Barossa Council's Policies and Processes

e) Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016

f) Motor Vehicle Act 1959, Road Traffic Act 1961 and Australian Road Rules

g) The Food Act 2001

h) South Australian Public Health Act 2011

i) The Environment Protection Act 1993

j) Relevant laws, regulations, guidelines or rules relating to mobile food vending businesses or an aspect of that business, or electrical or gas installations or appliances;

k) The Local Government Act 1999 and associated Regulations

l) Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Fees

An application for a Mobile Roadside Vendor permit within The Barossa Council area must be accompanied by a completed application form.

Prior to a Mobile Roadside Vendor permit being issued, the following fees are payable:

Monthly Permit: $200.00
Annual Permit: $2,000.00

Application fees will be reviewed annually as part of Council's Annual Budget and Business Plan review Policy and Process.

Refunds will only be provided for annual permits where a permit is cancelled or surrendered by the permit holder. Refunds will be calculated on a pro-rata basis based on the unused portion (whole months only).

Review

These Location Rules will be reviewed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, every five (5) years or more frequently if there are legislative changes or at the request of Council.

Communications and Engagement Plan

Mobile Roadside Trading Policy

Records reference	26/43974
Document status	Draft
Version	1
Date	29 July 2026

Project governance

Project sponsor (ultimate decision maker)	
Project governance / reference group	
Project leader	Darren Hurst
Project team / working group	Darren Hurst, Sarah Mercuri, Taryn Wills, Alicia Ludi Schutz, Chelsea Broadhurst, Alicia Dahlitz

Background

The current Mobile Food Vendor Policy and rules have now been re-titled to Mobile Roadside Vendor to enable a broader type of items to be sold other than just food.

Council is seeking community feedback on the draft policy before it is finalised.

Consultation seeks feedback on the policy.

Specific considerations and inclusions

- This policy provides a framework for how Mobile Roadside Vendors may operate within the Council area and satisfies Council's obligations under the Local Government Act.
- Policy reflects a balanced approach and inclusivity for mobile roadside vendors without reducing the support for existing fixed businesses.
- A consultation summary will be prepared at the conclusion of the engagement period outlining feedback received.

Overarching communication and engagement objectives / purpose

- Reach a broad range of audiences in The Barossa Council region and encourage them to provide feedback through Council's official engagement channels.
- Raise community awareness about opportunities to provide feedback to Council, and how their feedback can help influence decision making.
- Motivate community by driving them to Council's Your Barossa Your say landing page.
- Share how community feedback will be used while managing expectations in relation to what the feedback can influence.
- Understand community sentiment and views on the draft strategy
- Understand if the updated policy reflects what we have heard from the community previously

Further documentation / additional information

- Mobile Roadside Vendor Location Rules (needs to be included in engagement documents)
- Draft Mobile Roadside Vendor Policy

Sign-off

Roles			
Officer who prepared the document	**Name**: Taryn Wills	**Position title:** Marketing and Communications Team Leader	**Date:** 29 July 2026
Reviewed by	**Name**: Darren Hurst	**Position title**: Manager, Health Services and Community Safety	**Date**: 5 August 2026
Approved by	**Name**: Jake McVicar	**Position title:**	**Date**:

Appendix 1 — Engagement methodology

Community engagement method

Step 1: Negotiables and non-negotiables

Negotiables: What can the community influence?	**Comments / reasoning**
The extent to which this policy applies to mobile businesses.	Feedback from the community in relation to these matters will be considered. Community could ask for policy to remain as previous mobile food vendor policy.
Non-negotiables: What can't the community influence?	**Comments / reasoning**
Legislation that governs the requirement for this policy	Community feedback cannot directly influence the legislative requirements contained within the policy.

Step 2: Risk assessment

Risk factor	Low	Medium	High	Explanation and mitigation actions
What is the degree of complexity of the project?	x	☐	☐	Reasonably straight forward process, providing reasoning to extend policy (beyond food) is clearly articulated.
What is the degree of potential community impact of the project?	x	☐	☐	Minimal changed being proposed apart from broadening the opportunities for mobile vendors.
What is the degree of political sensitivity or interest in the project?	x	☐	☐	Minimal, however some businesses may see this policy as a threat to their bricks and mortar business. Clearly articulate - As per location rules, a vendor shall not operate: - In a residential areas within 150m of a residential premises; - Within 150m of a fixed food business while that business is open to the public; - Withing 50m of another mobile food vending business (unless approval is provided by Council)
What is the degree of reputational risk to the organisation?	x	☐	☐	n/a

What is the degree of legal / legislative risk associated with the project?	x	☐	☐	n/a
Overall risk rating	x	☐	☐	*Sign-off required from Director*

Step 3: Choose the most appropriate methods for each project stage

Method	Our commitment to the community	
Inform	We will keep you informed.	☐
Consult	We will listen to your concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision(s).	x
Active participation	We will work with you to ensure that what we've heard is directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision(s).	☐

We will **consult** with the broader community on this policy and listen to their concerns and feedback.

Geographic boundaries

This engagement is Council wide.

Key messages

List the key messages for stakeholders. Keep these consistent across all channels and materials.

- We've extended our mobile vendor policy to include businesses beyond mobile food vendors and offer the opportunity for broader businesses to operate on a 'mobile basis'.
- Council sees the broadening of this policy as an opportunity to support more businesses.
- The draft Policy should be read in conjunction with the Guidelines/Rules which provide guidance for the how to, what to do and what not to do.
- We propose this policy will replace the previous policy which only related to mobile food businesses.
- We want your feedback on the draft policy.
- You can share your feedback through a range of methods including online and in person.
- Once your feedback has been received, reviewed and collated. The Policy will be approved.

Timing — key dates

Dates	Activity

27 July – 31 July	Pre engagement planning. Develop engagement plan and seek approval.
18 August	Report to Council
7 September	Consultation and Engagement commences
28 September	Consultation and Engagement concludes
	Data is collated and engagement report finalised
October/November?	Council meeting – review outcomes/feedback and endorse final strategy

Communication and engagement techniques

The following channels (techniques) will be used to drive engagement and participation:

- Your Barossa, Your Say online with survey feedback tool
- Owned social media channels including The Barossa Council
- Public notice in The Leader and The Bunyip
- Support from branch offices and libraries – poster/display, collect hardcopy surveys, encourage participation
- Posters at prominent public locations like shopping centres
- Enewsletters through Visitor Services/Tourism and Economic Development databases

Appendix 2 — Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholder	Level of influence and/or interest in the project	Engagement stages and technique/s	Responsible officer
Decision-maker(s)			
Elected members	High level of influence/interest	Council report	Darren Hurst
Executive Leadership Team	High level of influence/interest	ELT report	Darren Hurst
Internal stakeholders (e.g. Customer Support, Libraries, Community Development)			
Customer Support	Medium interest and influence	Email advising of engagement and seek support for displaying posters/draft strategy and hardcopy surveys	Comms and Marketing
Key identified stakeholders			
Tourism operators	Medium interest/medium influence	Inclusion in enewsletter	Visitor Services team
Local businesses	Medium influence/low interest	Inclusion in enewsletter	Economic Development
Indirectly affected stakeholders			
Broad community • Residents	High interest/medium influence	Social media posts Poster/display Your Barossa, Your Say Newsletters (digital)	Communications and Marketing Team
Non-government organisations, peak bodies, industry groups			
Regional Development Barossa	High interest/medium influence	Direct email advising of engagement and seeking feedback	Communications and Marketing
Media (e.g. local newspapers)			
d'Vine	Moderate interest/low influence	Advising of engagement	Communications and Marketing

Appendix 3 — Communication and engagement action plan

Phase	Desired outcome	Target audience / stakeholder	Method	Channel / technique(s)	Timeline	Responsible office
Planning	Materials and communications drafted and approved		Active participation	Your Barossa, Your Say content Social media post Poster Media Release Poster Public Notice Feedback Tool (survey)	End August	Comms and Marketing Team
Implementation	Legislated requirement for notice in print media met	The Leader The Bunyip	Inform/ active participation	Direct email to book ad	By September 3	Taryn Wills / Darren Hurst
Implementation	Your Barossa Your Say page is live	Broad community	Active participation	Website home tile / media release uploaded and page live	By September 7	Comms Team
Implementation	Posters and draft strategy sent out	Customer Support	Inform	Posters /	By September 3	Comms Team
Implementation	Social media post	Broad community	Inform/active participation	FB/IG post	Between September 7 and 28	Comms Team
Implementation	Share engagement opportunity with key stakeholders and networks	Broad community	Inform/active participation	Emails to identified stakeholders	September 7	Comm Dev Team Comms Team
Implementation	Subscribers are informed	The Barossa Council subscribers Economic Development subscribers	Inform	Short article in digital newsletters	September 7 and 28	Comms Team Economic Development

		Visitor Services/Tourism subscribers				Visitor Services/Tourism

Responsible officer for this plan: Team Leader Communications and Marketing

DEBATE REPORT

7.4 Development and Community Services

7.4.2 DRAFT ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE STRATEGY

Author: Team Leader Gallery and Creative Industries
26/48565

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council endorsement of the Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy and seeks approval to realign internal resourcing and operation of the Barossa Creative Industries Centre as well as Arts, Culture and Heritage functions from Development and Community Services (DCS) to Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation (CSSI) under the portfolio of Economic Activation and Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION
That Council:

(1) Endorse the Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy (Attachment 1) for a final period of consultation as outlined in the Communications and Engagement Plan dates the 27 July 2026, for a period of 21 days commencing on the 26 August 2026 and concluding at 5pm on 16 September 2026.

(2) Note the findings of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Consultation Report (Attachment 2), which informed development of the Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy.

(3) If no submissions are received through consultation the Chief Executive Officer shall finalise the strategy; otherwise it shall be reported back to Council for final consideration.

(4) That Arts, Culture and Heritage resourcing and ongoing operation of the Barossa Creative Industries Centre is realigned to be delivered under the functional responsibilities of the Deputy CEO and Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation directorate.

REPORT

Background

The Barossa Council has identified the need for a contemporary Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy to provide strategic direction for Council's role in supporting, facilitating and enabling arts, culture and heritage across the region.

The Strategy has been developed in response to priorities identified through Council's Community Plan and Corporate Plan, together with the evolving needs of the Barossa's arts, culture and heritage sectors and broader community.

In 2025, Council engaged consultant Maz McGann (Play Your Part) to support the development of the Strategy. A comprehensive program of research, stakeholder engagement and community consultation was undertaken, including surveys, workshops, targeted stakeholder discussions, artist visioning activities, staff engagement and direct submissions. More than 320 people participated throughout the consultation process.

The engagement process sought to understand community values, aspirations, opportunities and challenges relating to arts, culture and heritage in the Barossa. Feedback gathered through this process informed development of the Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy, which is now presented to Council for endorsement.

The draft Strategy has subsequently undergone targeted stakeholder review, including internal engagement across relevant Council portfolios, discussion at an Elected Member Workshop in June 2026, and presentation to the BCIC Agile Stakeholder Group.

The development of the Strategy coincides with significant investment in arts, culture and heritage infrastructure and services, including the Barossa Creative Industries Centre, and provides an opportunity to establish a coordinated long-term framework to guide future investment, partnerships and community outcomes.

Introduction

While the BCIC will play an important role as a cultural hub, the draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy (provided at *Attachment 1*) recognises that cultural vitality must be nurtured across the entire region through people, places, organisations, collections, traditions, events and creative enterprise.

Community consultation undertaken during development of the Strategy identified strong support for preserving and celebrating heritage, increasing opportunities for participation, supporting artists and creatives, strengthening cultural tourism and fostering greater collaboration across the sector. The Draft Strategy responds to these aspirations and provides a framework to guide Council's role in supporting, facilitating and enabling arts, culture and heritage across the Barossa over the next decade.

The Strategy also recognises the significant opportunity for arts, culture and heritage to complement the Barossa's internationally recognised food and wine reputation, and the emerging opportunities of the creative arts sector as a driver for tourism and economic outcomes. By celebrating heritage through contemporary creative practice, supporting local talent, amplifying the stories that shape the region and

investing in public arts outcomes, the Strategy seeks to strengthen the Barossa's position as a culturally vibrant, distinctive and prosperous regional community.

Discussion

Strategy Development and Engagement

Development of the Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy was informed by research, community engagement, stakeholder consultation and cross-organisational collaboration.

The project was undertaken during 2025 with support from consultant Maz McGann (Play Your Part) and guided by an internal working group comprising representatives from a range of Council business units. The process included review of relevant local, state and national policy documents, existing Council strategies and plans, industry trends and regional opportunities.

Community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken between March and April 2025 and included online surveys, public workshops, targeted stakeholder sessions, small group meetings, staff workshops, artist visioning activities and direct submissions.

More than 320 people participated throughout the process, representing community members, artists, creatives, heritage groups, volunteers, tourism operators, businesses, schools, government agencies and community organisations.

The consultation identified several recurring themes, including heritage preservation, cultural participation, support for artists and creatives, cultural tourism, public art, First Nations visibility, community connection and improved coordination across the sector. These findings informed the development of the draft Strategy and its proposed goals and priorities as provided at *Attachment 2*.

It is proposed that if no substantive feedback is received, the final Strategy is adopted under CEO delegation. Should significant matters arise as determined by the CEO, a report containing key changes will return to Council for consideration.

Strategic Alignment

The Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy supports the delivery of a range of Council and broader government priorities relating to community wellbeing, cultural identity, economic development, tourism, learning and social connection.

The Strategy aligns with the Barossa Community Plan by contributing to a vibrant, connected and inclusive community, strengthening local identity and belonging, celebrating heritage, encouraging participation and supporting community wellbeing. It recognises arts, culture and heritage as important contributors to liveability and community resilience.

The Strategy also supports Council's broader economic development objectives by strengthening creative industries, enhancing cultural tourism and event opportunities, supporting local talent and encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship. It recognises the role arts, culture and heritage can play in diversifying the regional economy and complementing the Barossa's internationally recognised food and wine reputation.

The development of the Strategy coincides with Council's significant investment in cultural infrastructure through the BCIC. The Strategy provides a framework to maximise the social, cultural and economic outcomes arising from this investment while recognising that arts, culture and heritage activity extends beyond a single facility and occurs across the wider region.

The Strategy is also aligned with relevant state and national policy directions, which recognise cultural participation, First Nations culture, regional development and creative industries as important contributors to community and economic outcomes.

Overview of the Draft Strategy

The Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy establishes a vision for the Barossa as a cultural leader, where arts, culture and heritage are visible, valued and contribute to community wellbeing, innovation, creative excellence and regional identity.

The Strategy is built around three interconnected pillars and strategic directions:

The Strategy recognises that arts, culture and heritage outcomes are achieved through collaboration between Council, community organisations, artists, creatives, heritage groups, volunteers, tourism operators, educational institutions, businesses and government. It identifies Council's role as a leader, provider, advocate, facilitator and partner and provides a framework to guide future investment, partnerships and decision-making.

The Strategy is intended to provide long-term strategic direction while allowing flexibility in delivery. Implementation priorities will be considered through Council's annual business planning and budgeting processes, supported by partnerships, external funding opportunities and future implementation planning.

Internal Alignment

The draft Strategy recognises the many business units of Council that contribute to a vibrant regional arts, culture and heritage sector.

Realising the aspirations of the Strategy is dependent on strong internal working relationships across multiple business units that extend beyond arts and culture alone.

There is a strong overlay across community development, economic development, visitor economy and visitor servicing, events, marketing and grant funding.

Likewise, activities within the BCIC are multi-faceted and must balance the mutual and complementary interests of the local community with the opportunities for economic uplift through its positioning as a visitor destination. Investing in a strong brand, corporate and government partnerships, events attraction and third-party grant funding opportunities will be paramount to ensuring the BCIC operates in a commercially viable way, with capacity for income generation alongside community activation. The directions within the draft Strategy have strong alignment with the Local Economic Development Plan and the strategic intent of the Economic Activation and Strategy portfolio.

In light of this, and following ongoing internal dialogue at executive and officer level, it is recommended that the Arts, Culture and Heritage team is restructured under the Deputy CEO and Corporate Services, Strategy and Innovation portfolio, specifically the Economic Activation and Strategy team, to support the uplift of the BCIC as both a visitor destination and incubator of regional creative enterprise.

Summary and Conclusion

The Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy establishes a long-term strategic framework to guide Council's role in supporting, facilitating and enabling arts, culture and heritage across the region. It has been informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement and research, and responds to identified opportunities relating to cultural participation, heritage preservation, creative industries, cultural tourism, learning and community wellbeing.

The Strategy has undergone targeted review by Council officers, elected members and the BCIC Agile Stakeholder Group and is now presented for Council endorsement. Subject to Council's endorsement, any non-substantive amendments arising from the review process will be incorporated into the final Strategy prior to implementation.

A realignment of the Arts, Culture and Heritage portfolio to Economic Activation and Strategy will support the strategic intent of the Strategy and also the ongoing operation of the Barossa Creative Industries Centre to deliver long-term, sustainable economic and community benefit.

Chief Executive Officer Amendment

The report provided in the agenda released on Wednesday 12 August 2026 as above recommended that sufficient consultation had been undertaken. There has been extensive consultation over a lengthy period as outlined in the report.

As a result of this consultation and preparation works for the report, I determined that one the legislative intent had been achieved and due to timing needs to endorse the strategy and prepare the operating model and getting geared up to open the new facility as soon as it is completed to proceed to adoption.

However, further internal communications and engagement have seen deeper thinking on this matter. It is now recommended that we do undertaken a final round of consultation to check in that we have captured the prior three rounds of engagement and in essence pulse check the plan before its adoption.

With this amendment attached is the proposed engagement plan. The recommended has been updated accordingly.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy - 2026 to 2030 ⇩
Attachment 2 The Barossa Council Arts Culture and Heritage Strategy Consultation Report - Play Your Part - 2025 ⇩

Supporting references
A Place to Create - our state cultural policy | CreateSA
Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place | Office for the Arts

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan

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.

Strategic Outcome

- Our community is welcoming, vibrant and safe.
- Our services and facilities are accessible.
- We have a healthy respect for our diversity, character and history and are welcoming and supportive of all people.

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

Strategic Outcome

- We strive to support income and job stability and growth for the future in support of quality of life outcomes.
- We partner with and support local business.
- We are a destination of choice.
- We look to maximize community economic return.

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.
- We plan for and deliver infrastructure to enhance our places.

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

Strategic Outcome

- We have strong relationships, and where appropriate, partner with our community, industries, stakeholders, the Local Government sector and Governments.

Corporate Plan

CS2 Art and Culture - Organising and facilitating the Barossa gallery, arts culture and events

CS11 Events - Management of community development projects and events, including enquiries and logistics. Event management supporting a variety of internal service areas and community that support the delivery of successful, community focused events.

CS10 Economic Development - Facilitating the economic well-being and quality of life of the local businesses and the community

CS14 Heritage - Ensuring the heritage of the Barossa is recorded and available to the community to access. Support of the heritage network (museums, historical societies)

Legislative Requirements
Section 7, Local Government Act, 1999

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 Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy provides a coordinated framework to guide Council's future investment, decision-making, advocacy and partnerships in the arts, culture and heritage sector and will align service delivery with the appropriate Council directorate.

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 preparation of the Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy has been accommodated within existing Council budgets.
Endorsement of the Draft Strategy does not commit Council to any additional funding or future expenditure. Any actions arising from the final Strategy will be subject to future Council consideration through annual business planning, budgeting processes, external funding opportunities and partnership arrangements.
Implementation of the Strategy will be undertaken progressively and in accordance with Council priorities, available resources and funding availability.

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.

Relevant staff will be consulted with as part of the proposed realignment.

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.

The Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy provides a coordinated framework to guide Council's future investment, decision-making, advocacy and partnerships in the arts, culture and heritage sector. Without a contemporary strategic framework, there is a risk that opportunities for cultural, social and economic outcomes may be missed, investment may become fragmented, and Council's ability to maximise the benefits arising from arts, culture and heritage initiatives and infrastructure may be reduced.

The Strategy supports a more coordinated and evidence-based approach to planning and investment and provides a basis for future partnership development, funding applications and service planning.

There is a potential risk that community expectations may exceed available resources. This risk will be managed through the phased implementation of the Strategy, annual business planning and budgeting processes, and ongoing review of priorities and available funding opportunities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Development of the Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy has been informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement undertaken throughout 2025. The engagement process was designed to understand community

aspirations, identify opportunities and challenges, and explore the role arts, culture and heritage play in the future of the Barossa.

Engagement activities included community surveys, public workshops, targeted stakeholder discussions, artist visioning activities, staff workshops and direct submissions. More than 320 people participated throughout the engagement process, representing community members, artists, creatives, heritage groups, volunteers, tourism operators, businesses, educational institutions, community organisations and government stakeholders.

Several consistent themes emerged through the engagement process. Participants identified the importance of preserving and celebrating heritage, supporting artists and creatives, increasing opportunities for participation, strengthening cultural tourism and enhancing collaboration across the sector. Community members also highlighted the important role arts, culture and heritage play in supporting wellbeing, community pride, belonging, cultural identity and sustainable economic development.

Feedback gathered through this process directly informed the development of the Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy, including the vision, pillars and strategic directions presented within the document. Following completion of the draft, the Strategy has also undergone targeted review through internal Council engagement, discussion at an Elected Member Workshop and presentation to the BCIC Agile Stakeholder Group. The Strategy presented to Council reflects the outcomes of both the community engagement process and subsequent stakeholder review.

Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy 2026-30

The Barossa Council

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Cover Image: DJ Alex Hosking performs on the main stage at The Barossa Food & Wine Village, Tanunda as part of the AFL Gather Round.

> Installation view: Kunyi June Anne McInerney: My Paintings Speak For Me, Country Arts SA exhibition at Barossa Regional Gallery.

The Barossa Council Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy - 2026-2030

VISION
The Barossa is a cultural leader – where powerful stories, proud heritage and bold creative practice collide.
Here, arts, culture and heritage are not just visible but vital – driving community wellbeing, inspiring innovation, and shaping a region known for its creative excellence, deep identity and distinctive sense of place.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Barossa Council acknowledges that we are on the traditional lands of Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kaurna peoples. We recognise and respect the relationship that First Nations people have with our land and water ways and value their heritage and beliefs.

^ Ngadjuri Elder, cultural teacher and aboriginal storyteller Uncle Quenten Agius at schools event at Barossa Bushgardens.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Barossa Council Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy 2026–2030 sets a bold vision for a region where creativity, culture, and heritage are not only visible - but vital. It recognises the immense potential of the Barossa's cultural assets to drive social connection, economic diversification, and a deepened sense of identity.

At the heart of this strategy is the belief that arts, culture, and heritage are foundational to the region's future - not an add-on, but a driver of wellbeing, innovation, and regional distinctiveness. Anchored by the development of the Barossa Creative Industries Centre* (BCIC), the strategy envisions a connected cultural ecosystem that celebrates heritage through contemporary expression, supports local talent, and amplifies the stories that shape this extraordinary place.

Developed in consultation with the community, the strategy responds to local priorities and aspirations. It builds on the Barossa's proud history, rich First Nations and European heritage, and global reputation in food and wine - positioning arts and culture as equally compelling pillars of Barossa life. It is designed to be a document to inspire and be used by a range of stakeholders across different areas including tourism, community services, education and economic development – not just by those who have an interest in arts, culture and heritage.

Six interconnected strategic directions underpin the strategy:

- Drive cultural tourism and creative visitation
- Grow creative industries and local talent
- Foster community wellbeing, inclusion and connection
- Amplify participation and local storytelling
- Champion cultural learning and creative education
- Preserve and celebrate cultural heritage

These directions are supported by practical strategies and actions, clearly aligned to Council's roles as leader, provider, advocate and partner. Key principles - placebased thinking, collaboration, and creativity - guide implementation, and a robust measurement framework will track progress and impact.

This Strategy is about being ambitious but also building momentum. It is a platform for elevating the Barossa as a cultural leader - distinctive, inclusive, and future-focused - where stories old and new are shared boldly, and where creativity becomes a catalyst for a thriving region.

> Australian Ballet On Tour in the Barossa, Dancing Story Workshop, Tanunda Soldiers' Memorial Hall.

**Working title for Barossa Regional Gallery and Tanunda Soldiers' Memorial Hall site redevelopment.*

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose of the Strategy

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2026–2030 sets a long-term vision and framework for how the Barossa Council will support, invest in and grow the region's cultural life. This strategy provides direction for Council and its partners to harness the power of arts, culture and heritage as essential ingredients in building a thriving, inclusive and connected region.

It has been developed to guide decisions, enable collaboration across communities and sectors, and to position the new Barossa Creative Industries Centre (BCIC) as a hub for creative development and cultural engagement. While the BCIC will be a flagship facility, this strategy recognises that cultural vitality must be nurtured across the entire Council area - from main streets to villages, paddocks to galleries, and through digital as well as physical platforms.

It has long been suggested that arts, culture and heritage have significant potential to be a key strength of the region, particularly from an economic and tourism perspective, sitting alongside food and wine. This strategy provides an opportunity to elevate arts, culture and heritage to a level where it complements the food and wine industry in both quality and community involvement.

^ The Tullamarines perform on the main stage at The Barossa Food & Wine Village, Tanunda as part of the AFL Gather Round.

2.1 Strategic Positioning

ART + HERITAGE + INNOVATION + COLLABORATION = EXCELLENCE + PROSPERITY

With a growing investment in arts, culture and heritage over the last ten years, and the development of the Barossa Creative Industries Centre, **this is a significant moment in the Barossa's cultural timeline.** This strategy comes at an important time and provides an opportunity for the Barossa region to lean into its strengths and **position itself as a leader in producing products and experiences that combine heritage and storytelling with great contemporary art practice.** The region has long been recognised for its great food and wine, which owes a great deal of its reputation and success to its provenance and its capacity to capitalise on this in a commercial context. It is now time to invest in artists and makers who can also capitalise on this heritage – capturing stories and sharing these in compelling ways – engaging with audiences both new and existing.

The region boasts a pride in its heritage not found in many regional communities in Australia and the quality and depth of its heritage assets across stories, people, places and artifacts provide great opportunities. Many would agree that outside of the food and wine industries that these assets have not been fully utilised and have enormous potential to be elevated and used more strategically for cultural, social and economic benefit. In engaging with contemporary artists, makers and creators across all artforms, to interpret, share and effect our heritage in new and captivating ways, **the region can advance and grow its reputation as a cultural destination that is authentic but also cutting edge and exciting.**

The key programming theme for the BCIC is the "***celebration and activation of heritage through contemporary creative practice***". This strategy leans into this idea more broadly and aims to build the capacity of the community, industry and creatives to reimagine our stories in way not seen anywhere else. **The Barossa will become a region known and sought out for heritage and art experiences and products that are exceptional, innovative and distinctive.**

^ Barossa Bushgardens sculpture 'Soul Searching' by Claude Portelli. Barossa Arts Festival 2024

2.3 Cultural Identity of the Region

The Barossa is a region deeply rooted in story, shaped by rich First Nations culture, proud settler heritage, and a globally recognised food and wine legacy. This unique identity is lived through its people, preserved in its buildings and traditions, and expressed through creative voices past and present. Arts, culture and heritage contribute significantly to the Barossa's social cohesion, community resilience, economic vitality and intergenerational storytelling. They are essential to our wellbeing, creativity and reputation as a place of meaning, innovation and connection.

The Barossa is a region with a strong and distinct identity, shaped by layers of culture over generations. It is home to the traditional lands of the Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kaurna peoples, whose custodianship of country continues to this day. European settlers brought agricultural, architectural and religious traditions that have left a lasting legacy, while generations of makers, growers, winemakers, artists and storytellers have cultivated a proud and productive community spirit.

The region's culture is expressed in its festivals and events, its stone cottages and Lutheran churches, its vineyards and food rituals, and in its vibrant creative community. It is a place where the past informs the present and where storytelling, both old and new, forms the heart of regional identity.

< Barossa History Fair, 2024. Photo courtesy of Rebekah Bianca Studios

2.4 Value of Arts, Culture and Heritage

Arts, culture and heritage are not just "nice to have" - they are foundational to wellbeing, belonging and future growth. Cultural activity fosters a sense of identity and pride, supports mental health, strengthens social bonds, and provides platforms for expression, celebration and healing. In regional settings, they also play a key role in attracting and retaining residents, encouraging tourism, and sparking innovation and entrepreneurship.

In the Barossa, cultural investment offers wide-reaching impact - from enriching the lives of young people and elders to creating jobs and economic opportunity. By embedding creativity into community development, health, education, events and tourism, this strategy ensures that arts, culture and heritage remain vital, visible and valued across all aspects of Barossa life. There is strong evidence that people who participate in arts and cultural activities experience better mental health, connect better with community and rely less on primary and allied health services.

People with 100 or more hours per year of arts engagement had significantly better mental health and wellbeing than people with no or lower levels of engagement. [(1)]

A UK study demonstrates that the Social Return on Investment for creative craft making activities is 1 : 118, which means that for every £1 invested, a social value of £118 is generated, mainly in forgone treatment bills; reducing GP visits by 28% and attendance at emergency wards by 24%. [(2)]

Arts Festivals increase individual and community self-esteem and cultural confidence, develop local leadership, social, cultural and economic initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities.[(5)]

Low-income students who are involved with arts activities have higher academic achievement. [(4)]

A growing body of research suggests engagement with emotional stories and their characters more effectively motivates pro-social behaviour than informational frameworks. Through a state known as narrative transportation, stories facilitate experiential rather than analytical processing, heightening emotional arousal and reducing counterarguing.[(7)]

People who attend concert, theatre or film are significantly healthier, have lower anxiety and are less subject to depression. [(3)]

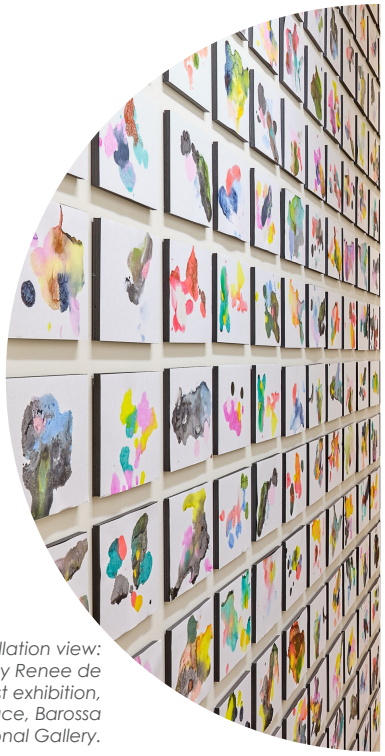
In 2018, the average length of stay for an arts overnight trip was five nights. In comparison, the average number of nights spent away from home on any overnight trip was three and a half nights. The average amount spent on an overnight arts trip was $1,068, nearly $400 more than the overall average overnight spend ($685). [(6)]

(1) Peer reviewed paper from the Curtin University by Dr Christina Davies, Matthew Knuiman, Peter Wright, Michael Rosenberg. University of WA (2016) | http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/4/4/e004790.full *| (2) Ways to Wellbeing. Social Prescribing Program. Wellbeing Enterprises UK (2017) | (3) Koenraad Cuypers et al., Patterns of receptive and creative cultural activities and their association with perceived health, anxiety, depression and satisfaction with life among adults, 2011. | (4) Catteral, James S (2012). The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth: Findings from Four Longitudinal Studies. Washington, DC: National Endowment for the Arts.| (5) Phipps, Peter, Slater, Lisa (2010) Indigenous Cultural Festivals Evaluating Impact on Community Health and Wellbeing. Melbourne Australia, Globalism Research Centre, RMIT University. | (6) Domestic Arts Tourism Report Australia Council for the Arts 2020. | (7) Hoeken et al. 2016, Loewenstein 2010, Barraza et al. 2015, Lin et al. 2013, Small and Loewenstein 2003, Green 1996, Green and Brock 2000, Zak 2015 | https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-019-02425-6*

3. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

VISION

The Barossa is a cultural leader – where powerful stories, proud heritage and bold creative practice collide.
Here, arts, culture and heritage are not just visible but vital – driving community wellbeing, inspiring innovation, and shaping a region known for its creative excellence, deep identity and distinctive sense of place.



> Installation view: Immersion by Renee de Saxe. Lost exhibition, Linear Space, Barossa Regional Gallery.

KEY PRINCIPLES

Place-based and Community-led
Collaborative and Connected
Creative and Entrepreneurial

PILLARS	Creative Economy	Stronger Communities	Creative and Cultural Engagement
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	Drive cultural tourism and visitation. Grow Creative Industries.	Foster community wellbeing, inclusion and social connection. Amplify participation and local storytelling	Champion cultural learning and creative education. Preserve and celebrate our cultural hertitage.

4. PRINCIPLES

The delivery of this strategy will be undertaken in the context of values outlined in The Barossa Council's Community Plan, which are detailed below.

In addition to Council's values the following principles have been identified. These relate specifically to the delivery of initiatives which are centred on arts, culture and heritage.

Place-based and community led

We will build on what is unique about the Barossa and empower local people to lead and participate.

Collaborative and connected

We will encourage partnerships and the development of networks across sectors, disciplines, towns and generations.

Creative and entrepreneurial

We will foster innovation, support economic diversification, encourage experimentation and adopt iterative approaches to our arts, culture and heritage programming.

The Barossa Council Community Plan Values

Pride
We take pride in building strong communities in alignment with our environmental, social and governance framework.

Courageous Leadership
We value courageous leadership by being visionary, bold, and innovative and taking proactive and positive action.

Community Spirit
We value our people and their cultural heritage, our landscapes and vistas, our food and wine and our unique character.

Inclusiveness
We value diversity of people, inclusion, accessibility and tolerance.

^ Councillor Jess Greatwich, Mayor Bim Lange, Authors Sheralee Menz and Marieka Ashmore and Maggie Beer, 2025 book launch of 'Rolling Up Their Sleeves'.

How Council Contributes

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy will be delivered through a range of roles. Council will not always lead delivery. In many cases success will be achieved through partnerships with community organisations, volunteers, artists, businesses, educational institutions and government agencies. The role taken by Council will vary across goals, project and opportunities.

Role	Contribution
Leader	Council leading the community as part of the broader regional networks or sector development initiatives. Setting and prioritising the direction and encouraging outcomes.
Provider / Regulator	Council responding to community needs through the delivery of practical and advisory services such as community transport, waste management, transport infrastructure, library, arts and culture, recreational or regulatory services.
Advocator	Council making representations or lobbying on behalf of the community and negotiating with key decision makers of other tiers of government, private sector or other sectors for improved outcomes. Promoting and seeking support for the sector.
Facilitator / Partner	Council developing, collaborating and participating in networks to address issues, opportunities and shared interests and respond with operational or strategic direction and support the work of others. Facilitator - Connecting people, organisations and opportunities. Partner - Co-designing and co-delivering initiatives.

< Volunteer Steve Kaesler sharing wonders of the 1877 Hill & Son Grand Organ as part of school holidays children's programs.

5. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

5.1 STRATEGIC DIRECTION ONE: Preserve and celebrate our cultural heritage in practical and creative ways.

Protect, interpret and share the Barossa's diverse cultural heritage, including First Nations knowledge and settler traditions and engage with the past whilst welcoming new voices to the table.

In developing this strategy, the community indicated that preserving and celebrating heritage was key to the region's identity across community and commercial sectors.

5.1.1 *Protect and activate heritage places, objects and stories.*

5.1.2 *Build community capacity to preserve and promote.*

5.1.3 *Elevate First Nations culture and heritage.*

What this could look like:

- Improving access and diversity of collections, archives and stories.
- Supporting the region's museums, heritage organisations and volunteers.
- Celebrating and fostering First Nations and multicultural programs.
- Strengthening interpretation and storytelling initiatives.
- Encouraging partnerships that connect heritage with learning, tourism and contemporary creative practice.

< Ngadjuri and Kaurna Elder, Aunty Angelena Harradine sharing culture at a Youth Environment Day event at Barossa Bushgardens.

5.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTION TWO: Grow creative industries and build our local talent.

Strengthen the Barossa's creative economy by supporting local talent, enabling sustainable practice, and encouraging sector innovation.

In developing this strategy, the community indicated that growing creative industries offered a range of opportunities and there was a need to support artists and musicians to reach their potential from a business development perspective.

5.2.1 *Support the development of creative enterprises and practitioners.*

5.2.2 *Facilitate innovation and cross-section collaboration.*

5.2.3 *Expand digital presence and access to creative markets.*

5.2.4 *Continue to support and grow the live music and performing arts sector within the region.*

What this could look like:

- Strengthening connections across the creative sector.
- Supporting local artists, makers and creative businesses.
- Creating pathways for learning, skills development, commercialisation and creative careers.
- Increasing opportunities to create, collaborate and share work.
- Building partnerships that support a vibrant and sustainable creative economy.

In developing this strategy, the community indicated that arts, culture and heritage activities needed to be elevated in the tourism sphere, and investment in this space to align with our food and wine credentials is important.

5.3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION THREE: Drive cultural tourism and visitation through creative innovation and heritage interpretation.

Position arts, culture and heritage as central to the Barossa's visitor experience capitalising on existing strengths and building capacity for innovation and creative excellence that results in cultural product, experiences, attractions, events and investment.

NB: Whilst the strategies below focus on the attraction of tourists and growing the visitor economy, it is important to note that these activities are also relevant and important for local audiences. The sense of quality and prestige and a desire to raise the profile of arts, culture and heritage in the Barossa is important for locals and be considerate of their needs and expectations also. Endorsement and participation by locals, will also ultimately improve the visitor offering.

5.3.1 *Integrate arts, culture and heritage into the visitor economy.*

5.3.2 *Promote the Barossa Creative Industries Centre (BCIC) as a cultural destination.*

5.3.3 *Invest in cultural events that attract and retain visitors.*

5.3.4 *Develop and promote public art and placemaking in tourism precincts.*

5.3.5 *Build capacity for cultural tourism delivery.*

5.3.6 *Continue to support and grow the live music / performing arts sector within the region.*

What this could look like:

- Strengthening the Barossa's cultural tourism offering and visitor experiences.
- Showcasing local stories, heritage and creative to new audiences.
- Building partnerships between cultural, tourism, business sectors and goverrntment sectors.
- Increasing opportunities for visitors to engage with arts, culture and heritage.
- Raising the profile of the Barossa as a distinctive cultural destination.

5.4 STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOUR: Amplify participation and local storytelling.

Celebrate local voices and create opportunities for people to share stories and shape cultural life, increasing opportunities for people to feel connected to each other and the landscape.

5.4.1 *Enable inclusive, placebased creative programming.*

5.4.2 *Build a culture of making and sharing.*

In developing this strategy, the community indicated storytelling was important and that engaging creative professionals to work with community and heritage organisations to preserve and share stories in compelling ways was a priority.

Image: Volunteer facilitated tour of Stability, Grace, Endurance: Hand Crafted in Early Barossa exhibition at Barossa Regional Gallery. Barossa History Fair, 2024. Photo courtesy of Rebekah Bianca Studios

What this could look like:

- Increasing opportunities for people to engage in arts, culture and heritage.
- Supporting inclusive and accessible cultural experiences for all ages and abilities.
- Strengthening community connection through shared cultural activities and events.
- Encouraging people to contribute their stories, knowledge and creativity.
- Creating welcoming pathways for lifelong cultural participation and engagement.

5.5 STRATEGIC DIRECTION FIVE: Champion cultural learning and creative education.

Grow creative capacity and cultural literacy across the community through lifelong learning and build skills for the future sustainability of the arts, culture and heritage sectors in the Barossa region.

In developing this strategy, the community indicated that learning and development opportunities across arts, culture and heritage would ensure ongoing growth and sustainability of the sector.

5.5.1 *Support arts and culture in schools and youth settings.*

5.5.2 *Build creative skills across the community.*

5.5.3 *Connect education and industry through creativity.*

What this could look like:

- Supporting arts, culture and heritage as pathways for wellbeing and social connection.
- Increasing opportunities for diverse communities to participate and be represented.
- Creating inclusive and welcoming cultural experiences across the region.
- Strengthening community pride, identity and sense of belonging through shared stories and experiences.
- Building partnerships that support cultural participation, inclusion and community resilience.

< Artist led children's workshop by Sam Cowley, Little Adventurers.

5.6 STRATEGIC DIRECTION SIX: Foster community wellbeing, inclusion and social connection.

Strengthen social bonds, inclusion, health and wellbeing through arts, culture and heritage participation - encouraging a sense of ownership, empowerment and belonging.

5.6.1 *Embed arts and culture in health, and wellbeing.*

5.6.2 *Support creative participation across all life stages.*

5.6.3 *Reduce isolation and promote inclusion through cultural connection an engagement.*

In developing this strategy, the community indicated that active participation in arts, culture and heritage activities was important to the social fabric of the Barossa and the wellbeing of the community.

What this could look like:

- Expanding opportunities for creative, cultural and heritage learning across all ages.
- Strengthening partnerships with schools, education providers and community organisations.
- Supporting skills development, mentoring and knowledge sharing.
- Encouraging intergenerational learning and the exchange of stories, traditions and creative practice.
- Building pathways that connect learning, participation and creative development.

Image: Random Weave Fruit Platter workshop by artist Beth Wiley.

6. DELIVERY GUIDELINES

The following provides some guidelines for Council to utilise in the realisation of the strategic directions detailed in this document.

6.1 Whole of Council Approach to Arts, Culture and Heritage

Arts, culture and heritage are an important part of a vibrant, connected and well-equipped community. The success and value of it depends on a range of personnel from across Council working collaboratively to achieve the desired outcomes. Activities, events, programs and the provision of facilities and resources relies on input and support from regulatory services, communications, compliance, library services, tourism and events, works and services and community and economic development, working alongside arts, culture and heritage staff.

Arts, culture and heritage activities can also contribute to the realisation of goals and strategic priorities in other areas of Council work. Projects can help engage people to deal with difficult issues, support health and wellbeing, communicate complex ideas, influence behaviour and encourage civic participation.

Including arts, culture and heritage impact as part of Council's reporting systems alongside, financial, social and environmental considerations will support this type of thinking. It creates a sense of four pillars of sustainability, rather than three.

^ Arrernte man, Sonny Morey and Kaurna man, James Agius share cultural learning for schools during National Reconciliation Week at Barossa Bushgardens.

6.2 Embrace Regional Opportunities

There are a range of arts, culture and heritage opportunities which are relevant across Council boundaries and residents and ratepayers often live, work and socialise across multiple Council areas. Working with regional based organisations including Regional Development Australia, Barossa Australia, South Australian Tourism Commission and neighbouring Councils to improve the offering and support for community in the arts, culture and heritage space is essential.

6.4 Diverse Resourcing

Resourcing for arts, culture and heritage can be challenging in the context of competing priorities within a local government environment. Key to ensuring there is adequate funding to realise the goals detailed in this document includes, leveraging Council's financial contribution to attract external funding – applying often and in partnership with others to support the work of Council is imperative. Applying for funding is time consuming and skills oriented and needs to be pro-actively invested in.

Alongside funding other fundraising activities that align with specific projects or outcomes should be developed. This includes donor circles (Similar to the recent Barossa Women's Artist Residency Program 2023-2025), utilising the cultural gift programs and other income generation opportunities.

6.3 Empower Community to Lead

Arts, culture and heritage intrinsically belongs to community and every opportunity to empower the community to lead and take ownership of initiatives is vital. Critical to this approach is ensuring suitable advisory mechanisms are in place (e.g., Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee), leadership development strategies are built into projects and programs, and feedback loops are embedded, accessible and valued.

6.5 Coordinated Branding and Promotion

Arts, culture and heritage overlays all branches of Council. From a consumer perspective, branding and promotion should be coordinated, strategic and aligned, creating consistent and recognisable messaging across multiple channels and tailored for cross-audience promotion.

7. STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

7.1 Barossa Community Plan 2024-2044

- **Community Wellbeing and Inclusion:** Aligns with values around social connection, equity, and place-based resilience.
- **Heritage and Identity:** Elevates local storytelling and First Nations culture, supporting the Plan's aspiration for a culturally rich and proud community.
- **Vibrancy and Liveability:** The strategy contributes to active, creative spaces across the region and increased access to cultural assets.

7.2 Barossa Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP)

- **Economic Specialisation:** Supports LEDP Goal 4 by strengthening creative industries and diversifying the economic base.
- **Tourism and Placemaking:** Cultural tourism, creative products, and public art offerings align with LEDP focus on destination development and authentic regional identity.
- **Workforce Development:** The strategy's support for creative career pathways complements LEDP's focus on local employment, training, and business resilience.

7.3 Barossa Regional Heritage Strategy 2021–2025

- **Shared Priorities:** Strong alignment on heritage preservation, digitisation, community collaboration, and cultural tourism.
- **Infrastructure & Skills:** The Barossa Creative Industries Centre is positioned as a delivery mechanism for many of the Heritage Strategy's ambitions.
- **Volunteerism and Youth Engagement:** Supports intergenerational knowledge transfer and youth involvement in heritage through creative practice.

7.4 SA Regional Visitor Strategy 2025 – Barossa Destination Action Plan

- **Experience Development:** Actions under Goal 3 align with regional objectives to create unique and bookable visitor experiences.
- **Storytelling and Heritage:** Emphasises creative ways to tell Barossa's stories, enhancing the region's appeal.
- **Events and Visitation:** Focus on shoulder season events, public art, and collaboration with tourism operators supports sustainable tourism growth.

7.5 National Cultural Policy – Revive: A Place for Every Story, A Story for Every Place

- **First Nations First:** Co-design and respect for First Nations culture reflects national policy priorities.
- **Economic Contribution:** Investment in creative industries, jobs, and cross-sector partnerships aligns with Revive's economic goals.
- **Access and Inclusion:** Broad engagement goals and regional access echo the national commitment to diversity and equity in arts and culture.

7.6 Create SA – A Place to Create (2023–2033)

- **Strategy 1 – Arts, Culture and Creativity for Everyone:** Aligns with goals for inclusion, storytelling, and First Nations cultural leadership.
- **Strategy 2 – Thriving Artists and Creatives:** Strong alignment with ambitions to support artist careers and regional creative ecosystems.
- **Strategy 3 – Robust Arts Organisations and Infrastructure:** Investment in BCIC supports innovation and access to cultural infrastructure.
- **Cross-cutting Themes:** Shared focus on wellbeing, identity, and placebased cultural leadership with global relevance.

8. MONITORING, MEASURING AND IMPLEMENTATION

^ *Barossa History Fair, 2024. Photo courtesy of Rebekah Bianca Studios*

The Barossa Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy establishes the long-term vision and strategic directions for arts, culture and heritage across the Barossa. Successful delivery will be supported through a complementary Strategic Implementation Framework, which provides the practical roadmap for implementation, prioritisation, monitoring and continuous improvement.

The Strategic Implementation Framework translates this Strategy into coordinated delivery streams, identifying priority outcomes, implementation timeframes, key partners, funding opportunities and measures of success. It enables Council to respond to emerging opportunities while remaining focused on the long-term vision and strategic priorities established within this document.

Implementation will occur progressively through Council's annual business planning and budgeting processes, informed by community needs, organisational capacity, partnership opportunities and external funding availability. Delivery will be shared across Council, community organisations, artists, volunteers, businesses, educational institutions and government agencies, recognising that many of the Strategy's ambitions will be achieved through collaboration.

Progress will be monitored through an outcomes-focused measurement framework that considers not only what is delivered, but the cultural, social and economic value created. This approach supports evidence-based decision making, strategic reporting and advocacy for continued investment in the Barossa's arts, culture and heritage sector.

The Strategy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains responsive to changing community priorities and emerging opportunities. A formal review will be undertaken midway through the life of the Strategy, with the Strategic Implementation Framework updated as required to reflect changing priorities, partnerships and available resources.

ADDENDUM: ARTIST VISIONING

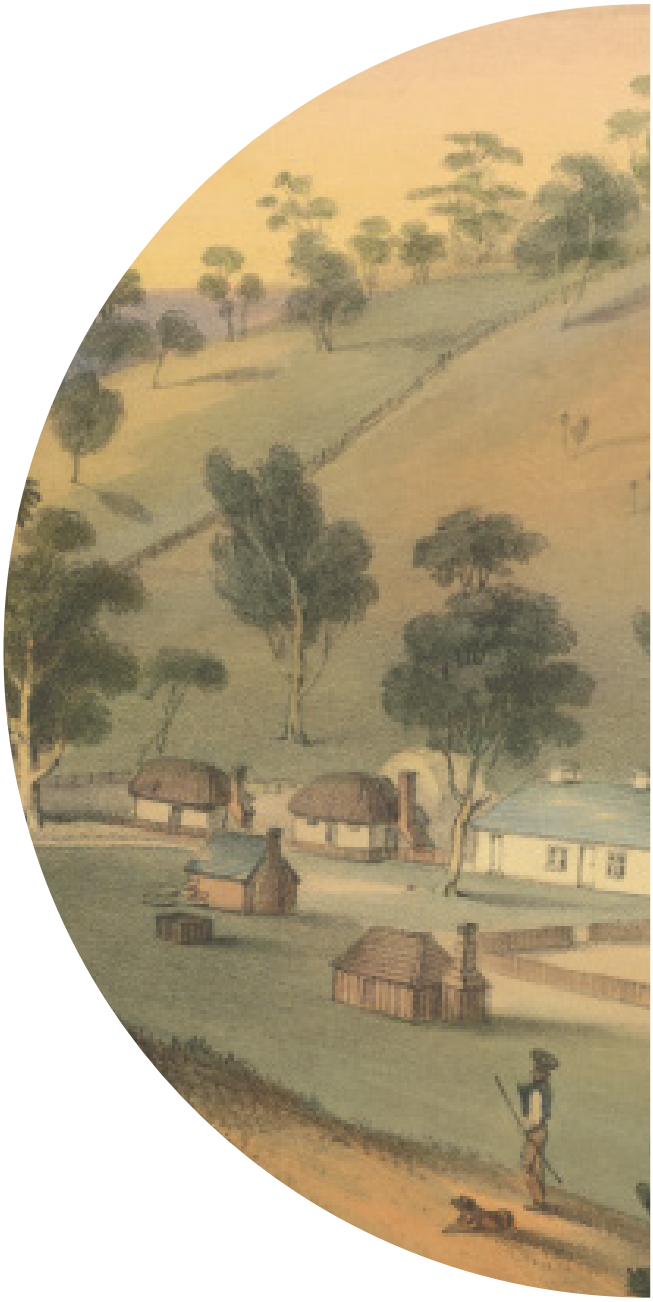
As part of the development of The Barossa Council Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy, three artists were invited to respond creatively to a simple question: What could the future of arts, culture and heritage in the Barossa look like?

While surveys, workshops and stakeholder engagement provided valuable community insight, the Artist Visioning Project sought to capture something different. Artists were invited to explore the aspirations, opportunities and identity of the region through their own creative practice, offering perspectives that sit alongside more traditional forms of consultation.

The resulting works reveal two complementary perspectives on the Barossa. Visual artist Jacob Logos draws upon deep personal connections to place, exploring the relationship between land, memory, heritage and legacy. His work reflects the enduring stories embedded within the Barossa landscape and the importance of preserving and reinterpreting them for future generations.

Photographer Aidan Dorrian and poet Daniel Fuller offer another perspective. Having each arrived in the Barossa following life-changing traumatic brain injuries, both found healing, belonging and community through their connection to place and creative practice. Their works reflect the experience of discovering home, finding meaning and contributing new stories to an evolving cultural landscape.

Together, these works speak to many of the themes explored throughout this Strategy: heritage and creativity, belonging and identity, wellbeing and connection, and the ongoing relationship between past, present and future. They reflect the stories, relationships and creative expression that contribute to a vibrant, connected and culturally rich Barossa.



^ Angaston, evening (detail)
plate 28 from South Australia. Illustrated 1846-47, lithograph, hand coloured with watercolour on paper. Jiles. W. Giles, lithographer Britain 1801 – 1870, after George French Angas. Australia 25 April 1822 – 14 October 1886. Courtesy of National Library of Australia.

B.V FORGERS PLATE 1863

B.V Forgers Plate 1863
2025
Jacob Logos, Visual artist and designer, Strathalbyn / Peramangk country SA. Charcoal from Bethany, Schlinke's Gully; monoprint on archival paper, 40cm x 50cm (digital reproduction), Artist Visioning Project, 2025

Drawn directly from the earth, *Forgers Plate* is a monoprint made using handmade charcoal sourced from fallen timber in Bethany and the Schlinke's Gully region, ancestral ground for the artist and once the site of a long-forgotten flour mill. The work captures the friction between permanence and erasure: industrial ambition set against the slow, reclaiming force of the natural world.

As if excavated from the subconscious, the image feels both imprinted and incomplete, a symbolic plate, marked with labour. The physicality of place is embedded in the medium itself, offering a quiet meditation on legacy, land, and the residues we leave behind.

JACOB LOGOS

MOVEMENT INTO THE BEYOND

Cannot find the road
From the endless skies
Still in form
Movement found
In the hillsides

Cannot find the road from the endless skies
Sway
Still in form movement found in the hillsides

The goodness is alive in the people of the soil
There's more growing here than the grapes

The goodness is alive in the people of the soil
There's more growing here than what's below

A place of a thousand moments

And the people stood firm because they knew the goodness in themselves, they knew there was more than money in this wealth, that there was wisdom in the hills and beauty on the horizon.

From the mountains to the hills and the valleys formed, to the chasms in the bedrock, split, forming rivers full of vital water.
To the captured minerals to the clay and dirt
(giving) Gifts of this earth.
A valley protected by a range
A rarity of fertility, a place where rivers meet underneath towering trees that provide so much shelter and shade.
(houses and refuge)

Hewn rock
Golden View
Planted in the soil
Goodness will thrive here, A goodness that will be given back to you

Daylight ahead, many days of progress given, so much has been gifted to us from the ground, we endured with purpose.
Can't see anything beyond the horizon.
(all we need is right here)
This land is so blessed.

Movement into the Beyond
2025
Daniel Fuller. Poet, Nuriootpa / Ngadjuri country SA. Original poem, Artist Visioning Project, 2025

"Portfolio" series (Edition 1, A2025), 1 to 14 2025
Aidan Dorrian. Photographer, Angaston/ Peramangk country SA. Artist Visioning Project, 2025

^ *View through 'King and Queen' sculpture, 1988 by Stefan Bruggisser at Barossa Sculpture Park. Photo courtesy of Aidan Dorrian.*

PLAY YOUR PART
learn more | give more | be more

This plan has been developed by Maz McGann of Play Your Part in collaboration with The Barossa Council. It has been informed by a range of key stakeholders including local businesses, community groups, arts, cultural and heritage organisations and the general public.

Barossa Arts, Culture + Heritage Strategy

CONSULTATION REPORT May 2025

DOCUMENT PURPOSE

This report provides an overview of the consultation undertaken to support the development of an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy for The Barossa Council. It is designed to detail who and how many people were engaged and the key information they provided as part of the dialogue. This document will be a foundation for the development of the strategy, highlighting key themes, ideas and priorities that emerged during the consultation. It also enables the identification of any gaps that may have emerged in the consultation that will be addressed prior to finalising the strategy.

OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION

The information provided in this report represents a summarised analysis of information gathered from a range of consultation activities. The following outlines the parameters of the consultation.

Schedule: March – April 2025

Location: Consultation activities were undertaken in the Barossa Council area utilising both face to face and online engagement.

Consultation Activities and Attendance:

Activity	Number of Sessions	Participants
Online Surveys	1	154
Face to Face Public Workshops Formal	2	17
Online Public Workshop	1	6
*Targeted Workshops	3	22
*Small Group Meetings	4	7
Staff Workshop	1	14
Direct Emails Received	NA	10
Artist Visioning	2	3
Face to Face Creative Workshops	3	94

*Targeted Workshops included representatives from industry, social, health and community services, heritage and government.

BAROSSA PROFILE

Regional Context: The Barossa region is situated on the traditional lands of the Peramangk, Ngadjuri, and Kaurna peoples, whose connection to Country continues to shape the cultural identity and narrative of the area.

With an estimated population of 26,500, The Barossa Council area includes the key townships of Tanunda, Nuriootpa, Angaston, Lyndoch, and Williamstown. The community is characterised by both longstanding multigenerational families and newer residents seeking lifestyle, opportunity, and cultural connection.

Cultural Identity: The region has a distinctive cultural fabric, blending:

- First Nations heritage, which is increasingly recognised through place-naming, storytelling, and engagement initiatives;
- German and English settler influences, dating back to the 1840s, evident in architecture, festivals, food traditions, and religious institutions;
- A growing creative community of artists, musicians, makers and volunteers driving local cultural events and initiatives.

This layered cultural identity is expressed through the region's people, institutions, public spaces, and events.

Economic and Cultural Intersections: Barossa's Geographical Indication Zone (GI) status reflects its international standing in viticulture. The Barossa Valley and Eden Valley sub-regions produce world-renowned wines, with distinctive characteristics tied to climate, geography and soil.

The region's culinary culture is equally significant, shaped by generational farming knowledge, artisan producers, and chef-led innovation. Food and wine festivals, local markets, and pop-up events celebrate this connection between land, identity, and creativity.

Climate and Sustainability Considerations: The region experiences a Mediterranean climate—wet winters and warm, dry summers—which supports viticulture and tourism. However, climate variability is impacting agriculture and resource management, reinforcing the need for sustainable practices in cultural infrastructure and land stewardship. It is currently experiencing drought-like conditions with very low rainfall over the last 12 months.

Strategic Implications: The Barossa is a region of storytellers, custodians, and creators. Its arts, culture and heritage strategy must:

- Champion inclusive narratives that honour both First Nations and settler heritage;
- Protect and activate the region's built and intangible cultural assets;
- Support a thriving arts and creative sector;
- Position cultural identity as a driver of community wellbeing, regional pride, and sustainable economic development.

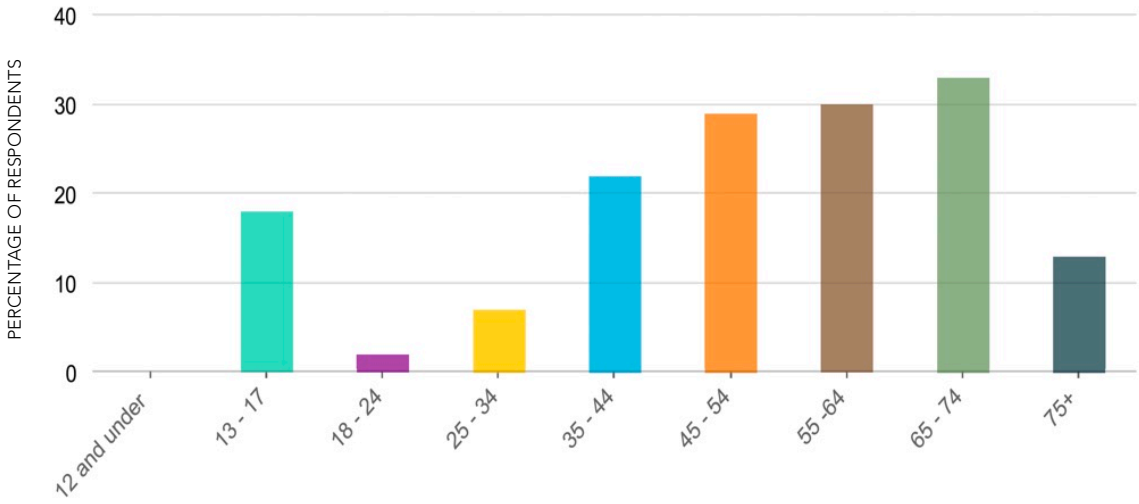
CONSULTATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Detailed demographic information is not acquired from workshop participants and this information is based on observations. The workshops were attended by a majority of women aged over 35 but this is a very common demographic that engages with community-based consultation and arts, culture and heritage. There were several men who attended and some young people, including an online participant from Mount Pleasant who was aged under 15.

The majority of participants in the workshops were local residents with the exception of the Community Services Workshop which included people who largely worked in the region but did not live locally. Several people participated who live/work in the Light Regional Council area but engage with arts, culture and heritage in the Barossa Region.

Specific demographic information was gathered via the online surveys. The following provides a breakdown of survey participants.

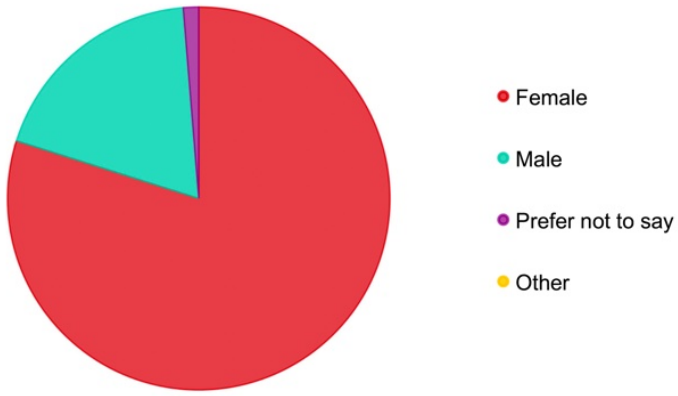
AGE



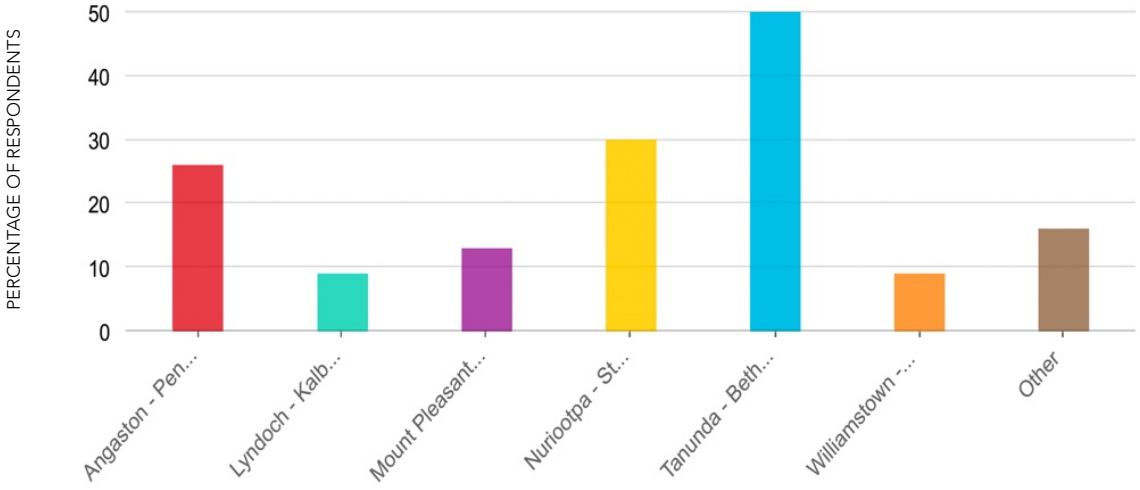
- Largest respondent group aged between 65 – 74
- 13% aged under 25 which is a good outcome when compared with similar surveys with other Councils

GENDER

- 80% Female
- 19% Male
- 1% Prefer not to say



LOCATION – RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS



- Largest respondent group was from Tanunda

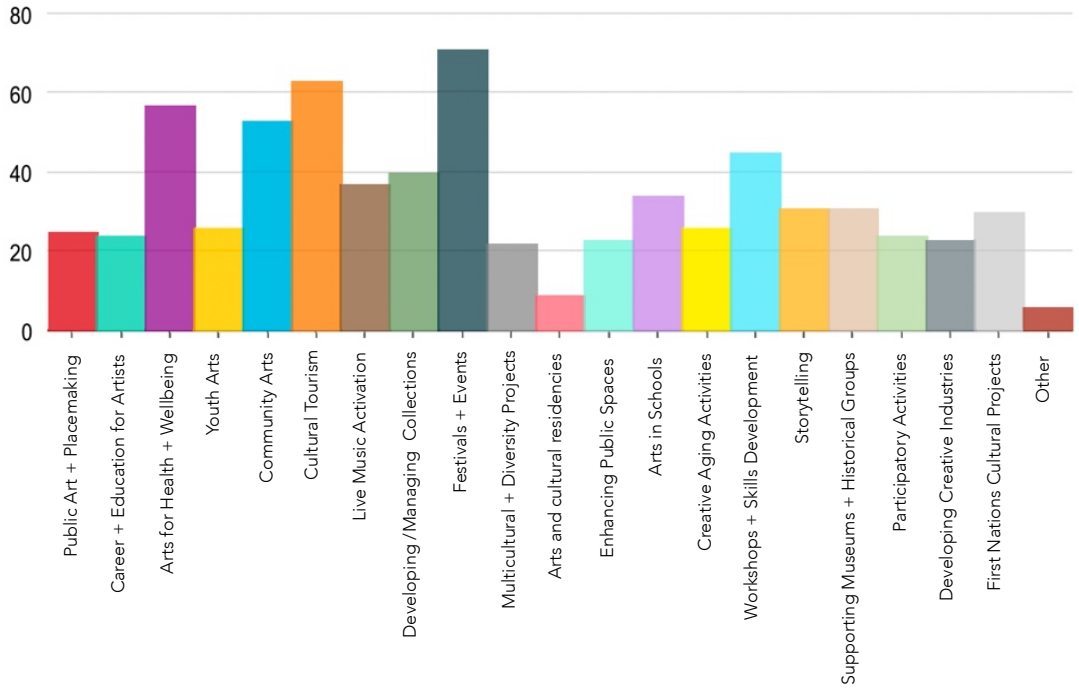
OTHER

- People living with a disability – 12%
- People who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander – 2%

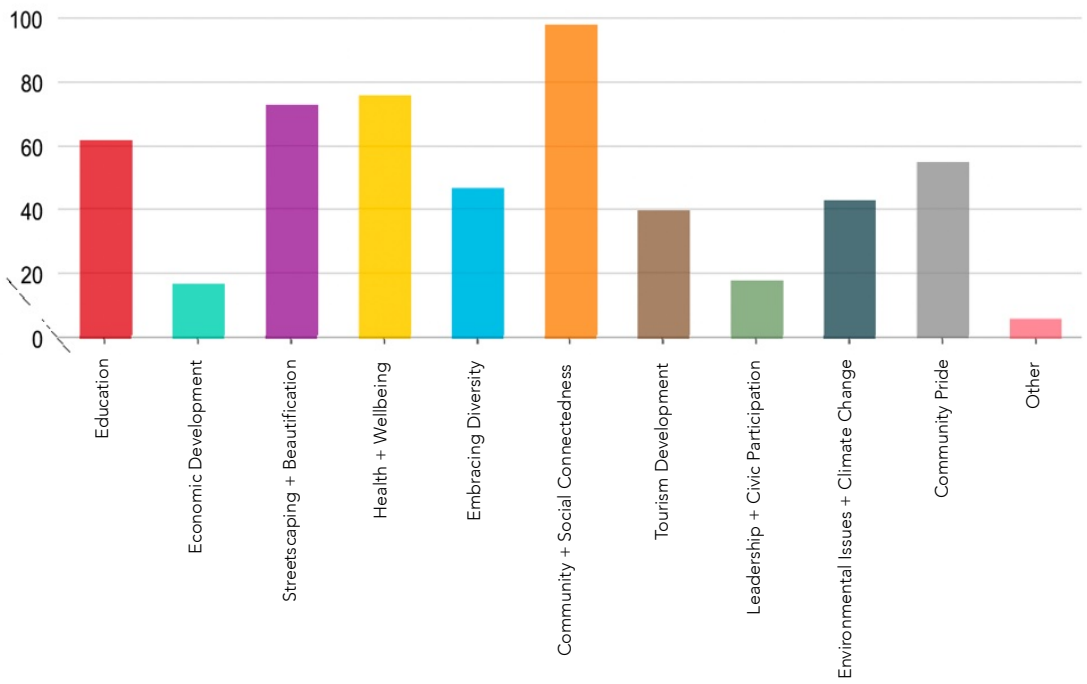
KEY SURVEY RESULTS

There were 154 respondents to the survey. The graphs below are taken directly from the survey responses that asked for multiple choice and check box responses. Some word clouds have been included as a broad brushstroke of responses but long form / text answers to the five open-ended questions have been incorporated into the broader analysis. There were 525 text base responses which has been analysed alongside information gathered during the workshop and is included in the summary of key themes, ideas and priorities detailed later in this document.

Q: What are your key priorities in relation to arts, culture and heritage?



Q: Which of the following things would you like to see Arts, Culture + Heritage align with and support?



Q: Agreement Statements

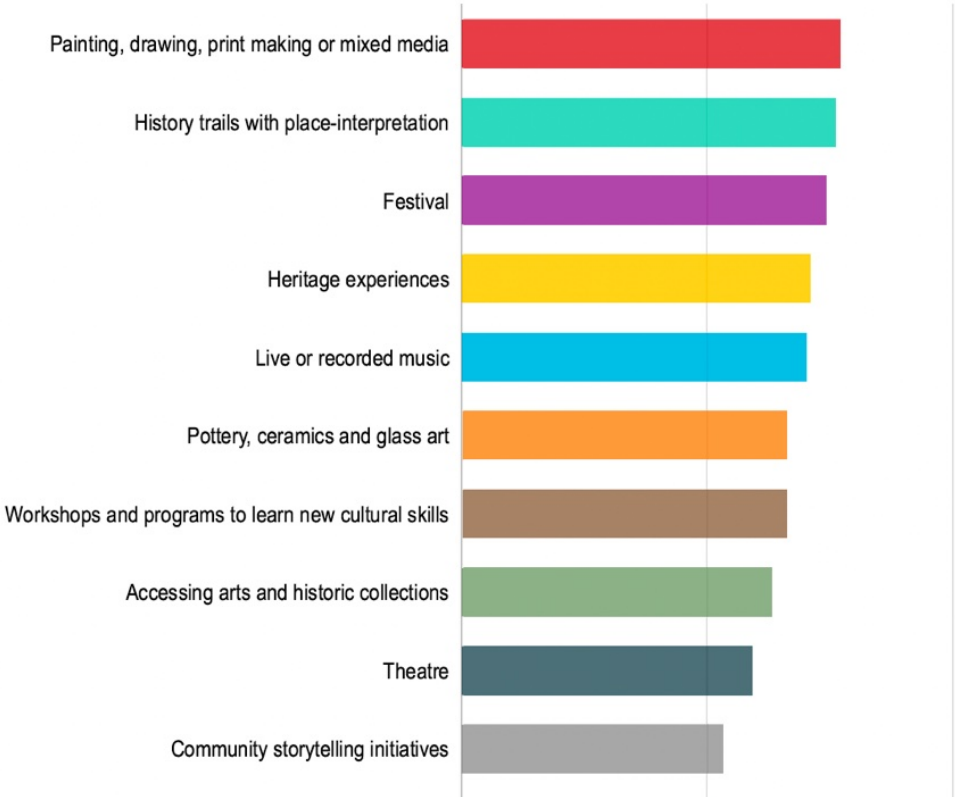
Statement	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree/ Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
Arts and culture activities should also offer social and wellbeing benefits.	68.15%	20.13%	3.9%	2.6%	3.9%	.65%
We should invest in the preservation and promotion of heritage and local history.	76.62%	11.69%	5.84%	1.3%	2.6%	1.3%
Spaces and places to interact with arts, culture and heritage are important to me.	70.13%	20.78%	5.19%	.65%	2.6%	.65%
A capacity to share stories helps to strengthen the community.	64.29%	25.97%	5.19%	.65%	3.25%	.65%
Everyone should have an opportunity to participate in cultural activities.	77.27%	13.64%	3.25%	1.3%	2.6%	1.3%
Arts and culture activities should also offer some economic benefit.	25.97%	33.97%	25.97%	8.44%	4.55%	.65%

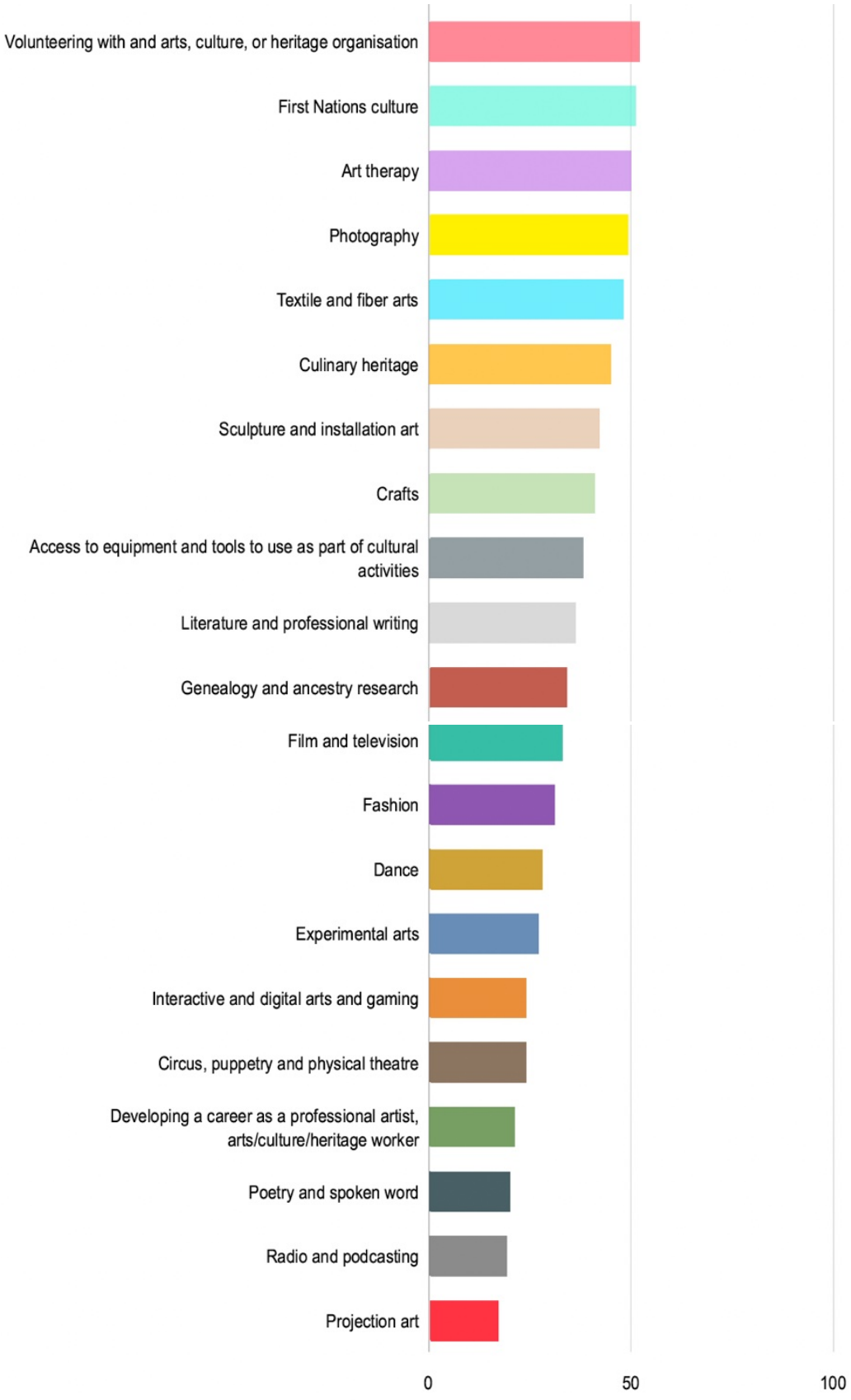
Q: Of all the arts, cultural and heritage activities in The Barossa Council, what do you think is done well?

Q: Thinking about the character and identity of people and place, what words or phrases would you use to describe your local town and its community?

Q: What arts, culture or heritage opportunities are there to build upon these attributes in the future?

Q: Which of the following are you most interested in – either now or into the future?




Volunteering with and arts, culture, or heritage organisation
First Nations culture
Art therapy
Photography
Textile and fiber arts
Culinary heritage
Sculpture and installation art
Crafts
Access to equipment and tools to use as part of cultural activities
Literature and professional writing
Genealogy and ancestry research
Film and television
Fashion
Dance
Experimental arts
Interactive and digital arts and gaming
Circus, puppetry and physical theatre
Developing a career as a professional artist, arts/culture/heritage worker
Poetry and spoken word
Radio and podcasting
Projection art
0
50
100

STRENGTHS + WEAKNESSES

STRENGTHS

Rich and Distinctive Heritage
- Deep German settler roots expressed through architecture, food, festivals (e.g. Barossa Vintage Festival), and music traditions (choirs, bands).
- A strong First Nations heritage (Ngadjuri, Peramangk, Kaurna) with increasing local support for truth-telling and cultural visibility.
- Heritage buildings and landscapes actively used in events and tourism.

Food, Wine and Storytelling Culture
- World-renowned wine and food identity that is celebrated, shared, and integrated into community life.
- Strong culture of storytelling and community pride — "a region of storytellers," as reflected in both heritage and contemporary voices.

Community Spirit and Volunteerism
- Highly active community groups and volunteers committed to events, festivals, galleries, local history and preservation.
- Strong existing creative community networks and participation in cultural events.
- Welcoming and generous community atmosphere, fostering local pride.

Event and Festival Culture
- Iconic events like the Vintage Festival, music gatherings, and food and wine celebrations.
- Community recognition of the power of festivals to connect generations and promote local identity.

Emerging Creative Potential
- A growing number of artists, including youth and diverse practitioners, supported by programs like Tutti and local galleries.
- Community appetite for public art, cultural spaces, and creative experimentation.

WEAKNESSES

Under-representation of First Nations Culture
- First Nations stories are not consistently visible in public spaces, signage, tourism, or events.
- Concerns about lost language, cultural knowledge, and lack of funded pathways for Indigenous-led storytelling and engagement.

Conservatism and Cultural Gatekeeping
- Described in consultations as a "conservative" and "protective" region where new ideas, diverse voices, or alternative artforms may struggle for space.
- Exclusivity and limited recognition of multicultural contributions beyond German heritage.

Youth Access and Participation
- Lack of youth-targeted programs, particularly for those aged 15–25.
- Transport, affordability, and lack of mid-range experiences were identified as major barriers for young people.

Fragmented Infrastructure and Support
- No central arts and culture hub or creative industries centre (one is proposed).
- Lack of formal coordination across towns, cultural groups, and council — leading to duplication, gaps, and uneven support.
- Some creative practitioners noted inadequate funding pathways, particularly for emerging and small-to-medium initiatives.

Heritage Sustainability Issues
- Lack of coordinated heritage documentation, conservation planning, and succession strategies for community history groups.
- Concerns about volunteer burnout, ageing groups, and lack of digital infrastructure or storage for collections.

KEY THEMES

The following provides an overview of key themes that emerged from the Consultation.

1. Sense of Identity + Pride

- The Barossa is known for its deep connection to heritage, community, and place, including strong German cultural roots and growing recognition of First Nations histories.
- A "proud but protective" community is evolving into one that is more inclusive, open, and vibrant.
- The community values historic buildings, traditional crafts and long-standing events like the Barossa Vintage Festival.
- There is a sense of parochialism but also a desire to evolve, modernise, and expand the existing cultural identity.

2. Cultural Inclusion + Visibility

- There is a strong call to amplify diverse voices, particularly First Nations stories and cultural heritage, through public art, signage, storytelling, and cultural mapping.
- A need for more multicultural representation and events was repeatedly highlighted.

3. Vibrant, Connected Communities + Community Participation

- A desire for more collaboration and cross-sector engagement, and place-based story telling across towns and villages.
- Arts and culture are valued for building belonging, identity, and intergenerational connection.
- Community members want more access points for involvement, including affordable, informal, and youth-friendly opportunities.

4. Infrastructure + Support Systems

- A clear interest in new or upgraded facilities, public art, performance spaces, and creative hubs
- Support for a local heritage officer, cultural tourism officer, and investment in preservation infrastructure (e.g., conservation labs, oral history programs).
- Need for better coordination across groups, clearer roles, and equitable support for both large and grassroots organisations.
- Ongoing support for local artists and organisations.

5. Instrumental Value of Arts, Culture + Heritage

- A strong desire for activities to provide outcomes across education, health and wellbeing and tourism.
- Ongoing commitment to supporting creative industries development and leveraging the economic value of arts, culture and heritage in the right context.

PRIORITIES

1. Elevate First Nations Presence

- Increase visibility of First Nations heritage within the built and natural landscape
- Support Indigenous cultural reconciliation initiatives
- Increase First Nations visibility in signage, events, language use, and interpretation through engagement and cultural mapping
- Embed Aboriginal voice across all elements of the strategy

2. Foster Creative Industries

- Support local and emerging artists with living wages and professional development
- Promote creative careers through education and community awareness
- Nurture public art and alternative/experimental arts

3. Develop a Shared Cultural Identity and Enhance Access + Inclusion

- Move from "protective and conservative" to open and passionate
- Improve transport connections and venue accessibility
- Engage underrepresented groups, particularly young people and those outside Tanunda
- Use arts and culture to connect people across generations, abilities, and backgrounds

4. Strengthen Cultural Infrastructure

- Establish a Creative Industries Centre and local gig guide website
- Restore and repurpose heritage buildings
- Invest in preservation facilities and digital storytelling platforms

5. Embed Arts and Culture in Tourism and Economic Growth

- Integrate heritage and cultural experiences into tourism offerings
- Develop year-round cultural programming to address seasonality
- Leverage Barossa's strong food, wine, music and storytelling assets

6. Improve Coordination, Communication and Funding

- Create action plans linked to clear resourcing and delivery responsibilities
- Develop a style guide and shared communications for arts and heritage messaging
- Establish formal links between Council and community organisations

7. Elevate the Arts as an Instrument for Community Growth and Development

- Link cultural activity with wellbeing, tourism, and economic development
- Integrate arts, culture and heritage activities across Council's broader business units

8. Support for Artists, Creatives and Volunteers

- Expectations for the Creative Industries Centre to support artists through residencies, income generation, professional development
- Need to nurture emerging artists, support volunteering succession, and recognise traditional skill holders

- Funding programs to support artists to develop work – both relating to the progression of their own practice as well as contributing to local events, cultural tourism and social connectedness

9. Cultural Infrastructure and Access

- Ensure the redevelopment of the Gallery and other community-facilities continue to provide access for artists including cultural hub or centre with flexible spaces and workshop areas
- Improve transport options to enable access to arts and heritage sites.
- Increase use of heritage buildings for events and creative activity.

10. Storytelling and Intergenerational Engagement

- Community storytelling, oral histories, and shared events across generations are central to the Barossa's cultural future.
- Platforms to capture, share, and celebrate stories from across the region's diverse communities

IDEAS / OPPORTUNTIES

- Heritage tourism development, including walking tours, signage, upgraded interpretation, and a dedicated officer.
- Public art that surprises and delights—integrated into natural and built environments.
- Music festivals and creative uses of public spaces including pubs and markets.
- Digital tools like gig/event guides and streaming content to connect people with what's on.
- Encourage more cultural programming mid-week and in underrepresented areas.
- Establish a Barossa Arts & Culture Network for cross-sector collaboration.
- Oral history collection and storytelling hubs.
- Visual signage and QR-coded trails for cultural landmarks.
- Workshops on heritage preservation and old trades.
- More diverse festivals and revived events (e.g. Barossa Music Festival).
- Local creative directory and "What's On" platform.
- Heritage tourism trails (including Stockwell, Collingrove, Kidman Trail).
- Intergenerational programs and performance-dining experiences.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS / TRENDS

The Barossa Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy will be developed in the context of the following.

- State Cultural Policy
  Create SA (Formerly Arts South Australia) has just released a new 10 Year Cultural Policy https://www.create.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1141695/CreateSA-Cultural-Policy.pdf
  There are several key areas of the policy that align with the strategic priorities outlined in this consultation including First Nations Culture, place-based cultural identity, supporting creative eco-systems, cultural infrastructure and cultural tourism and economic development.

- Barossa Creative Industries Centre Operational Framework
  This consultation will inform, and the strategy will be informed by the BCIC Operational Framework. This document will detail how this major investment in cultural infrastructure will support the roll out of the region's arts, cultural and heritage aspirations.

- Arts and Health Practice
  Arts and health practice continues to grow in reputation and delivery with State and Federal Government looking to invest more and more in this space. Research continues to emerge that indicates the substantial value of arts and cultural activities to achieve health and wellbeing outcomes which are good for individuals, communities and the economy.

- AI and the Digital Climate
  The rise of technology both hard and soft continues with rapid rise of artificial intelligence tools. Issues associated with copyright, skilled practitioner obsolescence and digital integrity are expected to grow in coming years. Access to technology has increased and opportunities will continue to emerge within this space – relating to fundraising, cultural tourism and access.

- Local + Regional Strategies
  There are several strategies and bodies of work developed by or in train by The Barossa Council or others, which will inform this strategy. This includes:
  - TBC Community Plan
  - RDABGLAP Regional Roadmap
  - Regional Tourism Review https://tourism.sa.gov.au/media/vynf2kwc/satc_regionalsummaryreport_-24-june-24-_fa.pdf
  - Destination Management Plan (DMP) – development of this is an action from the above review. The Tourism Collective has been appointed to develop these for all 12 Regional Tourism zones.
  - Barossa Council's Economic Development Plan

- First Nations Reconciliation
  Council's ongoing work regarding reconciliation and how it engages with First Nations people and promotes and preserves culture and heritage.

- Artist Visioning
  As part of the development of this strategy some artists have been engaged to create a vision for arts, culture and heritage for the Barossa region. This process is designed to be creative and interpretive in nature and provide something that is less linear, and text/language based.

Communications and Engagement Plan

Draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy

Records reference	
Document status	Draft
Version	1
Date	27 July 2026

Project governance

Project sponsor (ultimate decision maker)	Jake McVicar
Project governance / reference group	
Project leader	Rowena Sloane
Project team / working group	Rowena Sloane, Taryn Wills, Alicia Ludi Schutz, Chelsea Broadhurst

Background

The Barossa Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy is a draft long-term strategic framework that will guide Council's role in supporting arts, culture and heritage over the next 10 years.

The draft Strategy reflects what we've already hear, through previous community engagement, stakeholder consultation, sector workshops and research. Council is consulting with the community, inviting the community to review the draft and share feedback to ensure the Strategy reflects the community, its voices and aspirations.

Specific considerations and inclusions

Note any sensitivities, legislative requirements, prior commitments, related projects, or matters the engagement must specifically account for.

- Timeline to get to this stage has been drawn out. Council previously consulted with the community in relation forming this strategy back in 2025. More than 150 people responded to a survey, plus engagements with 170 more.

- A consultation summary will be prepared at the conclusion of the engagement period outlining feedback received, Council's response to key themes and any recommended amendments prior to the Strategy being presented to Council for adoption.

Overarching communication and engagement objectives / purpose

State the overarching objective(s) this plan supports.

- Reach a broad range of audiences in The Barossa Council region and encourage them to provide feedback through Council's official engagement channels.
- Raise community awareness about opportunities to provide feedback to Council, and how their feedback can help influence decision making.
- Motivate community by driving them to Council's Your Barossa Your say landing page.
- Share how community feedback will be used while managing expectations in relation to what the feedback can influence.

Specific communication objectives

Define what the specific objectives are - what are we aiming to achieve?

- To test community agreement with the draft Strategy's strategic direction and ensure it reflects what we've previously heard

Further documentation / additional information

List any further documentation supporting this engagement (e.g. background reports, policy documents, legislative references).

- Previous consultation/engagement report by Play Your Part

Sign-off

Roles			
Officer who prepared the document	**Name**: Taryn Wills	**Position title:** Marketing and Communications Team Leader	**Date:** 27 July 2026
Reviewed by	**Name**: Jake McVicar	**Position title**: DDCS	**Date**: 14/8/2026
Approved by	**Name**: Martin McCarthy	**Position title: CEO**	**Date**: 14/8/2026

Appendix 1 — Engagement methodology

Community engagement method

Method	Our commitment to the community	
Inform	We will keep you informed.	☐
Consult	We will listen to your concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision(s).	x
Active participation	We will work with you to ensure that what we've heard is directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision(s).	☐

We will **consult** with stakeholders of the project and community to ensure they feel connected to this Strategy and Council's commitment to arts, culture and heritage.

Negotiables and non-negotiables

Negotiables: What can the community influence?	**Comments / reasoning**
• Wording and clarity of the strategy • Opportunities, partnerships and emerging themes • Strategic priorities and actions • Identification gaps or issues missed	Feedback from the community in relation to these matters may be considered
Non-negotiables: What can't the community influence?	**Comments / reasoning**
Decisions already made by Council regarding BCIC project	Community feedback cannot directly influence decisions made relating to the Barossa Creative Industries Project or decisions already made by Council.

Risk assessment

Risk factor	Low	Medium	High	Explanation and mitigation actions
What is the degree of complexity of the project?	☐	☐	x	Strategy is inherently broad.
What is the degree of potential community impact of the project?	☐	x	☐	Low community awareness or participation (delay in draft coming to council after consultation for development), misunderstanding of the purpose of the Strategy

What is the degree of political sensitivity or interest in the project?	☐	x	☐	Important but unlikely to be contentious.
What is the degree of reputational risk to the organisation?	☐	x	☐	Stakeholder expectations beyond Council's role or available resources, and misinformation regarding implementation or funding.
What is the degree of legal / legislative risk associated with the project?	x	☐	☐	N/a
Overall risk rating	☐	x	☐	*Sign-off required from Director*

Geographic boundaries

This engagement is Council wide.

Key messages

List the key messages for stakeholders. Keep these consistent across all channels and materials.

- The Barossa Council Arts, Culture & Heritage Strategy 2026–2031 sets a bold vision for a region where creativity, culture, and heritage are not only visible - but vital. It recognises the immense potential of the Barossa's cultural assets to drive social connection, economic diversification, and a deepened sense of identity.
- The draft strategy sets a long-term vision and framework for how Council will support, invest in and grow the region's cultural life.
- This draft strategy is developed in consultation with the community. We heard from the community in 2025 (over 300 responses) and received great feedback on what arts, culture and heritage means to the community. This feedback has helped shaped the draft Strategy.
- This strategy has also been informed by community feedback gather through the Community Plan which has also helped shaped the Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan, ensuring a consistent thread of community voice across Council's key strategic documents.
- The Strategy builds on the Barossa's proud history, rich First Nations heritage and global reputation in food and wine while positioning arts and culture as equally compelling pillars of Barossa life.
- There are six interconnected goals within the strategy:
    - Preserve and celebrate cultural heritage
    - Grow creative industries and local talent
    - Drive cultural tourism and creative visitation
    - Amplify participation and local storytelling
    - Foster community wellbeing, inclusion and connection
    - Champion cultural learning and creative education
- The Strategy will help guide how Council supports and grows arts and culture across the region. It will help us make decisions about arts and culture with partners and community.
- This strategy will position the new Barossa Creative Industries Centre as a hub for creative development and cultural engagement.
- You can share your feedback through a range of methods (via email, in writing and online)
- This is a Strategic plan. Delivery happens through operational plans and action plans.

Timing — key dates

Dates	Activity
27 July – 31 July	Pre engagement planning. Develop engagement plan and seek approval.
18 August	Report to Council
26 August	Consultation and Engagement commences
16 September	Consultation and Engagement concludes
	Feedback is collated and considered
October	Council meeting – review outcomes/feedback and endorse final strategy

Communication and engagement techniques

The following channels (techniques) will be used to drive engagement and participation:

- Your Barossa, Your Say online with survey feedback tool (see questions below)
- Owned social media channels including The Barossa Council and Barossa Regional Gallery
- Public notice in The Leader and The Bunyip
- Proactive communication (media release) to local newspapers and community newsletters
- Council printed newsletter (pending timing)
- Enews to subscribed databases including d'Vine, Barossa Regional Gallery, Tourism and Eco Development
- Support from branch offices and libraries – poster/display, collect hardcopy surveys, encourage participation
- Drop posters at prominent public locations like shopping centres

Feedback Tool – online survey (Your Barossa, Your Say)

1. **Thinking about the six strategic goals within the draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy, how much do you agree with each statement.**

Question	*Strongly Disagree*	*Disagree*	*Neutral*	*Agree*	*Strongly Disagree*
The draft strategy recognises and protects local history, stories and heritage.					
The draft strategy makes me feel that First Nations and other cultural identities and backgrounds are recognised and respected					
The draft strategy strengthens local opportunities for creative work, enterprise and economic participation.					
The draft strategy supports cultural places, events and experiences being active, vibrant and worth visiting					
The draft strategy encourages and strengthens opportunities for creative expression and storytelling					
The draft strategy supports opportunities for people to learn and build creative skills.					

2. Thinking about your answers above, what would you most like to see strengthened in the draft Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy, and why is that important to you?

Appendix 2 — Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholder	Level of influence and/or interest in the project	Engagement stages and technique/s	Responsible officer
Decision-maker(s)			
Elected members	High level of influence/interest	Council report	Rowena Sloane / Director
Executive Leadership Team	High level of influence/interest	ELT report	Rowena Sloane
Internal stakeholders (e.g. Customer Support, Libraries, Community Development)			
Customer Support	Medium interest and influence	Email advising of engagement and seek support for displaying posters/draft strategy	Taryn Wills
Community Development Team	Medium interest and influence	Email advising of engagement and ask for information to be sent to Wellbeing Network	Taryn Wills
Key identified stakeholders			
Arts organisations	High interest/ medium influence	Email	Rowena
Agile Stakeholder Group	High interest/high influence	Direct email advising of opportunity and ways to actively participate in the conversation	Rowena
Heritage organisations	High interest/ medium influence		Rowena
Artists and creative practitioners	High interest/ medium influence		Rowena
Tourism operators	Medium interest/medium influence	Inclusion in enewsletter	Visitor Services team
Local businesses	Medium influence/low interest	Inclusion in enewsletter	Economic Development
First Nations people	High interest/medium influence	Direct email	Community Development team
Indirectly affected stakeholders			

Broad community • Residents • Visitors	High interest/medium influence	Social media posts Poster/display Your Barossa, Your Say News item Newsletters	Communications and Marketing Team with support from Rowena
Non-government organisations, peak bodies, industry groups			
Regional Development Barossa	High interest/medium influence	Direct email advising of engagement and seeking feedback	Taryn Wills
Media (e.g. local newspapers)			
Local newspapers	Moderate interest/low influence	Media release advising of engagement	Alicia Ludi-Schutz
d'Vine	Moderate interest/low influence	Advising of engagement	Alicia Ludi-Schutz

Appendix 3 — Communication and engagement action plan

Phase	Desired outcome	Target audience / stakeholders	Method	Channel / technique(s)	Timeline	Responsible office
Planning		Materials and communications drafted and approved	Consult	Your Barossa Your Say content Social media post Poster Media Release Public Notice Feedback (survey tool)	23 August	Comms and Marketing
Implementation	Legislated requirement for notice in print media met	The Leader The Bunyip	Inform/consult	Direct email to book	By August 21	Comms & Marketing
Implementation	Your Barossa Your Say page is live	Broad community	Consult	Website home tile / media release uploaded and page live	By August 26	Comms & Marketing
Implementation	Media release shared with local media	Local media / broad community	Inform	Media release	By August 21	Comms & Marketing
Implementation	Posters and draft strategy sent out	Customer Support Community Development Bushgardens	Inform	Posters / strategy copies and hard copy surgery	By August 25	Comms & Marketing
Implementation	Social media post	Broad community	Inform/consult	FB/IG post	August 26	Comms & Marketing
Implementation	Share engagement opportunity with key stakeholders and networks	Broad community	Inform/consult	Emails to identified stakeholders	August 26 until end of engagement	Arts & Culture Comms & Marketing
Implementation	Subscribers are informed	The Barossa Council subscribers Economic Development subscribers Visitor Services/Tourism subscribers Barossa Regional Gallery subscribers	Inform	Short article in enewsletters	Between 26 August – 19 September	Comms & Marketing Eco Dev Tourism Arts & Culture

Responsible officer for this plan: Team Leader Communications and Marketing

Appendix 4 — Internal engagement plan

Background information / project scope

As part of [name the engagement], we will be engaging internally with all staff.

Communication and engagement techniques

The following techniques will be used to drive engagement and participation:

- Emails: ELT, all staff
- Your Barossa, Your Say page (staff only) with background information and online tool(s) to capture feedback
- Intranet (The Bar) / Viva Engage

Internal engagement stages

Stage	Timing	Purpose / action	Stakeholders	Techniques
Pre-engagement	July	• The leadership team are made aware of the upcoming project.	ELT	ELT meeting
Engagement		• Promote the engagement to all staff encouraging them to provide feedback. • Feedback collected will help inform the final strategy document.	All staff	Your Barossa, Your Say Viva Engage
Reporting / approach development		• Feedback is considered and summarised.	Rowena Comms Community Development (Alicia)	Engagement feedback report
Council meeting		• Elected members are provided the final documents for endorsement (with the procedure for noting).	Elected Members	Final strategy for consideration including feedback from engagement
Close the loop		• Following the Council meeting (if documents approved), all staff are made aware of the final endorsed strategy.	All staff	Viva Engage, The Bar Update document on website

DEBATE REPORT

7.4 Development and Community Services

7.4.3 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR LAND DIVISION AT LOT 500 CEMETERY ROAD TAUNTON - STATE PLANNING COMMISSION REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE

Author: Team Leader Planning
26/48876

PURPOSE

To seek Council concurrence in relation to Development Application 26006077 for land division at Lot 500, Cemetery Road, Taunton, pursuant to Section 8(3) of the *Character Preservation Act 2012*.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to concur with the decision of the State Planning Commission to grant Planning Consent in relation to Development Application 26006077 for "Conventional land division creating two allotments from one allotment" at Lot 500, Cemetery Road, Taunton, pursuant to Section 8(3) of the *Character Preservation Act 2012*.

REPORT

Background
Development Application 26006077 was lodged by Civil Surveys & Design on 16 April 2026 for "Conventional land division creating two allotments from one allotment" at Lot 500, Cemetery Road, Taunton. A copy of the application documents including plan of division and the assessment report prepared by the delegate of the State Planning Commission are contained in Attachment 1.

This follows an earlier Development Application 26006078 for "*Land Division 1 into 2 allotments*" at Lot 1, Cemetery Road, Eden Valley. The circumstances of this second application are essentially the same to that of the first application. While the owner is different in this application, the surveyor is the same and the two applications were lodged at about the same time and represented by the same planning consultant.

The State Planning Commission was determined to be Relevant Authority for the Development Application on basis that the land division is a Restricted form of development, pursuant to Table 4 of the Rural Zone.

Restricted development refers to an impact assessed development that is defined in Section 110 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and can only be assessed by the State Planning Commission. Such forms of development may be approved subject to a prescribed process that includes public notice and provides rights of third-party appeal.

In Table 4 of the Rural Zone, land division within the Limited Land Division Overlay is Restricted development, other than land division that is a boundary realignment. Due to the land division creating an additional allotment, it is not a boundary realignment and therefore must be Restricted development.

The State Planning Commission have undertaken an assessment of the land division against the relevant provisions of the Planning and Design Code and have resolved to grant Planning and Land Division Consent.

However, the decision of the State Planning Commission is subject to concurrence of the Council for the area in which the development is located due to the land division creating an additional allotment within the Character Preservation District.

Pursuant to Section 8 of the *Character Preservation Act 2012*, subsection (3) states:

> ***8 – Limitations on land division in district***
>
> *(3) If the State Planning Commission is the Relevant Authority, the State Planning Commission must not grant development authorisation to a development to which this section applies unless the council for the area where the proposed development is situated concurs in the granting of the authorisation.*

There are no delegations in place to enable staff to determine whether to grant concurrence to a development application in which this section applies. As such, this request is presented to Council for consideration.

Introduction

This report seeks Council's concurrence in relation to Development Application 26006077 for "*Conventional land division creating two allotments from one allotment*" at Lot 500, Cemetery Road, Taunton. This report recommends that Council grant concurrence to the State Planning Commission for the reasons set out in this report.

Discussion

The land division involves division of the existing allotment 500, Cemetery Road, Taunton, formally described as allotment 500 in Certificate of Title Volume 5595 Folio 865, into two allotments. The site is comprised of an irregular shaped allotment having an area of 65ha and with extensive frontages to Vigars Road (570.1m), Eden Valley Road (1,143.9m) and Cemetery Road (497.6m). An easement in favour of the ETSA Corporation runs along the eastern portion of the land. The land is currently used for general farming purposes and contains scattered vegetation and several dams, as well a power line with associated poles located within the aforementioned easement. An aerial view of the site is below in ***Figure 1***.

Figure 1 *Aerial plan of site*

The proposal will divide the land into two allotments as follows:

- Proposed Allotment 300 –34.2ha with frontage to Vigars Road and Eden Valley Road. This allotment will contain the ETSA Corporation easement.
- Proposed Allotment 301 – 30.8ha with frontage to Eden Valley Road and Cemetery Road.

The allotments will both have frontages to a public road and all of the roads are either sealed (Eden Valley Road) or of all-weather construction. No change in land use is proposed, with both allotments intended to continue to be utilised for primary production purposes. The Applicant has stated the purpose of the land division is to create an additional commercial primary production opportunity.

The land is located within the Rural Zone under the Planning and Design Code. The minimum site area Technical & Numeric Variation (TNV) prescribed for this part of the Rural Zone is 32ha. Proposed allotment 301 would therefore have a shortfall of 1.2ha, whilst proposed allotment 300 would have a surplus of 2.2ha. The average allotment area would be 32.5ha.

The proposed form of land division is considered to be consistent with the sizes and form of land parcels in the locality. As evidenced in **Figure 2** below, the allotment is larger than the majority of allotments in this locality which are half the size of the subject land. On this basis, division of the allotments is not in conflict with the existing pattern of allotment sizes and is broadly consistent with the pattern of existing subdivision.

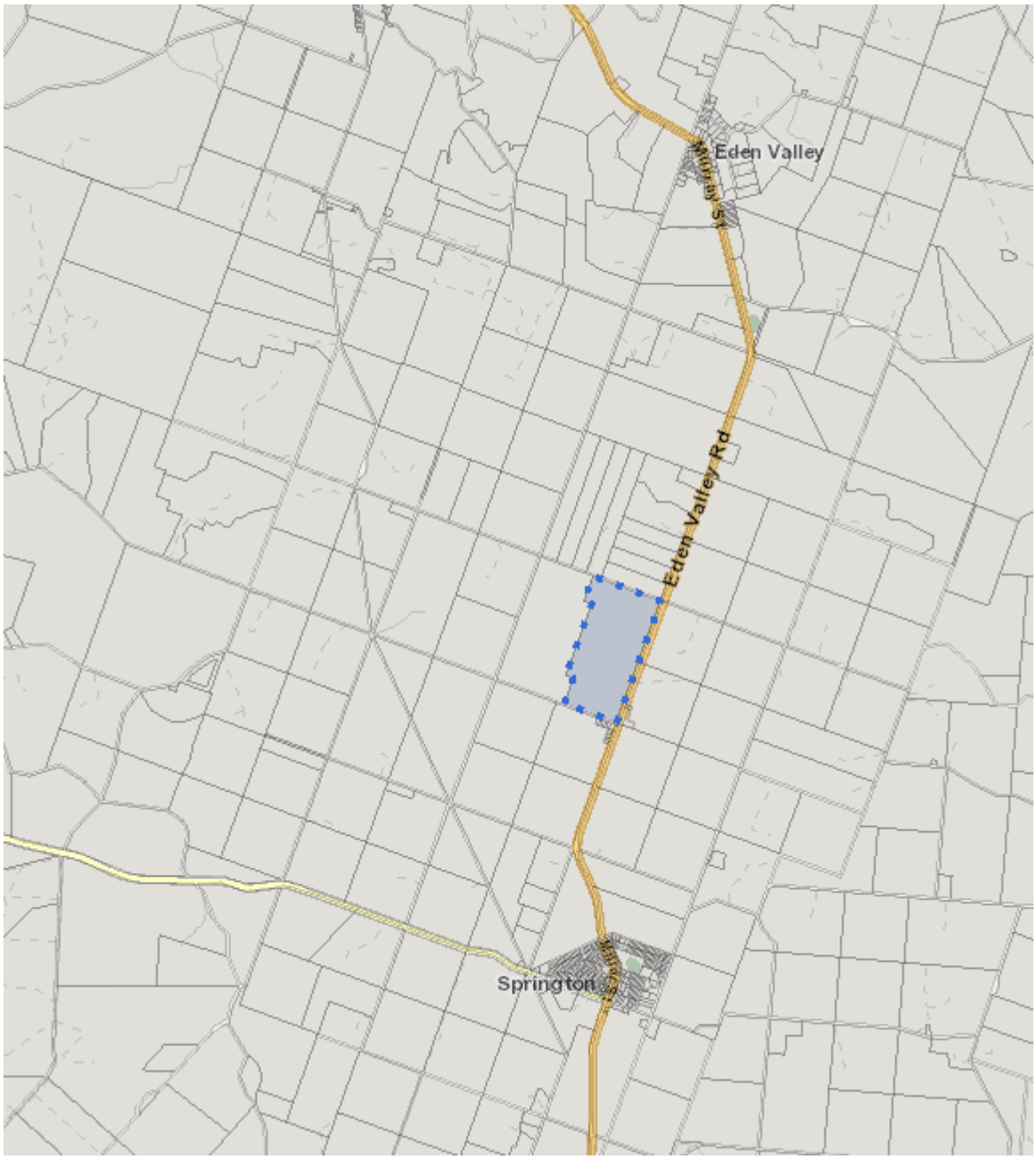


Figure 2: *Cadastre Plan with site identified in blue*

While the land division is a Restricted form of development in the Rural Zone and requires a concurrence pursuant to Section 8(3) of the *Character Preservation Act 2012*, the Act does not preclude a land division from creating an additional allotment except where the allotment is for residential purposes.

Further, the land division is not considered to be in conflict with any of the five Character Values enshrined in Section 7 of the *Character Preservation Act 2012* which are:

a) *The rural and natural landscape and visual amenity of the district;*
b) *The heritage attributes of the district;*
c) *The built form of the townships as they relate to the district;*
d) *The viticultural, agricultural and associated industries of the district;*
e) *The scenic and tourism attributes of the district.*

The proposed land division will not result in a change to the appearance of the land, in that it is simply drawing a line on the page through the middle of the allotment, in a position that is consistent with many allotments within the locality. Further, the allotment sizes are such that they would support continued agricultural activities on the land in a manner that is consistent with adjacent land parcels of similar size.

It is noted the Council expressed some reservations regarding the first application in that there could be a precedent set for further land divisions in the Character Preservation Area. It is important to stress that the circumstances of these two applications are considered unique in that they relate to large properties which well exceed the size of allotments in the locality.

Staff have taken a very restrictive view of land division in the rural area of the Character Preservation District and only in limited circumstances is it considered that land division creating additional allotments may be acceptable. Any future applications shall continue to be brought forward to Council and only in exceptional circumstances should land division be recommended.

In summary, the land division is considered to warrant Planning and Land Division Consent in that the sizes of the allotments and formation of the land division accords with the Rural Zone and existing pattern of development in the locality. Further, the land division is not in conflict with the Character Values under the *Character Preservation Act 2012*.

Summary and Conclusion
This report seeks Council's concurrence in relation to Development Application 26006077 for "Conventional land division creating two allotments from one allotment" at Lot 500, Cemetery Road, Taunton. For the reasons set out in this report, it is recommended that Council grant concurrence to the State Planning Commission.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Planning Assessment Concurrence Documentation

Supporting references
Nil.

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Corporate Plan

CS8 Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement - Conducting compliance, monitoring and responding to non-compliance associated with planning, building, swimming pool, fire safety, public health and safety
CS15 Land Use and Development - Assessment of development applications for construction, alteration or demolition of buildings, and the division of land and changes in land use.

Legislative Requirements
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2012
Character Preservation Act 2012

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.

There are no adverse environmental consequences arising from the granting of Planning and Land Division Consent for the proposed land division. The resultant allotment sizes exceed or come relatively close to the minimum allotment size threshold prescribed in this part of the Rural Zone of 32ha. The allotments are suitable to continue to be used for agricultural purposes, consistent with the objectives of the Rural Zone.

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.

The proposed land division is considered to be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Planning & Design Code and the Character Values defined in Section 7 of the *Character Preservation Act 2012*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The application was subject to public notification pursuant to the Restricted Assessment pathway and no representations were received by the State Planning Commission.

OFFICIAL

ASSESSMENT REPORT

DEVELOPMENT NO.:	26006077
APPLICANT:	CIVIL SURVEYS & DESIGN
NATURE OF DEVELOPMENT:	Conventional land division creating two (2) allotments from one (1) allotment
ZONING INFORMATION:	**Zones:** • Rural **Overlays:** • Character Preservation District • Hazards (Bushfire - Medium Risk) • Hazards (Flooding - Evidence Required) • Limited Land Division • Murray-Darling Basin • Native Vegetation • Prescribed Water Resources Area • River Murray Tributaries Protection Area • Traffic Generating Development • Urban Transport Routes • Water Resources **Technical Numeric Variations (TNVs):** • Minimum Site Area (Minimum site area is 32 ha)
LODGEMENT DATE:	16 Apr 2026
RELEVANT AUTHORITY:	State Planning Commission
PLANNING & DESIGN CODE VERSION:	P&D Code (in effect) Version 2026.6 26/03/2026

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

The proposed development is seeking a one into two land division (creating an additional allotment) at Lot 500 Cemetery Road, Taunton. The proposed allotments have the following characteristics:

- Allotment 300 (northern allotment) -
    - Approximate square shaped allotment excluding ‘dog-leg’ western boundary, measuring 34.23ha in size, with respective Eden Valley Road and Vigars Road frontages of 570.21m and 642.12m.
    - Used for general farming.

OFFICIAL

- Void of development and accommodates a small and large dam near its western boundary.
- A water course runs partly along the allotment's western boundary.
- Scattering of established vegetation.
- A 4.02m wide easement 'A' to the ETSA Corporation runs partly along the allotment's eastern boundary.
- Accessed off Vigars Road.

- Allotment 301 (southern allotment) –
  - Approximate square shaped allotment excluding 'dog-leg' western boundary, measuring 30.77ha in size, with respective Eden Valley Road and Cemetery Road frontages of 568.71m and 497.59m.
  - Used for general farming and viticulture.
  - Void of development and accommodates a dam near its western boundary's midpoint.
  - Scattering of established vegetation.
  - Accessed off Cemetery Road via three discrete access points.

Refer to the below image for additional information.

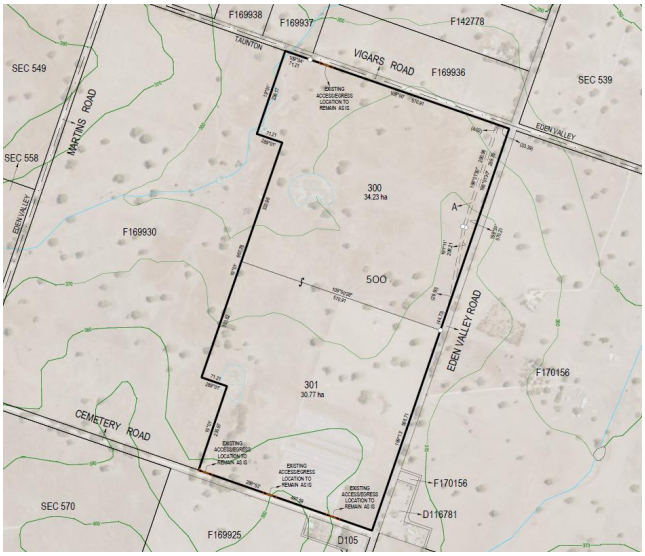


Figure 1 – Proposed plan of division (part of Civil Surveys and Design dwg 26014LB-PRP-01-V2)

LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT:

Location reference: LOT 500 CEMETERY RD TAUNTON SA 5235

Title ref.: CT 5595/865 **Plan Parcel:** D50505 AL500 **Council:** THE BAROSSA COUNCIL

The subject site is in a rural area of Taunton and the Barossa Council.

The locality consists of large rural allotments, circa 32ha in size, with smaller rural lots found north of the subject site (lots start from approximately 8ha in size). Small residential lots are also found at the corner of Eden Valley Road and Cemetery Road. All allotments are within the minimum 32ha site area TNV.

The locality is relatively flat, with land falling toward scattered watercourses. Water bodies/ dams are scattered across the locality and can be isolated from watercourses.

Mature/ established vegetation is sparsely scattered across the locality, with no densely clustered vegetation present.

Allotments typically front onto and are accessed via unsealed all-weather roads, with Eden Valley Road being a sealed state-maintained road.

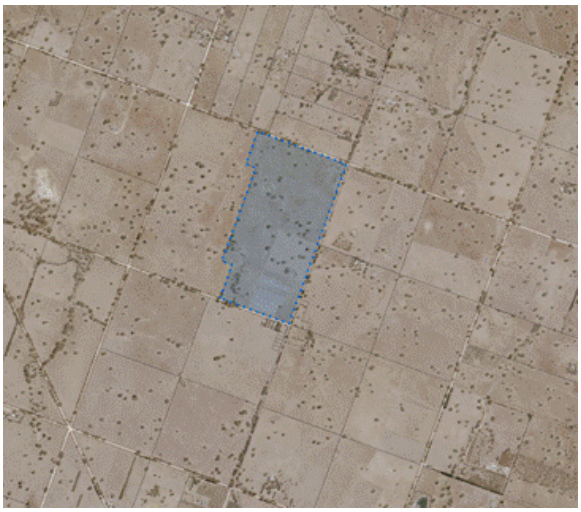


Figure 2 – Site and Locality (SAPPA)

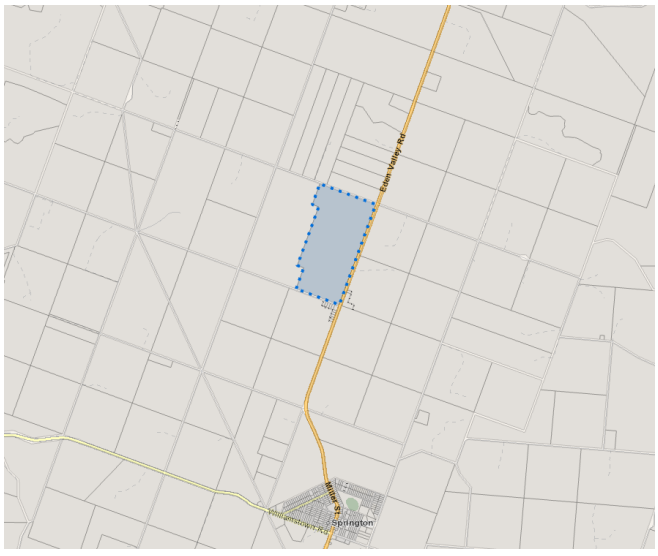


Figure 3 – Pattern of development (SAPPA)

CONSENT TYPE REQUIRED:

Planning and Land Division Consent

CATEGORY OF DEVELOPMENT:

- **PER ELEMENT:**
  Land division
  Land Division within the Limited Land Division Overlay: Impact Assessed - Restricted
- **OVERALL APPLICATION CATEGORY:**
  Impact Assessed - Restricted
- **REASON**
  P&D Code; P & D Code

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Yes

- **REASON**
  Restricted development
- **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION SUMMARY**
  - Notification period - 14 May 2026 - 11 Jun 2026.
  - 15 adjacent landowners contacted.
  - No representations received.
  - Sign on land not required – Rural Zone.

AGENCY REFERRALS

- **South Australian Water Corporation (Advice)** - No objection, 4 conditions.
  - Conditions are standard.
- **SPC Planning Services (Advice)** - No objections, one condition and note.
  - Condition and advisory note are standard.
- **The Barossa Council (Comment)** - No objection with comments.
  - Council opine the proposal will not prejudice primary production land and is consistent with the locality's general development pattern.
  - Sought Commission include the standard condition that prevents the additional lot being for residential use.

Non-referral

- **Minister responsible for the administration of the River Murray Act 2003 (Direction)** - River Murray Tributaries Protection Area Overlay Procedural Matters (PM) requires a referral to the Minister responsible for the administration of the *River Murray Act 2003 if:*
  - land division classified as restricted by the Planning and Design Code unless the proposal is considered minor in nature.
  - As the proposed land division will continue the site's existing primary production uses and not alter the site's landform or current land use intensity, it was deemed the proposed land division is considered minor in nature.

INTERNAL REFERRALS

- **Hannah Connell (Manager)** - Endorse recommendation to proceed with restricted assessment, 27 April 2026.

PLANNING & DESIGN CODE POLICIES

The application has been assessed against the relevant provisions of the Planning & Design Code, which are outlined below. The policies identified in the discussion of this report are those considered relevant for the purposes of this assessment.

Zone	Overlays (*)	General Policies
Rural *Land Use and Intensity* - PO 1.1 *Land Division* – PO 11.1	**Character Preservation District (Not in Township)** *Land Use & Intensity* - PO 1.1 *Earthworks* – PO 4.1 **Hazards (Bushfire - Medium Risk) (Medium)** *Land Division* - PO 4.1, PO 4.4 *Vehicle Access - Roads, Driveways and Fire Tracks* - PO 5.3 **Limited Land Division** *General* - PO 1.1 **River Murray Tributaries Protection Area** *Land Division* – PO 2.1 **Urban Transport Routes** Access *Safe Entry and Exit (Traffic Flow)* - PO 1.1 *On-Site Queuing* - PO 2.1 *Existing Access Points* - PO 3.1 *Location (Sight Lines)* - PO 5.1 *Mud and Debris* - PO 6.1 *Stormwater* - PO 7.1	**Land Division** All land division *Allotment configuration* - PO 1.1, 1.2, *Design and Layout* – PO 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8 *Roads and Access* – PO 3.1 *Infrastructure* – PO 4.2 Minor Land Division (Under 20 Allotments) *Open Space* – PO 5.1 *Water Sensitive Design* – PO 7.2 **Site Contamination** PO 1.1

*Hazards (Flooding – Evidence Required), Murray-Darling Basin, Native Vegetation, Prescribed Water Resources Area, Traffic Generating Development and Water Resources Overlays and their respective policies are not applicable to the proposed development and/ or relevant area.

PLANNING ASSESSMENT

Overlays

Character Preservation District (Not in Township)

The proposed land division complies with *Character Preservation (Barossa Valley) Act 2012* Section 8 by not creating a residential allotment, further this will be conditioned (PO 1.1).

The proposal will continue the site's existing uses and therefore would not require earthworks (PO 4.1).

Hazards (Bushfire - Medium Risk)

The land division will divide existing rural/ agricultural land that is void of development, including dwellings. Further, both lots front onto and access all-weather roads that can facilitate safe access and egress in case of an emergency (PO 4.1, 4.4, 5.3).

Limited Land Division

The proposal is at odds with PO 1.1 that seeks to prevent the creation of additional allotments; however, it does align with the Overlay's intent (DO 1) which seeks "*The long term use of land for primary production is maintained by minimising fragmentation through division of land" (underline added).* Additionally, restricted developments are to be assessed in a boarder context, including the intent of the Planning and Design Code. Therefore, the following commentary intends to demonstrate how the proposal overwhelmingly satisfies the Code's intent.

A minimum site area Technical and Numeric Variation (TNV) of 32ha applies to the locality. This would ostensibly indicate that parcels of this size can sustain primary production uses and is demonstrated via the locality's existing pattern of development (allotments circa. 32ha in size). Whilst Lot 301's 30.77ha area is slightly less than the TNV, it is undeveloped, relatively flat and void of pre-occupied or unusable land i.e., does not contain native vegetation, numerous water courses and/ or easements, that would result in lost primary production land. Therefore, as the proposed allotments are commensurate with the locality's allotment sizes and dimensions, it is assumed they can both sustain primary production land uses.

Further to the above, the proposed line of division reinforces the locality's existing pattern of development by continuing the locality's existing east-west boundary line, as shown below.

Figure 4 – Line of division across neighbouring allotments (SAPPA)

Finally, the site has an existing water licence that could further support an 'undersized' land parcel when compared to a similar or larger site that is reliant on seasonal rainfall to sustain its primary production use.

Therefore, as the proposal will create suitably sized primary production allotments, the proposal aligns with the Overlay's and Code's intent.

River Murray Tributaries Protection Area

The land division will maintain the site's existing land use and therefore, would not lead to the intensification of development to a level that would have a negative impact on the health or natural flow paths of the River Murray Tributaries (PO 1.1).

Urban Transport Routes

Each allotment will maintain their existing Cementery Road and Vigars Road access arrangements (PO 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1).

Zone

Rural Zone

The land division will maintain the site's existing and envisaged rural/ agricultural land uses (PO 1.1).

Allotment 301 is slightly less than the desired minimum site area TNV. However, as above, both allotments achieve PO 11.1's intent to promote productive, efficient and sustainable primary production, by creating allotments that are of sufficient dimensions to support these outcomes and maintain the site's existing primary production uses.

General Development Policies

Land Division

As above, the proposal will create suitably sized allotments to continue their primary production uses (PO 1.1, 1.2).

The proposal will not require extensive (if any) earthworks (PO 2.1).

The proposal will maintain the site's existing agricultural use and therefore, not exacerbate any existing interface impacts (PO 2.2, 2.4).

Each allotment will front onto and access an all-weather road (PO 2.3, 3.1).

The applicant's request for information response mentions the site's existing water licence will be evenly split between the two allotments, and this administrative process will occur post development application through the Department for Environment and Water (PO 2.5).

Existing watercourses and vegetation will be unaffected (PO 2.6, 2.8).

The allotments could accommodate future wastewater systems (PO 4.2).

The proposal will not impact peak flows etc. due to retaining the site's existing permeable surface cover (PO 7.2).

Site Contamination

The proposal will maintain the site's existing use and therefore its land use sensitivity (PO 1.1).

LAND DIVISION ASSESSMENT

For a land division an application should be assessed against section 102(1)(c) of the *Planning, Development & Infrastructure Act 2016* which states the following:

(c) in relation to a proposed division of land (otherwise than under the Community Titles Act 1996 or the Strata Titles Act 1988)—the requirement that the following conditions be satisfied (or will be satisfied by the imposition of conditions under this Act):

(i) requirements set out in the Planning and Design Code made for the purposes of this provision are satisfied;
(ii) any relevant requirements set out in a design standard has been satisfied;
(iii) the requirements of a water industry entity under the Water Industry Act 2012 identified under the regulations relating to the provision of water supply and sewerage services are satisfied;
(iv) where land is to be vested in a council or other authority—the council or authority consents to the vesting;
(v) requirements set out in regulations made for the purposes of this provision are satisfied;

The aforementioned matters have either been addressed directly or will be mitigated through the imposition of conditions of approval.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST SECTION 7 OF THE CHARACTER PRESERVATION (BAROSSA VALLEY) Act 2012

The proposed development is not seeking to create an additional residential allotment within the CPD's rural area. Therefore, the application of Section 7 (5) is not applicable in this instance.

The proposal will protect the area's viticultural, agricultural and associated industries from urban encroachment and does not affect the operation of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (The Act), Mining Act* or any other Act.

The proposal requires the Commission seek concurrence from the Barossa Council to authorise the proposed land division.

The application did not receive any representators during its public notification period.

No appeal lies against a refusal by a relevant authority to grant development authorisation to the development or a refusal by the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

The assessment against the Planning and Design Code's Rural Zone, and applicable Overlay and General Development Policies modules indicates that the proposed land division would substantially satisfy the relevant Code policies.

The development proposes a one into two land division (creating one additional allotment) at 500 Cemetery Road, Taunton.

The Barossa Council provide their support for the proposal, noting its intent to reflect the locality's established pattern of development.

The assessment has demonstrated that the proposed land division will maintain the site's existing agricultural/ rural land uses on suitably sized allotments and therefore, maintain the site's primary production capacity.

Further, the assessment demonstrates that the proposed allotments satisfy the intent and policies of the applicable Zones and Overlays and in doing so, satisfy the intent of the Planning and Design Code and therefore, the application warrants land division and planning consent.

The proposed development is not considered seriously at variance with the relevant Desired Outcomes and Performance Outcomes of the Planning and Design Code pursuant to section 107(2)(c) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

CONDITIONS

Planning Consent

Condition 1

The development authorisation granted herein shall be undertaken in accordance with the stamped approved plans, drawings, specifications and other documents submitted to the State Planning Commission, except where varied by conditions below (if any).

Condition 2

The additional allotments created will not be used for residential development.

Land Division Consent

Conditions imposed by South Australian Water Corporation under Section 122 of the Act

Condition 1

This development is within a current Augmentation Charge area and SA Water Gazetted Augmentation charges shall be paid by the developer.

Condition 2

If a connection/s off an existing main is required, the connection/s to your development will be a standard or a non-standard costs. This will be determined by an investigation where appropriate.

Condition 3

Please note for Torrens Title developments that it is the developer's responsibility to ensure that all internal pipework, water, is contained within the new allotment boundaries.

Condition 4

SA Water has water/wastewater network assets within close proximity to the location of this development.

An investigation, if required, will be undertaken following the provision of the development details to enable a servicing strategy to be provided. Augmentation infrastructure works may need to be undertaken by the Developer and/or SA Water to enable servicing of this development. SA Water may contribute to the cost of these works.

SA Water Gazetted Augmentation Charges, Connection and Extension Fees and Capacity Upgrade fees and charges shall be paid by the developer.

SA Water may contribute to any material upsizing requirements.

Conditions imposed by SPC Planning Services under Section 122 of the Act

Condition 5

A final plan complying with the requirements for plans set out in the Plan Presentation Requirements issued by Land Services SA to be lodged with the State Planning Commission for Land Division Certificate purposes. At the time of lodgment, the Land Division Registration fee (currently $1190.00) will also be payable. Payment may be made via credit card (Visa or MasterCard) online at plan.sa.gov.au, over the phone on 7133 3028, or cheques may be made payable to the State Planning Commission, marked "Not Negotiable" and sent to GPO Box 1815, Adelaide 5001

ADVISORY NOTES

Planning Consent

Advisory Note 1

The approved development must be substantially commenced within 24 months of the date of Development Approval, and completed within 3 years from the operative date of the approval, unless this period has been extended by the relevant authority.

Advisory Note 2

This consent or approval will lapse at the expiration of 24 months from its operative date (unless this period has been extended by the Relevant Authority).

Advisory Note 3

No works, including site works can commence until a Development Approval has been granted.

Advisory Note 4

The applicant has a right of appeal against the conditions which have been imposed on this Planning Consent or Development Approval. Such an appeal must be lodged at the Environment, Resources and Development Court within two months from the day of receiving this notice or such longer time as the Court may allow. The applicant is asked to contact the ERD Court if wishing to appeal. The ERD Court is located in the Sir Samuel Way Building, Victoria Square, Adelaide, (telephone number 8204 0289).

Advisory Note 5

All Council, utility or state-agency maintained infrastructure (i.e. roads, kerbs, drains, crossovers, footpaths etc) that is demolished, altered, removed or damaged during the construction of the development shall be reinstated to Council, utility or state agency specifications. All costs associated with these works shall be met by the proponent.

Advisory Note 6

The owner/applicant is advised that consent from any relevant easement or encumbrance owner may be required prior to any construction. Easements may include, but are not limited to: drainage, Council easements (i.e. stormwater, encroachments, access etc), power transmission (SA Power Networks), telecommunications, or other forms of access (such as vehicle) rights of way. Easements and encumbrances would be registered on the relevant Certificate of Title. The location of easements on the land would be shown on the Deposited Plan. A copy of the Certificate of Title and Deposited Plan can be obtained from the South Australian Integrated Land Information System (SAILIS) at: https://sailis.lssa.com.au/home/auth/login

Land Division Consent

Advisory Notes imposed by SPC Planning Services under Section 122 of the Act

Under Part 20A of the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Cth), developers are required to install fibre-ready facilities (e.g. pit and pipe) in their developments, unless the development qualifies for an exemption. Developers can face penalties if they sell or lease building lots or units in new developments without fibre-ready facilities installed.

Under the Commonwealth's Telecommunications in New Developments Policy, developers are also expected to contract a telecommunications carrier (being any statutory infrastructure provider (SIP) or NBN Co as the default SIP) to provide services in their development. Carriers should install fixed-line network infrastructure in new developments, unless that is not commercially feasible, in which case they should use fixed-wireless or satellite technologies.

Further details of these requirements can be found at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/publications/telecommunications-new-developments

OFFICER MAKING RECOMMENDATION

Name: Daniel Marotti

Title: Planning Officer

Date: 09 July 2026

DECISION AUTHORITY

Relevant Authority: State Planning Commission

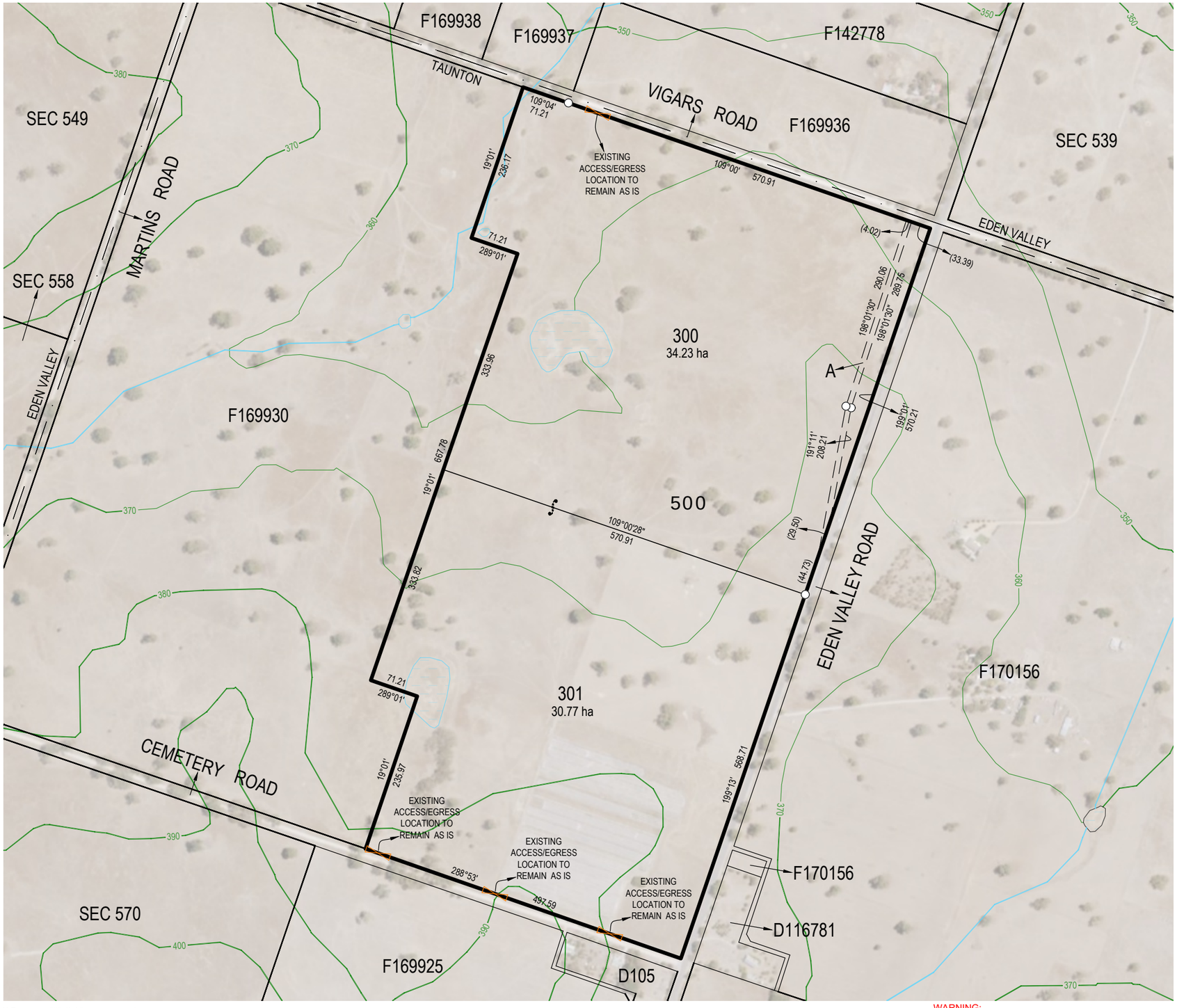
Consent: Planning and Land Division Consent

Date: <<User input>>

Delegation Policy: <<User input>>

Delegate Name: <<User input>>

Delegate Title: <<User input>>



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ALL DISTANCES ARE GROUND DISTANCES

PAGE 1 OF 1

WARNING:
THIS IS A COPY OF AN UNREGISTERED PLAN.

ALL DIMENSIONS SHOWN HEREON ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND SUBJECT TO SURVEY.

PROPOSED TORRENS LAND DIVISION

ALLOTMENT A500 IN D50505
IN THE AREA NAMED
TAUNTON

HUNDRED OF	**JUTLAND**
COUNCIL	**THE BAROSSA COUNCIL**
TOTAL AREA	**64.99 ha**
TITLE REFERENCE	**CT 5595/865**
TITLE SYSTEM	**REAL PROPERTY ACT**
DEVELOPMENT NO.	
DEVELOPMENT ZONE	**RURAL (Z5404) - Ru**
MAP REFERENCE	**6728-20-M**
ADDITIONAL ALLOTS.	**1**
JOB REFERENCE	**26014LB-PRP-01-V2**
DATE	**15/06/2026**

NOTES:

THIS IS A PROPOSED LAND DIVISION DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION PLAN.

THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED FOR CLEARANCES AND APPROVALS BY LOCAL AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND TO BE REGISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL. AS ALTERATIONS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE SURVEYOR MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR THE REGISTRAR WHEN THE FINAL PLAN IS ULTIMATELY PRESENTED FOR REGISTRATION CIVIL SURVEYS AND DESIGN PTY LTD CAN ACCEPT NO LIABILITY FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE HOWSOEVER ARISING, TO ANY PERSON OR CORPORATION WHO MAY RELY ON THIS PLAN FOR ANY PURPOSE. THE ORIGINAL OF THIS PLAN REMAINS THE PROPERTY OF CIVIL SURVEYS AND DESIGN PTY LTD AND COPIES OF THIS PLAN MADE PRIOR TO REGISTRATION MUST NOT BE PRODUCED WITHOUT THIS NOTE WHICH IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS PLAN PRIOR TO REGISTRATION.

CONTOURS AND WATER COURSES SOURCED FROM SAPPA.

EASEMENTS:

PORTION OF ALLOTMENT 300 MARKED A IS SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT TO ETSA CORPORATION (T 1855182)

I/WE THE REGISTERED PROPRIETORS DO HEREBY CONSENT TO THIS LAND DIVISION

_____ / /2026

LICENSED SURVEYORS
CIVIL SURVEYS AND DESIGN
ABN: 19 060 705 231
14 Sunbeam Road,
GLYNDE SA 5070
Ph (08) 8365 1066
NURIOOTPA SA 5355
3/11 Gawler Street,
Ph (08) 8562 4388
info@civilsurveys.com.au

Member Consulting Surveyors National
Member Business SA
Member Urban Development Institute of Australia
Member Geospatial Council of Australia

Ref: 25ADL-1547

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urps.com.au

ADL | MEL | PER | BNE

29 July 2026

Elected Members
The Barossa Council
43-51 Tanunda Road
Nuriootpa SA 5355

Dear Members

Land Division at Lot 500 Cemetery Road, Taunton

URPS continues to act on behalf of the owner at Lot 500 Cemetery Road, Taunton. This letter supports the Council's review of concurrence for the State Planning Commission's recommendation to approve this development application.

This application seeks to divide the land into two allotments and will not change the existing primary production use on the land.

This application warrants the concurrence of the Council for the following reasons:

- It is consistent with the intent of the *Character Preservation Act 2012*.
- The use of the land for primary production purposes will not change. This use is consistent with the Planning and Design Code (the Code) objectives.
- It creates two allotments that are similar in size to those existing nearby and offers commercial primary production opportunities for local business owners and operators through the creation of an additional commercial allotment.
- The application was publicly notified and no representations were received.
- There are no policy implications resulting from this land division and it will not impose an unreasonable burden on Council infrastructure.
- The relevant authority, being the State Planning Commission, has assessed the application against the Code and recommends its approval.

Yours sincerely

Chelsea Tully
Senior Consultant

We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Ref: 25ADL-1546

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ADL | MEL | PER | BNE

25 February 2026

Hugh Wang
Senior Planning Officer
Planning and Land Use Services
Department for Housing and Urban Development

Uploaded via PlanSA Portal

Dear Hugh

Land Division at Lot 500 Cemetery Road, Taunton

Introduction

URPS has been engaged by the Mattschoss Family Trust to provide planning advice and prepare this letter in support of land division at Lot 500 Cemetery Road, Taunton.

This report has been prepared in support of the proposal to be assessed by the State Planning Commission (the Commission), pursuant to section 109(1)(a)(ii) of the PDI Act.

This letter establishes the merits of the proposed development, such that an assessment of the development proceeds.

Together with this statement I enclose a Plan of Division prepared by Civil Surveys and Design.

Site and Locality

The subject land is Lot 500 Cemetery Road, Eden Valley (CT 5595/865).

The subject site is a slightly irregular shaped allotment with an area of approximately 64.8 hectares. The land has multiple frontages, with 642.12m to Vigars Road, 1,138.92m to Eden Valley Road, and 497.59m to Cemetery Road.

The land comprises a vineyard in the southern portion of the allotment and is otherwise used for general farming purposes. Vegetation is sparsely scattered across this large parcel of land. There are two small bodies of water across the site, and a natural waterway running along the most northern portion of the western boundary.

We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

SHAPING GREAT COMMUNITIES

There are no structures located on the land. Access is gained via Cemetery Road to the south.

The land and zoning arrangement is shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Site and Zoning Arrangement

This rural locality is predominantly characterised by large rural allotments used for primary production purposes such as general farming, grazing and horticulture. A cemetery can be found on an adjoining allotment to the south.

Allotments are generally larger in size, however there is a mixture of some smaller and irregular shaped allotments that reflect road layouts and established uses.

Several allotments within the locality are improved by a single dwelling with ancillary structures. This includes some rural living allotments at the corner of Eden Valley Road and Cemetery Road.

Land use patterns are typically informal and varied, however the landscape is generally open rural land used for primary production purposes.

Nature of Development

The proposed development is a 1 into 2 Torrens Title land division.

The following lots will be created:

Lots	Site Area	Frontage
Lot 300	34.23 ha	642.12m to Vigars Rd 570.21m to Eden Valley Rd
Lot 201	32.4 ha	568.71m to Eden Valley Rd 497.59m to Cemetery Rd

Procedural Matters

The land is in the Rural Zone of the Planning and Design Code (the Code).

The following Overlays apply to the land and this development:

- Character Preservation District Not in Township
- Hazards (Bushfire - Medium Risk)
- Hazards (Flooding - Evidence Required)
- Limited Land Division
- Murray-Darling Basin
- Native Vegetation
- Prescribed Water Resources Area
- River Murray Tributaries Protection Area
- Traffic Generating Development
- Urban Transport Routes
- Water Resources

A minimum site area guideline of 32 hectares applies to the land as per the Zone.

Planning and Design Code Assessment

Land Use

The Desired Outcome of the Rural Zone seeks:

DO1 ***A zone supporting the economic prosperity of South Australia primarily through the production, processing, storage and distribution of primary produce, forestry and the generation of energy from renewable sources.***

Zone PO 1.1 states:

PO 1.1 ***The productive value of rural land for a range of primary production activities and associated value adding, processing, warehousing and distribution is supported, protected and maintained.***

The Zone specifically envisages land that is maintained as productive rural land for primary production land uses and associated value adding.

The land is currently a combination of general farming and horticulture (vineyard). The proposal will not change the use of the land.

The introduction of a boundary line will not compromise the ability of either use to continue, with the full extent of the vineyard contained in Lot 301.

The proposed allotments are suitable for their existing use and can continue to be developed for primary production in accordance with the above DOs for the following reasons:

- The allotments are for the most part, regular in shape
- Both allotments have dual frontage, with flexible site layout and access options via a local road.
- The allotment configuration follows the established pattern of development in the locality.
- The allotments continue to be large and suitable for commercial scale primary production. This is explained further below.

This land division application does not seek to introduce a change in land use, and does not impact the ability to continue the ongoing primary production land uses.

Site Area and Frontage

The minimum site area for allotments within the Zone is provided in PO 11.1 and the corresponding DPF as follows:

PO 11.1 ***Land division, including boundary realignments, promotes productive, efficient and sustainable primary production by establishing allotments that are of sufficient dimension and area to support these outcomes and the intended use of the land for primary production.***

DPF 11.1 ***Allotments have an area not less than:***

Minimum site area is 32 ha

This application proposes one allotment 34.23 hectare in area and the other 30.77 hectares.

One allotment is slightly undersized however the average site area per allotment is 32.4 hectares in size. This is consistent with the Zone guideline.

The allocation of land and proposed allotment sizes are considered appropriate in this circumstance for the following reasons:

- The new boundary line follows the established pattern of development in the locality.
- The allotments are of sufficient dimension to support established primary production uses on the land.
- The boundary line location ensures that any new fencing will appear orderly and consistent with established fence lines.
- The minor area shortfall will not compromise the rural amenity of this locality.
- Achieving a consistent pattern of development is more appropriate than an irregular alignment for the purpose of a qualitative guideline.

The Zone does not nominate a minimum frontage guideline, however each allotment will continue to have ample frontage to a public road for safe and convenient vehicle access.

The land is also located within the Limited Land Division Overlay. This policy states that:

DO 1 The long term use of land for primary production is maintained by minimising fragmentation through division of land.

PO 1.1 Land division does not result in the creation of an additional allotment.

The development seeks to create an additional allotment however it is important to note the above Overlay DO seeks to achieve long term primary production uses and avoid the fragmentation of land.

In this instance, the primary production uses are maintained given the shape and size of allotments proposed. Further, the development will note result in the fragmentation of land but instead reflects the existing pattern of development in the locality.

Character Preservation District

The Desired Outcomes of the Character Preservation District Overlay seeks:

DO 1 Recognise, protect and enhance the special character of Character Preservation Districts.

DO 2 The long term use of land outside of townships for primary production and associated value adding enterprises is assured and promoted.

As noted above, the proposed division will retain the existing primary production use of the land. This is consistent with the overall intent to maintain land for primary production purposes outside of townships.

Further, Overlay PO 1.1 states:

PO 1.1 Land division is undertaken in accordance with Section 8 of the Character Preservation (Barossa Valley) Act 2012 and Section 8 of the Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Act 2012.

Section 8 of the *Character Preservation (Barossa Valley) Act 2012* refers to any land division that would create one or more additional allotments.

Within this Section, clause 5 states that land division in this Zone creating an additional allotment for residential purposes must be refused. Additionally, clause 8 states that an approval would be subject to a condition that the additional allotments are not used for residential purposes.

The proposal does not create land for residential purposes. The land will continue to be used for commercial scale primary production as per the Zone.

Site Contamination

In accordance with Practice Direction 14, it is necessary to consider the potential for site contamination where a sensitive land use is proposed in relation to a land division.

Further, it is necessary to determine if a change of use to a more sensitive use is proposed.

It this instance, the existing use of the land is horticulture and general farming. These uses falls within a primary production category under the Practice Direction.

The proposed division does not seek to alter the established use of this land and a more sensitive use is not proposed.

In accordance with Practice Direction 14, a site contamination assessment is not required for this development.

Access

Urban Transport Route Overlay seeks:

PO 1.1 Access is designed to allow safe entry and exit to and from a site to meet the needs of development and minimise traffic flow interference associated with access movements along adjacent State maintained roads.

The site has frontage to Eden Valley Road which is a State maintained road.

This proposal does not seek to change the existing access arrangement on the land. No additional access points are proposed to Eden Valley Road.

Access will be maintained via Cemetery Road which is a local road. The existing access point is located approximately 100m from the Eden Valley Road intersection.

The development therefore satisfies the Overlay.

Bushfire Risk

The Hazards (Bushfire – Medium Risk) Overlay applies to the subject site.

The Overlay seeks the following:

DO 1 Development, including land division responds to the medium level of bushfire risk and potential for ember attack and radiant heat by siting and designing buildings in a manner that mitigates the threat and impact of bushfires on life and property taking into account the increased frequency and intensity of bushfires as a result of climate change.

PO 4.1 Land division is designed and incorporates measures to minimise the danger of fire hazard to residents and occupants of buildings, and to protect buildings and property from physical damage in the event of a bushfire.

PO 4.2 Land division is designed to provide a continuous street pattern to facilitate the safe movement and evacuation of emergency vehicles, residents, occupants and visitors.

The proposed division does not increase the current level of risk already present on site for the following reasons:

- There is no change to the activity already occurring on the land. The proposal does not introduce a habitable building that could be sensitive to bushfire.
- No additional buildings are proposed.
- No roads are proposed. The land already has safe and convenient access and people working on the farm and vineyard can readily evacuate via the existing road network if required.
- The allotment configuration follows the existing pattern of development in the locality by creating large, regular shaped allotments with extensive public road frontage.

The development therefore meets the intent of this Overlay and will not affect the bushfire risk.

River Murray Tributaries Protection

The River Murray Tributaries Protection Area Overlay applies to the subject site. Overlay seeks the following:

PO 2.1 Land division does not lead to the intensification of development to a level that would have a negative impact on the health or natural flow paths of the River Murray Tributaries.

This land division application will not have an impact on the flow paths of the River Murray Tributaries for the following reasons:

- The division will not result in an intensification of development and will not impede the natural flow of waters on the land.
- There is not a change of use occurring on the land
- The site more than 30km from the nearest section of River Murray Flood Plain.

The Overlay has been sufficiently addressed.

Native Vegetation

This development does not propose the removal of any native vegetation, and the provisions of the Overlay are satisfied.

Effects on Subject Land, Locality and Environment

Land and Locality

The current use of the land is low intensity general farming. The allotment configuration and existing nature of use is consistent with that existing on site and within the locality.

This development would not unreasonably impact the land and its surrounds.

Environment

The proposal would not unreasonably impact the natural environment because:

- The division will not change the existing land use intensity on site and on adjoining land.
- Minimum allotment sizes satisfy the Zone with only a slight shortfall for one allotment, ensuring the character of the locality is maintained
- No native vegetation is being removed
- The site is not a critical wildlife corridor for any endangered species based on the current horticulture use of the land.

The proposed division will not impact upon the environment.

Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts

The proposed development would have the following social, economic and environmental impacts:

- Commercial primary production opportunities for the local business owners and operators through the creation of an additional commercial allotment.

- Temporarily contribute to the local economy through the provision of new allotment services or employment opportunities in the local area.
- There is limited environmental impact as this division will not result in an intensification of use or destruction of environmental value on the land.

The proposed division will not impact upon the environment.

Conclusion

The proposed land division is consistent with the Planning and Design Code. The proposal has sufficient merit to proceed to further assessment based on the following:

- The Zone anticipates land for the purpose of primary production and value adding activities.
- The average allotments sizes exceed the minimum size nominated in the Zone, with only a minor shortfall proposed on one allotment.
- The division is consistent with the Character Preservation District Overlay and does not compromise the intent of the Limited Land Division Overlay.
- The land is not contaminated and will maintain the existing horticulture land use.
- Any changes to servicing will meet the requirements of the relevant authority.
- The development will not compromise the River Murray Tributaries Protection Area.
- The proposal does not include the removal of native vegetation.
- The proposal does not propose access via the State maintained road frontage.
- The proposal will have neutral social and economic effects upon the locality.
- The proposal will not have unreasonable environmental impacts.

On balance, the proposal satisfies with the Planning and Design Code and carries suitable merit to be proceed to assessment by Commission.

Please contact me on 08 8333 7999 or at ctully@urps.com.au if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely

Chelsea Tully
Senior Consultant

Ref: 25ADL-1547

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ADL | MEL | PER | BNE

26 May 2026

Daniel Marotti
State Planning Commission

Uploaded via PlanSA Portal

Dear Daniel

Application ID 26006077 – Response to Information Request for Lot 500 Cemetery Rd Taunton

URPS has been engaged to assist with this application for land division at Lot 500 Cemetery Road, Taunton.

This letter is in response to your Request for Information dated 19 May 2026.

We have responded to the items raised under their respective headings.

Access

The Plan of Division has been updated to show the existing access locations for Lot 500.

This includes three existing crossovers along Cemetery Road servicing proposed Lot 301. In addition, there is an existing access point at the western end of Vigars Road servicing proposed Lot 300.

No changes are proposed to the existing access arrangements.

The updated Plan of Division accompanies this letter as part of our submission.

Water Licence

The land at Lot 500 Cemetery Road has an existing water licence registered against the property.

In creating two allotments from one, we are proposing an even 50/50 split of the existing water allocation between proposed Lots 300 and 301.

Following the approval of this development application, we will commence the process of varying the existing licence through the Department for Environment and Water.

We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We trust this has addressed any outstanding queries regarding this application, however if you require anything further, please give me a call on 8333 7999.

Yours sincerely

Chelsea Tully
Senior Consultant

DEBATE REPORT

7.4 Development and Community Services

7.4.4 ENDORSEMENT OF THE WELLBEING AND INCLUSION PLAN

Author: Community Development Lead
26/51931

PURPOSE

To endorse the draft Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan 2026-2030 following community consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council having reviewed the public submissions of the consultation period:

(1) Endorses the Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan 2026–2030 as amended (Attachment 1), inclusive of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2026–2030 embedded within it and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make minor editorial corrections prior to publication.

(2) Notes the outcome of public consultation on the draft Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan 2026–2030, undertaken from 24 June to 17 July 2026, and the thirteen submissions received (Attachment 2).

REPORT

Introduction
This report presents the outcome of public consultation on the Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan 2026–2030, the amendments made in response to feedback received and seeks Council endorsement of the final Plan.

The Plan carries four statutory and strategic obligations within a single document:
- Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA)*;
- Council's public health planning obligations under the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*;
- Barossa Council Early Childhood Strategy 2025–2027; and
- Volunteer Engagement Framework (in draft).

Endorsement of this Plan performs the planning obligation for all four.

Discussion
Consultation ran from 24 June 2026 - 17 July 2026 and thirteen submissions were received. Respondents came from three of the six districts, with one respondent living outside the Council area. Three of eleven survey respondents identified as living with disability and one as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The tone of the consultation was constructive throughout. Respondents engaged closely and constructively with the draft. Several worked through the Plan focus area by focus area and proposed specific alternative wording, and in a number of submissions offered support and suggestions in equal measure. The full responses are reproduced at *Attachment 2*.

- **"Looking forward to the rollout of this Plan."**
- **"Well done providing the Easy Read versions — this in itself is an important step in enacting inclusive practice."**
- **"I can see the work that has gone into this and how some improvements are likely to occur as a result."**
- **"Your plan is great..."**
- **"While the Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan sets a vision that respects diversity and articulates Council's role in leading local priorities..."**
- **"Whilst essential and vital for the identity, history and lived experience of culturally diverse people, especially for reconciliation with First Nations people..."**

Respondents	Agree or strongly agree	Neutral	Disagree
The draft Plan makes me feel included, heard and seen	27% (3)	55% (6)	18% (2)
The draft Plan ensures future partnership, co-delivery and shared decision-making	73% (8)	18% (2)	9% (1)
The draft Plan's themes and focus areas are supportive of people's health, wellbeing and everyday life	55% (6)	36% (4)	9% (1)

Table 1: How respondents rated the draft survey in the consultation period. Percentage of respondents, with counts in brackets. n = 11, so each respondent represents roughly nine percentage points. No respondent selected "strongly disagree"

Most of the feedback centred on making sure people could see themselves in the Plan. The written comments came together on four points: inclusion was written as physical access, belonging ran through culture and faith, groups were not named, and the first year would not reach the people the Plan most needs to hear from.

A likely reason is that the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan and the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan have been mapped in the appendices rather than written into each focus areas: carers, accessible formats and prevention have been deliberately run across all eleven focus areas rather than sitting in one, so that access, inclusion and public health are part of every part of our work rather than a separate stream. What the feedback showed is that the design was sound but invisible. Every substantive amendment is directed at those findings, and the requests were largely about wording that clearly names the priority cohorts, carries that detail into the focus areas, and makes it plain who each area is for. A subtle restructure of the document has also been completed to support ease of understanding.

Furthering, a portion of the feedback asked for more detail, timeframes, named programs, statistics, and a list of activities. That request was well made, and it has been answered in two ways:

1. Where the missing detail was strategic, the Plan has been amended: the priority cohorts are defined and reported against, the first-year states what it will do and publish, and the evidence behind each progress question is named. The Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan is a strategic document. It sets direction, defines the eleven focus areas, states the four-year objectives and describes how progress will be read.
2. It does not list every activity Council will run over four years, because the activities themselves are determined year by year through the operational and place-based planning that sits beneath it, shaped by what communities identify and what resources allow.

Amendments made to Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan'

No.	What people told us	What we heard	Amendments made to support
1	Seeing themselves in the Plan	Six of the thirteen submissions raised a group they could not find in the Plan, arriving at it from different directions: older people, carers, people with disability, LGBTIQ+ communities, culturally diverse communities and people experiencing vulnerability. Respondents asked for these groups to be named rather than referred to in general terms. The draft used the phrase "people who are underrepresented" and eight different undefined terms for the same group across the eleven focus areas. Three of eleven survey respondents agreed the draft made them feel included, heard and seen; six were neutral, and two disagreed. The same respondents rated the partnership approach highly.	Nine priority cohorts defined in Section 01 and reported against by every focus area. Intersectional approach explained through the three lenses of life stage, place and identity. Access and Inclusion are described as part of the Network rather than alongside it.
2	Inclusion to mean more than access to buildings	Respondents said inclusion must be visible across processes, programs, events and services, and broadened beyond disability access to people with diverse identities, backgrounds and lived experiences.	Focus Area 2.1 rescoped and retitled Inclusive places and participation. Eight of nine fields amended, including the four-year objective.

No.	What people told us	What we heard	Amendments made to support
3	More pathways to belonging	Respondents said connection through culture and faith is limited and excludes many, and asked that arts, sport, social groups, intergenerational activities, creative communities and identity-based networks be recognised as pathways.	Focus Area 3.1 now names those pathways alongside culture and faith. Years 2–3 builds partnerships across identity dimensions.
4	To be named, not implied	Respondents asked for representation of families, older people, carers, First Nations peoples, LGBTIQ+ communities and people with lived experience of vulnerability. The draft referred to "people who are underrepresented now" and used eight different undefined terms across the eleven focus areas.	Focus Area 4.2 retitled Confidence, purpose and leadership, with those groups named in the description and Year 1. The fourth progress question standardised across all eleven focus areas onto the Section 01 cohort list.
5	A first year that reaches everyone	Two respondents said the understand year relies on existing services and providers, so people who cannot access them, or who stop trying, are not heard. One said that if the first year is not done properly, the rest of the Plan will not hold.	New subsection at Section 02 setting out that Year 1 is one program of work, reaches people connected to no service, and compares the two. Six Year 1 lines amended, and a cross-reference added to each theme page.
6	To see what the Plan will deliver	Respondents asked for clearer timeframes, likely outcomes, statistics and a list of activities, and said this would help people feel more connected. Correspondence asked where the measurable commitments are.	Section 02 now names the evidence behind each of the four progress questions: community experience, delivery, asset and service condition, and participation by cohort and district.
7	Prevention as a shared practice	Two respondents asked for coordinated community-wide education that supports healthy choices, and for education about what raises risk across the lifespan.	Focus Area 1.2 names information and education in the description, with prevention carried into Years 2–3, the Year 4 endpoint and the four-year objective.

No.	What people told us	What we heard	Amendments made to support
8	Support at the moment's life changes	A respondent asked that mental wellbeing cover life-stage planning and coordinated responses when circumstances change.	Focus Area 1.3 now names point of change across all lifespans, from starting school to taking on the care of someone and frames the work as prevention through connection and safer environments.
9	Places that are safe to move in	A respondent described footpaths in Tanunda as unmaintained except on parts of the main road and gave up walking an hour a day. Another asked for walkability, seating and shade.	Focus Area 1.1 adds safety and network condition to the description, Year 1 and the objective. Year 1 asks clubs what it takes to take part and who finds that hard.
10	Information in formats people can use	A respondent asked for more consideration and support for communication accessibility. Another welcomed the Easy Read versions as a step in enacting inclusive practice.	Focus Area 2.3 commits to information in formats people can use, with accessible formats as standard practice in Years 2–3.
11	Volunteering was framed as counting rather than support	A respondent said volunteering seems limited and asked for broader recognition of caring, skills, knowledge and community leadership.	Focus Area 3.2 refocused on bringing more people in and easing the load on those already contributing, with recruitment, training, succession and recognition. Counting brought forward to Years 2–3 to precede the Community Action Fund.

Feedback raised and not carried in amendment

The matters below were raised, considered, and are carried operationally rather than by amending the Plan. None is dismissed.

What was raised	Why the Plan was not amended	Where it is carried instead
Housing and cost of living	Housing sits outside the levers of this Plan. Council's role is advocacy, which is stated in the role table at Section 01.	Council's advocacy position. Short-term rental regulation referred to Development Services.
Community safety	Council is not a crisis intervention agency. The Plan's role is prevention through conditions, connection and information.	Carried in Focus Area 1.3 through safer environments and early connection. Prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence remains a stated consideration in Council's safer environments work at Appendix C.

A separate Social Inclusion and Respect focus area	Social inclusion is a key part of the plan as it already exists; all focus areas are to support social inclusion. A separate focus area would isolate social inclusion.	Distributed across the Plan. Structure unchanged at eleven focus areas.
Restructuring Theme 2	The Regional Public Health Plan and Disability Access and Inclusion Plan have been integrated into each focus area through numbering so we can ensure both plans are carried out and reported across the plan; changing the layout now would comprise the operations plan and how we deliver this all as one coordinated approach.	Not included.
Loss of everyday shops and local liveability	Retail mix is outside this Plan. Access to fresh food is already covered in Focus Area 1.2.	District planning and economic development.
Free outdoor gyms at named locations	A specific facility proposal rather than a Plan-level commitment. Focus Area 1.1 already commits to low-barrier ways to move that need no membership.	Open space planning and the relevant Place Action Plan.
"Just get things done instead of plans"	The objection is to the artefact rather than its content. More Plan text cannot answer it; visible delivery can.	Operational Plan and the annual wellbeing report.

Table 3 — Matters raised and not carried by amendment.

Where the operational work sits

The Plan is strategic. Delivery happens through four connected mechanisms, each with its own reporting cycle.

Delivery	What it carries	Reporting
Operational Delivery Plan	Council's own delivery including but not limited to the thirty-disability access and inclusion actions and public health actions.	Community Services, annually
Place Action Plans	District-level priorities which may include footpath renewals, open space and facility proposals, and local connection work	Place-based Action Networks, from Year 1
Wellbeing Network action groups	Cohort-level priorities through the four Lifespan Action Groups, and cross-sector work through the Wellbeing Alliance and advisory groups.	Wellbeing Network Action Plans

Community Action Fund	Resourcing for priorities named in endorsed Place Action Plans and the Strategic Action Plan.	Activates July 2027

Table 4 — The delivery layer beneath the Plan. Progress on all four is reported through the annual wellbeing report.

Summary and Conclusion

Consultation produced a small response but a clear message. The draft Plan was supported in principle, but respondents questioned whether its approach to inclusion extended beyond physical access and whether the first year would reach the people the Plan most needs to hear from. Both concerns were valid and have been addressed through amendments to the Plan.

The amendments strengthen the Plan without changing its architecture, statutory coverage or resourcing. Officers recommend that Council endorse the final Plan as amended.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 Attachment One - The Barossa Council - Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan 2026 - 2030

Attachment 2 Attachment Two - The Barossa Council - WI Plan Full Public Consultation Feedback

Supporting references

- State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029
- State Public Health Plan and Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2022–2027
- Barossa Wellbeing Project 2024 engagement report
- Community Connection and Investment Framework

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan

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.

Strategic Outcome

- Our services and facilities are accessible.
- We have a healthy respect for our diversity, character and history and are welcoming and supportive of all people.
- Our community is welcoming, vibrant and safe.

Corporate Plan

CS19 Social Inclusion - Advocate and work in collaboration with core service providers to ensure vulnerable people have increased access and inclusion.

Legislative Requirements

- Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) — Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, with annual reporting to the Minister for Human Services.
- South Australian Public Health Act 2011, sections 37, 38, 51 and 52 — Council's public health planning obligations and reporting to the Chief Public Health Officer.
- Local Government Act 1999 — consultation undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

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 Plan sets direction for Community Services and is delivered through the Operational Action Plan, Place Action Plans and the Wellbeing Network. The amendments create no new service commitments in 2026–27. Focus Area 1.1 relies on the Universal Design assessment scale being delivered in Years 1–2, so sequencing between focus areas should be monitored.

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.

No direct implications. Capital decisions arising from the Plan are guided by priority and, by 2030, by the Wellbeing and Inclusion Impact Assessment process.

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.

Delivery is within existing Community Services operational budgets. Two future implications: contribution counting must be operating before the Community Action Fund activates in July 2027, as the Fund is sized as the residual after community contribution is counted; and the proposal that grant criteria reward groups widening participation would change how applications are assessed, to be confirmed through the Community Action Fund design.

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.

The Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan is a strategic document. It sets direction, defines the eleven focus areas, states the four-year objectives and describes how progress will be read. It does not list every activity Council will run over four years, because the activities themselves are determined year by year through the operational and place-based planning that sits beneath it, shaped by what communities identify and what resources allow.

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.

Thirteen submissions were received, and three of the six districts returned none, so the Plan should not be presented as carrying a community mandate. Housing and community safety were raised across four respondents and are carried operationally rather than by amendment; a written response to each respondent is required so this is not read as no response. Statutory reporting obligations to the Minister for Human Services and the Chief Public Health Officer depend on the measures set out in the Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Public consultation on the draft Plan was undertaken from 24 June to 17 July 2026, with Easy Read versions provided. Thirteen submissions were received.

Consultation reached three of the six districts. Lyndoch – Kalbeeba, Williamstown – Barossa Goldfields and Mount Pleasant – Springton returned no responses. The amendments to the first year of the Plan are directed at this reach problem, and the Plan commits to publishing what the Plan understands each year finds district by district.

A written response will be provided to each person who made a submission, drawing on the traceability register at Attachment C. Ongoing engagement continues through the Wellbeing Network, the six Place-based Action Networks, the four Lifespan Action Groups, advisory groups and the Community Voice Register.

Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan

The Barossa Council

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Barossa Council acknowledges and pays respect to the Ngadjuri, Peramangk, and Kaurna peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the lands within the Barossa Council region. We honour the past, present, and future of the Ngadjuri, Peramangk, and Kaurna communities and their connections to the lands across the Barossa region.

FOREWORD FROM THE MAYOR

The Barossa is a place built on relationships. Across our region, people look out for each other through sporting clubs, community groups, places of faith, neighbourhood gatherings, the arts, volunteer-run services and a thousand quieter acts of care. That is the foundation we are building on.

This draft Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan sets out how Council will work alongside the community over the next four years to strengthen wellbeing for everyone who lives, works and visits here. Wellbeing is not something Council can deliver on its own. It grows from the connections people make, the places they share, and the contributions they bring. Our role is to help create conditions where that can happen.

We are inviting your feedback on this draft during the community consultation period from *24 June 2026 to* 17 July 2026. What we hear from you will shape how this work is delivered. To follow along on the journey as we shape wellbeing together, visit the new Barossa Wellbeing Hub Building a Happier, Healthier Barossa | Barossa Wellbeing | Community & Support Services.

Bim Lange OAM

Mayor, The Barossa Council

01 | ABOUT THIS PLAN

Council's Role in Shaping Wellbeing

The **Barossa Community Plan 2024–2044** sets the 20-year vision for the region. The **Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan 2026–2030** is how Council carries out the community wellbeing aspirations of that vision: a welcoming, vibrant and safe region with accessible services and respect for diversity. It guides how Council's services, programs, partnerships and investments work together to strengthen wellbeing for everyone who lives, works and visits here.

The starting point is people. The skills, capacities and contributions of Barossa community members are the first community asset, and this plan builds on what is already here.

Who delivers this plan?

Community Services holds this plan and delivers it through two connected workstreams: how community experiences Council services, libraries, customer service and community programs and how community grows its own strengths, through community development, partnerships, place-based planning and support for community-led work.

The role Council holds

Wellbeing is shaped by health, relationships, work, learning, the places people live, and the chance to contribute and be heard. No single organisation can produce it alone. Council's role is to create the conditions in which wellbeing can grow across the six Barossa districts, and that role carries formal obligations.

The Community Plan sets out that Council's role varies by task. Across this plan, Council acts in four ways. Some carry duties set in legislation; others shape how the work is done. Each marks both what Council does and where someone else holds the work.

LEADER

Sets direction, holds the regional picture, and convenes the networks that shape local priorities.

Does not set priorities on the community's behalf. The networks and the Community Voice register do that.

PROVIDER / REGULATOR

Delivers services and invests in aligned priorities.

Does not hold or manage funds for community groups, which keeps governance and accountability clear.

ADVOCATOR

Reports on what it can influence and advocates on income, housing, employment, transport, climate and state policy.

Does not control these forces. Wellbeing is a shared result, and Council's contribution is one part of it.

FACILITATOR / PARTNER

Connects people to support, links groups to funding and partners, and holds the networks together

Does not deliver clinical or crisis care, nor replace existing organisations and services it complements and works alongside them

Statutory obligations

Three plans sit inside the Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan rather than alongside it: the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2026–2030, Council's statutory plan under the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA); the Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, held jointly with Light Regional Council and Lower Northern Region partners under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011; and the Early Childhood Strategy 2025–2027, carried through the Lifespan Action Groups. They share the same Focus Areas, the same evidence base, the same governance and the same reporting cycle. ***Appendix B*** sets out the DAIP commitments Focus Area by Focus Area, and ***Appendix C*** shows how each Focus Area contributes to the State Public Health Plan.

How We Know the Needs and Opportunities

Over recent years, people across Barossa have told us, through community planning conversations, wellbeing engagement data and secondary evidence, Wellbeing Network, sector partnerships, and everyday contact, what wellbeing means and what matters most for the future.

The picture is consistent: a place rich in assets, with clear priorities for how community life should continue to grow.

1 Community members want to be in the conversation

PEOPLE TOLD US ...

Communities thrive when people feel heard, connected and able to influence decisions that shape their places. Here's what mattered most.

More ways to connect	People want more opportunities to connect with each other, their neighbours and across generations.
Belonging matters	Belonging grows when there are simple, regular ways for people to come together.
A stronger voice	People want a stronger voice in shaping community life. Being asked early, being listened to, and seeing what happens with their input will change how the community feels about Council and each other.
Easy to get involved	People want to be involved in decisions about their places, not just informed after they have been made. Getting involved should be easy.
Clear communication	Knowing who to talk to, what's happening locally, and how Council works helps people participate in community life. The way Council communicates matters too. Plain language, accessible formats, and information that reaches people where they are signal whether the community is being treated as a partner or an audience.

2

Mental wellbeing comes first

People told us that being mentally well is the foundation of everything else. Mental health support, social connection and a sense of belonging matter more than almost anything else.

3

Safe and welcoming spaces matter

We heard that places where people can gather, meet and be themselves are essential - our halls, parks, libraries, cultural venues and community-run spaces.

4

Being active and connected to nature is central

People named accessible parks, walking trails, sports and recreation, and the region's green spaces among the most important resources we have.

5

Practical things make wellbeing real

Affordable, healthy food, easy access to information, and strong local community groups, faith communities, and traders are essential to achieving wellbeing in everyday life.

6

The networks exist

People told us Barossa has strong existing partnerships, alliances, and community organisations doing this work - and that the next phase needs to be built with them, not around them.

What does this mean for the plan?

Start with what is here.

This plan starts with what the community has - the people, places, organisations and connections that make the Barossa what it is - and asks how Council can support, strengthen and invest in them over the next four years.

Three shifts in how we work

Wellbeing is the outcome this plan works toward, and Council commits to shifting how it is reached. Three changes mark what decisions are made, how investment is understood, and how community is engaged. They are the heart of the change story and what the community can hold us to.

Our Commitment to Community Connection and Intersectionality

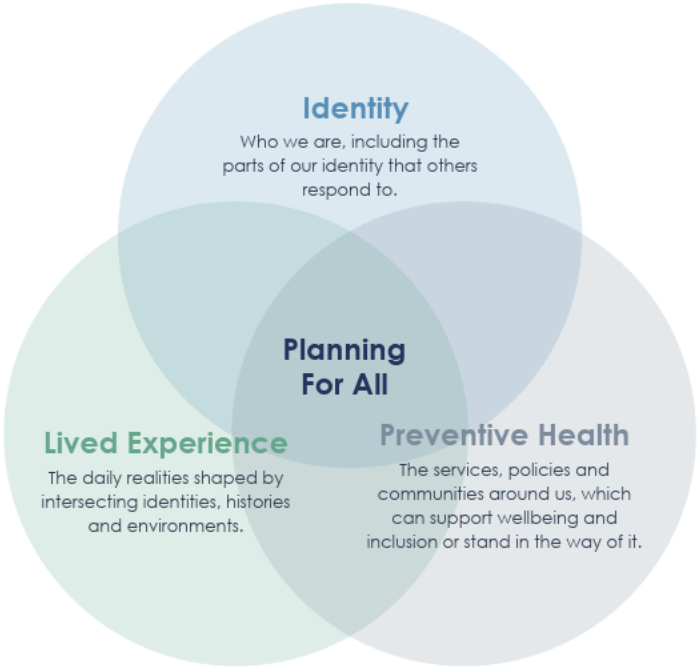
A plan only matters if it gets delivered. How Council connects with the community to deliver the plan is set out in the **Community Connection and Investment Framework (CCIF**). This is the architecture that holds the investment model together: built with two connected networks, the Community Voice register and Place-Based Plans. The structures below are part of that framework.

What we mean by intersectionality

People can belong to many communities at once, and no one experiences their life as a single segment of community. Barriers rarely arrive one at a time; there may be a combination of factors at play. Intersectionality is a term introduced by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989) to describe how different forms of disadvantage overlap and may compound in ways that single-category thinking makes invisible. Planning that considers one group at a time will keep missing the people who sit across several groups, such as people with disability, carers and informal supports, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTIQA+ people, people experiencing financial hardship, people living in districts with lower access to services and sole-parent families.

Every person's story is unique, and this plan works to understand the sum of parts that makes the whole story.

This plan holds three overlapping views:



Where the three intersect is where this plan does its work: planning for all. That overlap looks different for every person.

The Barossa Wellbeing Network

Understanding intersectionality is one thing; building it into how decisions get made is another. The **Barossa Wellbeing Network** has been designed to look at this plan through the lenses of lifespans and intersectionality, so the actions the community needs are not missed. Wellbeing is made in community, not delivered to it, so community members, service providers and partners drive the work, and Council provides structure, resources and connections rather than setting priorities on the community's behalf.

The Network is made up of four **Lifespan Action** Groups: Early Years, Youth, Adults and Older Adults. All four are developing their 2026 action plans from the focus areas in this plan, working with **people with lived experience of disability, carers and informal supports**, and with a clear **Aboriginal engagement** lens, so that intersectionality is built into every action plan. Alongside them, the **Wellbeing Alliance** is where organisations, services and grassroots groups share what they are seeing and pool what they know, and the **Community Voice Register** is for people who want to contribute from home, without joining anything.

The lifespan lens. Needs change with every stage of life, and support matters most at the transitions: starting school, becoming a parent, losing work, retiring, taking on the care of someone. Each action group plans for its stage of life, so no part of a life is invisible in this plan.

The intersectionality lens. Because barriers and advantages combine differently for every person, no priority is read through one lens alone. Every priority is tested under three: life stage, place, and identity and experience. A priority becomes a core action when it holds up under more than one, and from Year 2, no action plan is finalised without being checked against all three.

Who we mean by priority cohorts. Priority is not a fixed label: it is about who needs what, and when. Across this plan, priority cohorts are the groups that the evidence shows are most often missed: children and young people, older people, people with disability, carers and informal supports, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTIQ+ people, people experiencing financial hardship, and people living in districts with lower access to services. Every focus area reports participation against this list, across the six districts, so we can see whether support is reaching the right people at the right time.

How this grows. This way of working is new, and what we know at the start is incomplete. As our data matures and our connections with community deepen, how the Network works will shift the commitments in this plan are fixed, but the methods for reaching them will evolve. Council reports back each year in plain language, district by district, on what changed, what was delivered and what we learned.

Shared Language

How Council talks about its work is part of the work. A plan only holds together if everyone reads the same words the same way. The terms below set out that shared language, for community, partners, and Council alike.

01
Wellbeing
The outcome we are working towards for people who live, work and visit the Barossa.

02
Themes
The four parts of community life that organise the plan: Being Well, Being Included, Being Connected, Being Empowered.

03
Focus areas
The eleven priority areas that guide action over the next four years.

04
Intersectionality
How a person's identities, experiences and circumstances overlap and combine, shaping what they need and when.

05
Priority cohorts
The groups Council tracks to make sure support reaches the people most often missed.

06
Lifespan Action Groups
Four community-led groups (Early Years, Youth, Adults, Older Adults) turning this plan into action plans for each stage of life.

07
Wellbeing Network
The community members, organisations and partners who deliver this plan with Council.

08
Wellbeing Alliance
The quarterly forum where organisations, services and grassroots groups share what they are seeing.

09
Advisory groups
Groups that bring lived experience into every action plan, starting with access and inclusion.

10
Community Voice Register
A way for community members to share ideas, feedback and local insight without joining a group.

11
District areas
The six geographic areas used to understand local needs and plan for place.

12
Place-based planning
Planning that responds to local priorities, strengths and opportunities.

02 | OUR THEMES AND FOCUS AREAS

Four themes, eleven focus areas. For each, there is a four-year objective that we are working toward and how we will know we are moving forward

The plan is organised around **four themes**, the states of wellbeing community members should be able to reach in the places they live and across the years of their life: being well, being included, being connected, and being empowered. Underneath the themes sit eleven focus areas.

Each **focus area** names something that matters for community wellbeing, describes what it looks like and why it matters, and sets a four-year objective with the kinds of work that contribute to it. It is a statement of direction and the level at which Council works, not a fixed list of everything Council will deliver. How that work takes shape will depend on resources, partnerships, and what priorities emerge over the four years.

How we'll know if it's working

We measure what Council does and contributes, and what people experience as a result. We don't claim credit for outcomes Council alone cannot deliver. Each focus area has a four-year objective: the change we want to see across the Barossa, measured through our community survey. No single program moves an objective on its own; the objective is the whole picture, and the four questions below show our part in it.

For every focus area, four questions guide how progress is read:

How does this feel? What community members tell us through short surveys after a program, event or service.

Are we doing what we said we would? Programs delivered, partnerships running, investment made, including the value of volunteer hours and in-kind contributions.

Are the basics right? The measured state of the facilities, environments, and services the Council manages or influences.

Who's taking part, and who's missing? Participation across age, ability, cultural background, district and other groups.

Under each focus area, a short table sets out the four-year objective and the questions used to track progress toward it.

03 | THEME 1

Being Well

Being well is about staying healthy in body and mind. It has three parts: being active, living well, and staying mentally strong and supported.

This theme includes three focus areas:

1.1 Active living and movement

1.2 Healthy living

1.3 Mental wellbeing and resilience

What comes next

The next pages set out each focus area in this theme, including our four-year objective, how the work will unfold and how we'll read progress.

THEME 1 • BEING WELL

Focus Area 1.1 Active living and movement

Being active is easier when there are more ways to move, whether this is through a club or group, or informally with no membership at all. There needs to be opportunities close to home, low-cost and safe to use. This focus area is about understanding Barossa's active transport networks and the condition they are in and helping more people move in ways that suit them, using places already part of their community.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

We find out what is working and what is missing by talking with sporting clubs, recreation and leisure groups about what it takes to take part in what they offer and who finds that hard. We look at how people move informally, and at the condition of the footpaths, paths and trails they rely on.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We back what is needed: opening existing facilities to more kinds of activity and to more people, supporting clubs and groups that want to widen who can take part, improving the seating, shade and paths that make everyday movement possible, and adding low-barrier ways to move alongside them. Access and Inclusion Standards guide the infrastructure, events and programs Council funds or delivers, and our grant criteria reward the groups doing this well

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, being active is something more people can do in their own way, using places already part of their community.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

More people across the Barossa find it easy and safe to be active and enjoy recreation in their local area.

How does this feel?	People who took part feel more active and are more likely to participate.
Are we doing what we said?	More people are participating in recreational programs and using Council facilities.
Are the basics right?	The recreation facilities, paths and trails council looks after are in good shape and fit for active use.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see who is taking part across priority cohorts, including people less likely to be active.

THEME 1 • BEING WELL

Focus Area 1.2 Healthy living

Healthy choices are easier when good food, reliable information and support are within reach. Information and education about what helps, and what raises risk, are part of that reach. This focus area is about closing the gap between places with strong access and those without and about making prevention a shared and visible part of community life rather than something people work out on their own.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

We work with community spaces such as markets, gardens, food relief, health services, and community groups that support healthy living, and reach families and people who are connected to none of them, to understand where access is strong and where it is not.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We back the food and health partnerships that work, coordinate community-wide prevention information with our health partners and use planning and place decisions to make healthy choices easier to reach where access is low.

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, prevention is part of everyday community life across the Barossa, and healthy choices and reliable health information are easier to reach in the places that have had the least.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

Healthy choices and reliable health information are easier to reach across more of the Barossa, especially in areas that have had the least, and prevention is a visible, shared practice.

How does this feel?	People who took part feel better supported in looking after their health and wellbeing.
Are we doing what we said?	More people are taking part in health and wellbeing programs the council runs or backs.
Are the basics right?	The food and health places council looks after or supports are available and in good shape.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see who is using health and wellbeing services across priority cohorts and who is newly connected.

THEME 1 • BEING WELL

Focus Area 1.3 Mental wellbeing and resilience

Good mental wellbeing is built in everyday life, in the connections people have and in knowing there is somewhere to turn when things get hard. At every stage of life there are points where circumstances change, and support matters most and is often hardest to find: starting school or leaving it, becoming a parent, losing work, a diagnosis, a loss, retirement, or taking on the care of someone. This focus area is about strengthening everyday support across all lifespans, making the right help easier to find when circumstances change, and helping the Barossa look after one another through hard times.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

We work with mental health services, emergency services, and community partners, including those responding to family and personal safety, as well as people who are not connected to any service, to understand where stress is rising, what is already helping, and who would be most at risk.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We support the sustainability of what is helping people stay well and make it easier to find at the points where life changes across all four lifespans, keep our information current about local services, support in bridging the gaps, and build the community's readiness to respond and recover together.

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, people know where to turn before things reach crisis, and the Barossa has stronger services and local networks to look after one another through hard times.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

People can connect to help early, before things reach crisis point, and communities are better able to look after one another through hard times.

How does this feel?	People who took part feel more supported and less alone, and more able to cope when things get hard.
Are we doing what we said?	We are strengthening more of the local networks and connections that help people stay well.
Are the basics right?	The community readiness and recovery arrangements council has a part in are in place and current.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see who is connecting to support across priority cohorts, place by place, including people most at risk of being isolated or overlooked.

04 | THEME 2

Being Included

Being included is about everyone being able to take part and feel they belong here. It has three parts: places that work for everyone, cultural safety, and an easy way into council.

This theme includes three focus areas:

2.1 Inclusive places and participation

2.2 Cultural safety and Respect

2.3 An easy way into Council

What comes next

The next pages set out each focus area in this theme, including our four-year objective, how the work will unfold and how we'll read progress.

THEME 2 • BEING INCLUDED

Focus Area 2.1 Inclusive places and participation

Inclusion works best as an early decision rather than a later adjustment. That applies to the buildings, paths, parks and facilities, and equally to programs, events, services and the way we reach decisions. This focus area is about designing for everyone from the start, so that people of all abilities and backgrounds can take part in community life without having to ask for an exception.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

We continue to test and review the facilities, programs, events and services with the people who use and who don't, to understand why, where inclusion works, where it falls short, and who is most often left out.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We make inclusive design and cultural safety standards practical, applying them to new projects, renewals, programs, events, services and partnerships, co-designed with people with disability, carers and informal supports and across the lifespans.

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, inclusion is a decision we make early, and more council and community spaces, programs and services work for everyone.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

More council and community spaces, programs and services work for everyone, with inclusion considered early in how they are designed and run.

How does this feel?	People from priority equity groups who used our spaces, programs and services felt welcome and able to take part.
Are we doing what we said?	Inclusive design and cultural safety standards are being applied to the projects, renewals, programs and events we deliver.
Are the basics right?	We have a standard set that's practical for council to meet inclusive design standards.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see who is using council and partner spaces, programs and services across priority cohorts and place by place.

THEME 2 • BEING INCLUDED

Focus Area 2.2 Cultural safety and Respect

People take part more fully when their identity and culture are respected. This focus area is about building cultural safety into how council works with First Nations and culturally diverse communities.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 **YEAR 1 Understand**

We work alongside First Nations and culturally diverse communities to understand the right protocols and to build respectful, lasting relationships.

2-3 **YEARS 2-3 Build and support**

We co-design cultural safety expectations with these communities and apply them to engagement, venue use, programming, and partnerships.

4 **YEAR 4 Embed and grow**

By 2030, cultural safety expectations are part of council partnerships and agreements, and cultural representation is visible across our community.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030
Cultural safety is part of council's partnerships and agreements, and cultural representation is visible across the community.

How does this feel?	First Nations and culturally diverse people who engaged with us felt their identity and culture were respected.
Are we doing what we said?	Cultural safety expectations are being built into the partnerships and agreements we hold.
Are the basics right?	The number of council programs explicitly designed to recognise cultural diversity and First Nations identity.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see who is taking part in the engagement and programs we run across priority cohorts and place by place including First Nations and culturally diverse community members.

THEME 2 • BEING INCLUDED

Focus Area 2.3 An easy way into council

Reaching Council should work the same way whether someone comes in person, calls, goes online, or meets us out in the community. It should feel like a connection, not a transaction. This focus area is about making that experience consistent, offering information in formats people can actually use, and helping people feel heard and valued when they get in touch.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

We spend time with community members and frontline teams to understand how people reach council, where it works, and where transport or digital access is a barrier.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We set shared service, communication, and digital standards, including information in accessible formats as standard practice, support frontline teams to use them, and start measuring consistency.

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, a community member's experience of council is consistent across the counter, the phone, online, and in the community.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

A person's experience of council is consistent and easy, across the counter, the phone, online, and in the community.

Measured through our community survey.

How does this feel?	People who connected with council found it easy to reach and helpful, and their confidence held or grew.
Are we doing what we said?	Shared service and communication standards are in place and being measured across our touchpoints.
Are the basics right?	More requests are resolved within target times, and the experience is more consistent across the districts we serve.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see whether people who face access barriers can reach our services as well as others, across priority cohorts and the six districts.

05 | THEME 3

Being Connected

Being connected has three parts: belonging, contributing, and having a say.

This theme includes three focus areas:

3.1 Belonging and connection

3.2 Volunteering and contribution

3.3 Community voice and communication

What comes next

The next pages set out each focus area in this theme, including our four-year objective, how the work will unfold and how we'll read progress.

THEME 3 • BEING CONNECTED

Focus Area 3.1 Belonging and connection

Belonging is something people find in the groups, gatherings and places they already use. This focus area is about strengthening those connections, with particular attention to those who are new to the area, on their own, or not connected to anything at present, or connecting through diverse pathways such as arts, sport, social groups, intergenerational activities, creative communities, identity-based networks, faith and cultural groups.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

We work with community groups, networks, and place-based groups, and reach people who belong to none of them, to understand where belonging is strong, what makes it work, the different ways people experience it, and what needs to change so people with diverse lived experience can take part fully and feel safe, welcome and visible.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We strengthen and build new partnerships, backing community-led groups and the spaces people already use, and helping them widen who can take part.

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, belonging is something people can find close to home, across all six districts, reaching the people it used to miss.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030
Belonging is something people can find close to home, across all six districts, reaching the people it used to miss.

How does this feel?	People who took part feel a stronger sense of belonging to the people and places around them.
Are we doing what we said?	Council is backing more community-led initiatives for connection and belonging.
Are the basics right?	The gathering spaces and groups that hold belonging together are in good shape where we work.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see who is connecting across priority cohorts, place by place, including people most at risk of isolation.

THEME 3 • BEING CONNECTED

Focus Area 3.2 Volunteering and contribution

Volunteering and community contributions hold much of the Barossa together, but much of it goes uncounted, and much of it rests on the same people. This focus area is about bringing more people in, easing the load on those already carrying it, and recognising and valuing that contribution alongside the council's own investment.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

We work with volunteer-involving organisations and volunteers to understand the contributions happening across the region, what stops people volunteering and what support organisations need, and to design how we capture and value them.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We back volunteer-involving organisations with recruitment, training, succession and recognition, and open pathways for people not currently being reached, including young people. We build a consistent way to capture and value volunteer and community contributions.

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, volunteering in the Barossa is easier to start, better supported and open to more people, and the value of community contribution is counted as co-investment in how Council plans, budgets and partners.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

Volunteering is easier to start, well supported and open to everyone, and the value of community contribution is recognised as co-investment alongside the council's budget. *Measured through our community survey.*

How does this feel?	People who contributed feel valued, supported, and well-matched to what they want to give.
Are we doing what we said?	Council is backing more volunteer-involving organisations, and contribution is being counted as co-investment in our funding decisions.
Are the basics right?	Volunteer management, recruitment, development and recognition practices meet best practice and inclusive standards, and the value of community contribution is published each year.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see who is contributing across priority cohorts, place by place.

THEME 3 • BEING CONNECTED

Focus Area 3.3 Community voice and communication

People take part more readily when they can see their views reflected in decisions, and when it is easy to find out what is happening near them. This focus area is about building lasting ways for community voice to reach Council and for information to come back, including through the Community Voice Register, which lets people contribute without needing to join a committee or attend meetings.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

Council-connected networks and action groups are standing up across the region, the Community Voice Register is confirmed to take part from home without joining a committee or coming to meetings, and the first feedback loops are being established.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We build the Community Voice Network as lasting infrastructure: governance tools, onboarding, leadership development, feedback loops, and timely local information flowing back to the community.

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, community voices captured through engagement are confidently incorporated into council decisions, with a steady flow of communication in both directions.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

Community voices gathered through engagement are confidently built into council decisions, with steady communication both ways.

How does this feel?	People who engaged feel they had a real chance to take part and that their views were heard.
Are we doing what we said?	Council's plans, strategies and decisions draw on community engagement as clear input before decisions are made.
Are the basics right?	Place and Strategic Action Plans carry standardised measurement for community voice.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see whether the groups we work with reflect priority cohorts and the diversity of their districts.

06 | THEME 4

Being Empowered

Being empowered is about people growing what they can do and stepping up to shape their community. It has two parts: lifelong learning and skills, and confidence and leadership.

This theme includes two focus areas:

4.1 Lifelong learning and skills

4.2 Confidence, purpose and leadership

What comes next

The next pages set out each focus area in this theme, including our four-year objective, how the work will unfold and how we'll read progress.

THEME 4 • BEING EMPOWERED

Focus Area 4.1 Lifelong learning and skills

Learning and digital confidence open doors, but they are not equally within reach across the region. Learning helps people participate fully in life, stay connected, hold on to purpose, and remain mentally active, well past working life. This focus area is about encouraging lifelong learning via skill development, creative and cultural activity, and digital literacy support that meets people where they are on their learning journey.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 **YEAR 1 Understand**

We work with community programs, education providers, and other stakeholder to look at current opportunities for informal learning, including identifying those not accessing these services. This will give us understanding about what people want to learn, what is available, and who is missing out.

2-3 **YEARS 2-3 Build and support**

We connect services and people with skills to share into a coordinated learning network. We provide mentoring and spaces to those new to skill sharing, including establishing community led groups of people who share a learning interest, and activiating intergenerational, cultural and creative learning opportunities.

4 **YEAR 4 Embed and grow**

By 2030, people across the Barossa can access learning, skills, and digital support close to where they live.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

People across the Barossa can access learning, skills, and digital support close to where they live.

How does this feel?	People who took part gained skills and confidence, including with digital tools.
Are we doing what we said?	More learning programs and partnerships are running across the network we are building.
Are the basics right?	Library collections and learning resources are current and fit for purpose.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see who is connecting with learning opportunities across priority cohorts, place by place, including people at risk of digital exclusion.

THEME 4 • BEING EMPOWERED

Focus Area 4.2 Confidence, purpose and leadership

Local leadership reflects the community best when the path into it is visible and open. At present that path is harder to find for families, older adults, carers, people with disability, First Nations peoples, LGBTIQ+ communities and people with lived experience of vulnerability. This focus area is about supporting that pathway rather than hoping people step up on their own, and recognising that people carry confidence, purpose, skills and knowledge worth drawing on at every stage of life.

HOW THE WORK UNFOLDS

1 YEAR 1 Understand

We talk with people across the community, making a deliberate effort to hear from people with different experiences, backgrounds and perspectives, about what stepping up looks like and what gets in the way.

2-3 YEARS 2-3 Build and support

We make the pathway from taking part to leading visible, defined routes through networks, groups, and committees, with built-in mentoring.

4 YEAR 4 Embed and grow

By 2030, new leaders from diverse backgrounds across the community are visibly stepping into council-connected networks and groups. The pipeline exists, not just the aspiration.

HOW WE READ PROGRESS

Four-year objective to 2030

People from across the community, including those who are underrepresented now, build confidence, find purpose and step into leadership, and local leadership better reflects the Barossa.

How does this feel?	People from underrepresented groups who took part feel supported and able to step into leadership.
Are we doing what we said?	People are moving from taking part into leadership roles through the pathways we are building.
Are the basics right?	The structures and pathways that support community leadership are in place and being used.
Who's taking part, and who's missing?	We can see whether network, advisory, and committee roles reflect priority cohorts and the diversity of the Barossa.

07 | HOW COUNCIL SHOWS UP

The mechanisms the Council uses

Council uses a set of practical mechanisms to invest in and support the community. Each does something specific. Together, they make up Council's contribution to the work.

MECHANISM	WHAT IT IS
Place Action Plans	Place-based plans, one for each district, shaped by the community through the Place-based Action Networks. They translate region-wide direction into local priorities Council can resource, and the district Plans come to Council together, so the regional picture is visible.
Community Action Fund	Council's dedicated funding stream for the priority actions named in endorsed Place Action Plans and in the Wellbeing Network's Strategic Action Plan as one Fund serving both kinds of network, which keeps the place lens and the domain lens as genuine peers. Applied as the residual after volunteer hours, community knowledge, partner contributions and Council's other investments are counted, with the amount sized through the Resourcing and Investment Matrix. Activates July 2027; the Youth Impact Fund continues within it as its first lifespan stream.
Partnership funding	Funding to sector partners under partnership agreements, including co-funded initiatives with state and federal governments. Partnerships are working relationships set up, run, reviewed and closed with intent, and partner contributions are counted in the full investment picture.
In-kind support	Use of Council facilities, staff time, communications, equipment, transport and professional services. Not money, but real value, counted alongside funding, volunteer hours, community knowledge and partner contributions.
Capital investment	Building, renewing and improving community infrastructure: halls, libraries, parks, sporting facilities and accessibility upgrades. Capital decisions are guided by priority and, by 2030, by the Wellbeing and Inclusion Impact Assessment process.
Wellbeing Network	The first Strategic Action Network, convened by Council as a regional space where community organisations, service providers, partners and Council functions to align priorities. It produces a Strategic Action Plan as a peer to the Place Action Plans, resourced through the Community Action Fund on the same basis. Its full structure is set out in the Community Connection and Investment Framework.
Council services	The day-to-day work of Community Services libraries, community development, customer service, community transport, home assist, volunteer services and engagement is delivered with the community in mind and recognised as Council services and operations within the investment picture.

Good practice frameworks

A set of community development and evaluation frameworks that shape how we approach our work and ensure wellbeing is a part of our everyday practice.

FRAMEWORK	WHAT IT CONTRIBUTES
Asset-based community development	**The practice.** Starts with what the community has: skills, relationships, places, and contributions, rather than what is missing. Shapes how Council partners, invests and engages. (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993)
Community asset mapping	**The method.** Captures what is established in the community, mapping people, places, planning and networks locally to build the shared evidence base for planning. Updated rather than static. (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993)
Collective impact	**The cross-sector structure.** Multiple organisations commit to a common agenda, share measurement, play complementary roles and communicate regularly, coordinated by a backbone function rather than competing. (Kania & Kramer, 2011)
The Constellation Model	**The governance design**. Enables multi-partner work without creating a new organisation. Existing groups are mapped onto a shared governance structure with light-touch coordination, not a new bureaucracy. (Surman & Surman, 2008)
Co-production	**The delivery principle**. The delivery principle. Community members and Council are equal producers of outcomes; community contributions are recognised, valued, and counted alongside Council's financial investment, not treated as an afterthought. (Cahn, 2000)
IAP2 Spectrum of public participation	**The participation standard.** Different forms of community engagement, which inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower, are deliberately matched to the level of decision-making each method entails.

FRAMEWORK	WHAT IT CONTRIBUTES
Place-based community development	**The planning approach.** Effort is organised around specific places and communities rather than around departments. The place that has its identity, assets and needs is the unit of planning. (Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership, n.d.)
Theory of Change and developing evaluation	**The accountability logic.** The chain of reasoning from action to outcome is made explicit to enable impact tracking. Evaluation is built into delivery as ongoing learning, not an add-on at the end. (Weiss, 1995)
Social Determinants of Health	**The wider conditions.** Connects the conditions of community life housing, work, education, environment, social connection to wellbeing outcomes across a population. (World Health Organization, 2008; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2024)

08 | A PLAN THAT GROWS WITH WHAT WE LEARN

This is a living plan. It sets the direction and commitments for 2026–2030 but is designed to adapt as our understanding deepens.

In Year 1, district profiling is still being built. The six Council-connected networks, action and advisory groups are in their early stages. Engagement data is just beginning to be developed. The Lifespan Action Groups, as part of the Wellbeing Network, are developing their action plans. What we know about the Barossa at the start of this plan is genuine but incomplete.

Over the four years, that picture gets richer. District profiling will tell us more about the specific conditions in each place. Council-connected networks, action and advisory groups will surface priorities that structured data cannot capture. The Wellbeing Network will connect Council to what community organisations, service providers and people with lived experience are seeing. The Wellbeing Alliance, Lifespan Action Groups and their Partners Circle will tell us where cohort-level need is shifting. Advisory groups will tell us where equity gaps are widening or closing.

As that knowledge builds, this plan responds. Approaches that are not working will be adjusted. Investments that are not reaching where they are needed will be redirected. New priorities that come from the community will be taken seriously. The annual review process makes that adjustment visible and accountable.

The Focus Areas and commitments in this plan are real. The methods for achieving them will evolve. That is not a weakness in the plan. It is how good community development works.

What we report back

Each year, Council publishes an annual wellbeing report. It covers what is changing, what Council and partners have delivered, what the community is telling us, and what we have learned. Plain language, accessible formats, district-by-district summary, with priority districts shown explicitly. Between annual reports, a short delivery snapshot each quarter. At the halfway point, a more substantial Year 2 review shapes the delivery of the second half.

09 | REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: LEGISLATION AND FRAMEWORKS

Legislative basis

South Australian Public Health Act (2011). (Sections 37, 38, 51, 52). Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA). State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029. State Public Health Plan 2026. Regional Public Health Plan 2022–2027.

National and state frameworks

National Standards for Volunteer Involvement 2024 (Volunteering Australia). National Strategy for Volunteering 2023–2033. Volunteering Strategy for South Australia 2021–2027. Tomorrow's Libraries (Public Libraries SA). Australian Government Early Years Strategy 2024–2034. The Nest (ARACY). Closing the Gap. Reconciliation Barossa. Age-friendly Cities and Communities (WHO). Social Determinants of Health.

Council source documents

Barossa Community Plan (2024–2044). Barossa Wellbeing Project 2024 (the 862-response evidence base behind both this plan and the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan). Early Years Strategy 2025–2027. Local Economic Development Plan 2022–2027.

APPENDIX B: DAIP INTEGRATION

The Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan and Council's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2026–2030 are designed as one plan, not two. Disability inclusion is part of every theme within this plan, not a separate stream.

The DAIP carries Council's statutory commitments under the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) and aligns with the State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025–2029. The State Plan organises disability inclusion across five domains. This integration appendix shows how each Wellbeing &Inclusion (W&I) Focus Area contributes to those domains and the specific priority areas the Council is working on, so the work is visible and accountable in both directions.

Council engages people with disability, carers and informal supports to co-design and contribute to this integrated work. Annual reporting to the Minister for Human Services under the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) draws on the same evidence base and district-level measures.

The five State Plan domains

INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS & COMMUNITIES	RIGHTS, JUSTICE & SAFETY	ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION	HEALTH & WELLBEING	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Accessible events, inclusive spaces, community attitudes, and work.	Council information and services free from discrimination.	Pathways and support for people living with disabilities to participate in work and community life.	Accessible health information, NDIS navigation support, and connections between disability and health services.	Emergency management approaches that plan for and prioritise people with disability.

How this plan was shaped by the community

Both the Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan and the DAIP were developed from a shared foundation: the Barossa Wellbeing Project 2024. Rather than running separate consultation processes, Council drew on the evidence base of a community engagement process run in partnership with Preventive Health SA to shape both plans. The priorities in both documents reflect what the community told us.

The Barossa Wellbeing Project received **862 responses, about 3.3 per cent of the Barossa population**. **14 per cent of respondents identified as having a disability**. The engagement was designed to reach the people most often left out of planning. This included an Easy Read survey, assistance with completing aged care and disability services, and direct outreach to disability-specific organisations including JFA Purple Orange, Barossa Enterprises, Carers and Disability Link, and the Feros Care NDIS Local Area Coordination partner.

If you want to be part of shaping this work, there are several ways to get involved.

Council welcomes the voice of people with disability, carers, informal supports and sector representatives.

Engagement can happen through the Wellbeing Network and through the upcoming Community Voice Register, which connects community members to engagement opportunities as they arise.

Contact Council's Community Services team to find out more.

How each Wellbeing & Inclusion Focus Area contributes

The table below shows how each Wellbeing and Inclusion Focus Area contributes to the State Plan domains, which Disability Access and Inclusion Plan actions sit within those domains, and the timeline for their delivery. These are high-level actions, with the detailed work set out in the Community Services Operational Action Plan.

Actions are numbered 1–30. Where an action supports more than one Focus Area, it appears under each relevant Focus Area with the same number and noted with an asterisk. Timeframes are colour-coded: **Years 1–2** (delivered in the initial 2 years of the Plan) and **Years 3–4** (delivered in the following years of the Plan).

W&I FOCUS AREA	DAIP DOMAIN(S) AND PRIORITY AREAS	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
FOCUS AREA 1.1 **ACTIVE LIVING AND MOVEMENT**	**Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities** • Priority Area 1: Active participation • Priority Area 3: Universal Design	**1.** Defining and developing Access and Inclusion Standards for Council to guide active living infrastructure, events and programs	**YEARS 1–2**
		2. Reviewing the Access and Inclusion Toolkit to support inclusive program and event planning	**YEARS 3–4**
		8. Creating an assessment scale to evaluate Council infrastructure against Universal Design standards	**YEARS 1–2**
		9. Developing a hierarchy-of-needs tool to guide accessible infrastructure decisions	**YEARS 3–4**
		10. Incorporating Access and Inclusion into Council's development planning process	**YEARS 3–4**

W&I FOCUS AREA	DAIP DOMAIN(S) AND PRIORITY AREAS	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
FOCUS AREA 1.2 **HEALTHY LIVING**	**Domain 3: Personal and community support** **31.** Priority Area 1: Accessibility **32.** Priority Area 5: Programs	**30.** Reviewing Council's emergency management approaches to ensure emergency information is accessible and procedures actively support people with disability	**YEARS 3–4**
		28. Reviewing Council's grant program to encourage applications achieving positive outcomes for people with disability	**YEARS 1–2**
		29. Identifying and promoting Disability, Access and Inclusion grants available to our community	**YEARS 3–4**
FOCUS AREA 1.3 **MENTAL WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE**	**Domain 3: Personal and community support** **33.** Priority Area 1: Accessibility	**24.** Strengthening the Wellbeing Network, Barossa Wellbeing Hub, so people with disability, carers and informal supports can access connection, early support and referral	**YEARS 1–2**
	Domain 5: Safety, rights and justice **34.** Priority Area 2: Responding to emergencies	**30.*** Reviewing Council's emergency management approaches to ensure emergency information is accessible and procedures actively support people with disability	**YEARS 3–4**

W&I FOCUS AREA	DAIP DOMAIN(S) AND PRIORITY AREAS	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
FOCUS AREA 2.1 **INCLUSIVE PLACES**	**Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities** • Priority Area 3: Universal Design • Priority Area 4: Accessible facilities	**8.*** Creating an assessment scale to evaluate Council infrastructure against Universal Design standards	**YEARS 1–2**
		9.* Developing a hierarchy-of-needs tool to guide accessible infrastructure decisions	**YEARS 3–4**
		10.* Incorporating Access and Inclusion into Council's development planning process	**YEARS 3–4**
		11. Embedding a reportable Access and Inclusion layer into district profiles	**YEARS 3–4**
		12. Capturing public council-owned toilet facilities within the district profile Access and Inclusion layer	**YEARS 3–4**
FOCUS AREA 2.2 **CULTURAL SAFETY**	**Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities** • Priority Area 2: Inclusive communities and attitudes	**3.** Collaborating to identify and mark significant Access and Inclusion dates and events	**YEARS 1–2**
		4. Developing a whole-of-council programming and events calendar	**YEARS 3–4**
		5. Defining Council training standards to build Access and Inclusion capability across paid and volunteer roles	**YEARS 1–2**
		6. Building a Disability, Access and Inclusion resource hub to share industry knowledge and promote inclusion	**YEARS 3–4**

W&I FOCUS AREA	DAIP DOMAIN(S) AND PRIORITY AREAS	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
		7. Engaging throughout the development of the Aboriginal Engagement Strategy	**YEARS 1–2**
FOCUS AREA 2.3 **AN EASY WAY INTO COUNCIL**	**Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities** • Priority Area 5: Communications and information **Domain 3: Personal and community support** • Priority Area 1: Accessibility • Priority Area 3: Information sharing • Priority Area 5: Programs	**13.** Reviewing and updating Access and Inclusion Policy and Processes to guide when and how Council provides information in accessible formats	**YEARS 1–2**
		24.* Strengthening the Wellbeing Network, Barossa Wellbeing Hub, so people with disability, carers and informal supports can access connection, early support and referral	**YEARS 1–2**
		25. Building a Community Voice Register, a whole-of-region group of service providers and community members, to shape healthy living conditions	**YEARS 1–2**
		26. Participating in the Local Government Access and Inclusion Network and Communities of Practice	**YEARS 1–2**
		27. Staying informed on local and state agency projects and collaboration opportunities	**YEARS 3–4**
		28.* Reviewing Council's grant program to encourage applications achieving positive outcomes for people with disability	**YEARS 1–2**

W&I FOCUS AREA	DAIP DOMAIN(S) AND PRIORITY AREAS	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
		29*. Identifying and promoting Access and Inclusion funding and grants available to our community	**YEARS 3–4**
FOCUS AREA 3.1 **BELONGING AND CONNECTION**	**Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities** • Priority Area 1: Active participation • Priority Area 2: Inclusive communities and attitudes	**1.*** Defining and developing Access and Inclusion Standards for Council to guide active living infrastructure, events and programs	**YEARS 1–2**
		3.* Collaborating with people with disability, carers and informal supports to identify and mark significant Access and Inclusion dates and events	**YEARS 1–2**
		4.* Developing a whole-of-council programming and events calendar to embed cultural safety across the organisation	**YEARS 3–4**
FOCUS AREA 3.2 **VOLUNTEERING AND CONTRIBUTION**	**Domain 2: Education and employment** • Priority Area 3: Targeted transitional supports • Priority Area 4: Access to employment opportunities • Priority Area 5: Inclusive working environments • Priority Area 6: Data and reporting	**17.** Enabling volunteer access to Disability, Access and Inclusion resources	**YEARS 3–4**
		18. Engaging people with disability, carers and informal supports to review the Volunteer Management Operation Manual and volunteer recruitment processes	**YEARS 3–4**
		19. Promoting employee awareness of the Disability, Access and Inclusion resource hub	**YEARS 3–4**
		20. Including Council-specific and industry best-practice resources in the resource hub	**YEARS 1–2**

W&I FOCUS AREA	DAIP DOMAIN(S) AND PRIORITY AREAS	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
		21. Reviewing and contributing to accessible and inclusive recruitment processes	**YEARS 1–2**
		22. Reviewing and contributing to accessible and inclusive performance review and succession planning processes	**YEARS 1–2**
		23. Making Access and Inclusion data visible through district profiles	**YEARS 3–4**
FOCUS AREA 3.3 **COMMUNITY VOICE**	**Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities** • Priority Area 7: Collaboration, consultation and innovation	**14.** Reviewing and contributing to the Community Engagement Toolkit to align with Access and Inclusion standards	**YEARS 1–2**
		15. Capturing feedback from people with disability in public consultation	**YEARS 3–4**
		16. Reviewing the process for collecting personal information for committees and working groups	**YEARS 1–2**
FOCUS AREA 4.1 **LIFELONG LEARNING AND SKILLS**	**Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities**	**13.*** Reviewing and updating Access and Inclusion Policy and Processes to guide when and how Council provides information in accessible formats	**YEARS 1–2**
		6.* Building a Disability, Access and Inclusion resource hub to share industry knowledge and promote inclusion	**YEARS 3–4**

W&I FOCUS AREA	DAIP DOMAIN(S) AND PRIORITY AREAS	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
	• Priority Area 5: Communications and information **Domain 2: Education and employment** • Priority Area 4: Access to employment opportunities	**20.*** Including Council-specific and industry best-practice resources in the resource hub	**YEARS 1–2**
FOCUS AREA 4.2 **CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP**	**Domain 1: Inclusive environments and communities** • Priority Area 7: Collaboration, consultation and innovation	**14.*** Reviewing and contributing to the Community Engagement Toolkit to align with Access and Inclusion standards	**YEARS 1–2**
		16.* Reviewing the process for collecting personal information for committees and working groups	**YEARS 1–2**

Joint governance

- Co-designing inclusive design and cultural safety standards (Focus Area 2.1)
- Co-creating Wellbeing and Inclusion Impact Assessments (Focus Area 2.1).
- Reviewing accessibility audit progress against facility, communication and digital standards (Focus Areas 2.1 and 4.1).
- Advising on equity reach across all Focus Areas.
- Reviewing the annual wellbeing report for accuracy and accessibility before publication.

Joint reporting

Council reports annually to the Minister for Human Services on the progress of the DAIP, as required by the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA). The annual wellbeing report includes a DAIP progress section that reports against the five State Plan domains using the same set of measures. Reporting under the Act draws from this same evidence base, so a single capture process serves both statutory obligations.

APPENDIX C: STATE PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN INTEGRATION

The Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan delivers Council's public health planning obligations under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011, alongside the Regional Public Health Plan held jointly with Light Regional Council and Lower Northern Region partners.

Council is the local public health authority under Sections 37, 38, 51 and 52 of the Act. This means Council plans for, contributes to and reports on public health in the Barossa, in alignment with the State Public Health Plan. This integration appendix shows how each W&I Focus Area contributes to the State Plan's five public health priority areas, making the work visible and accountable across both planning systems.

Council reports biennially to the Chief Public Health Officer on the delivery of the Regional Public Health Plan. The evidence base, the partnerships and district-level measures support that reporting obligation.

The five public health priority areas

Priority area	What it covers
1. Promote healthy living to reduce chronic disease	Health-promoting environments, physical activity, healthy eating, reduced alcohol and tobacco use, healthy weight, dementia prevention, and partnerships for early intervention.
2. Improve mental health and wellbeing	Community-level mental health understanding and capability, integrated community-based approaches, mental health of children and young people, suicide prevention, and social and emotional wellbeing.
3. Prevent and control the spread of infectious disease	Public trust and immunisation uptake; prevention and control measures; outbreak preparedness; disease surveillance; and antimicrobial resistance.
4. Reduce the risk, burden and severity of injury	Safer built, natural and social environments, injury surveillance, injury prevention across the life course, prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence, and post-injury care.
5. Ensure healthy environments for human health	Well-designed built environments, walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods, accessible community facilities,

	environmental and climate resilience, and multisector accountability for environmental health.

How each Wellbeing & Inclusion Focus Area contributes

The middle column names the public health priority area(s) the Focus Area contributes to. The right column names the joint commitment.

W&I Focus Area	Public health priority area(s)	Joint commitment
1.1 Active living and movement	Promote healthy living to reduce chronic disease; Healthy environments for healthy people	Health-promoting environments encourage physical activity and active living. Walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods, accessible community facilities and active living partnerships are sequenced district.
1.2 Healthy living	Promote healthy living to reduce chronic disease; Healthy environments for healthy people	Council planning, partnership and place levers shape access to healthy food, walkable communities and gathering spaces. Healthy environments are a stated consideration in development and town centre decisions.
1.3 Mental wellbeing and resilience	Improve mental health and wellbeing; Reduce the risk, burden and severity of injury	Council strengthens local conditions for mental health and wellbeing: connection, belonging, early support, referral. Prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence is a stated consideration in Council's safer-environments work.
2.1 Inclusive places	Healthy environments for healthy people; Reduce the risk, burden and severity of injury	Inclusive design, cultural safety and Universal Design standards are applied to public spaces. Wellbeing and Inclusion Impact Assessments name the public health implications of Council projects above the risk and impact threshold.
2.2 Cultural safety	Improve mental health and wellbeing	Cultural safety expectations co-designed with Aboriginal community members and

		CALD communities support social and emotional wellbeing and reduce the mental health impacts of racism and discrimination.
2.3 An easy way into Council	Improve mental health and wellbeing; Promote healthy living to reduce chronic disease; Prevent and control the spread of infectious disease	Council touchpoints connect community members to public health information and to specialist mental health and primary care services.
3.1 Belonging and connection	Improve mental health and wellbeing	Community-led belonging initiatives and gathering spaces strengthen social connection and protective factors for mental health, particularly for older adults, young people and people experiencing isolation.
3.2 Volunteering and contribution	Improve mental health and wellbeing	Volunteering builds social connection, purpose and protective factors for mental health. Volunteer pathways are accessible and recognised.
3.3 Community voice	Improve mental health and wellbeing; Healthy environments for healthy people	Community participation in decision-making is itself a determinant of wellbeing. Council-connected networks, action and advisory groups and the Community Voice Register strengthen community capability and trust.
4.1 Lifelong learning and skills	Improve mental health and wellbeing; Promote healthy living to reduce chronic disease; Prevent and control the spread of infectious disease	Libraries, community programs and learning partnerships build health literacy and the protective factors of learning, purpose and connection across the life course.
4.2 Confidence and leadership	Improve mental health and wellbeing	Leadership pathways and capability building support social and emotional wellbeing, particularly for young people,

		women, people with disabilities, and CALD community members.

Regional Public Health Plan and how partners work together

Council holds the Regional Public Health Plan 2022–2027 jointly with Light Regional Council and Lower Northern Region partners. The Wellbeing Network is the partnership space for coordinating regional public health work. Public Health Partner Authorities engaged in Barossa work: Preventive Health SA, the Local Health Network, environmental health partners, and mental health services sit within or alongside the Wellbeing Network.

Joint reporting

Council reports biennially to the Chief Public Health Officer on the delivery of the Regional Public Health Plan, as required by Section 52 of the South Australian Public Health Act 2011. The annual wellbeing report includes a public health progress section that reports against the five State Plan priority areas using the same set of measures. The same evidence base, the same partnerships and the same district-level capture serve both statutory obligations.

APPENDIX D: CONNECTED STRATEGIES AND HOW THIS PLAN IS BUILT

This appendix holds the reference detail behind Section 01: how this plan connects to other Council-endorsed strategies, and the five design choices that shape how the plan is built to work.

Connected Strategies and Plans

This plan is not in isolation; it has an active connection to many Council-endorsed plans and strategies. They share intent but have their own delivery pathways and reporting.

STRATEGY/PLAN	DIMENSION	SHARED INTENT
Barossa Community Plan 2024–2044	*Vision and direction*	**The 20-year vision for the region.** This plan delivers the ***Our Community*** goal of a welcoming, vibrant and safe region with accessible services and respect for diversity and draws on the four roles Council holds across all its work.
Local Economic Development Plan 2022–2027	*Economic participation*	**Meaningful work is a wellbeing outcome.** Local people with access to economic opportunity thrive, and economic development and community development are strongest when they work together.
Growth and Infrastructure Investment Strategy (Phase 1)	*Place and growth*	**Growth shapes who can live here.** It determines how connected people are and whether communities remain cohesive and thrive. Growth planned around liveability serves community wellbeing.
Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (IAMP) 2024–2034	*Built environment*	**The infrastructure of community life.** The halls, recreation spaces, transport networks, and community facilities that Council maintain, whose condition and accessibility determine what's possible for communities.
Aboriginal Engagement Framework (in draft)	*Cultural safety*	**A commitment to the Aboriginal community.** Providing cultural safety, voice, identity and stewardship of Country.

STRATEGY/PLAN	DIMENSION	SHARED INTENT
Arts, Culture and Heritage Plan (in draft)	*Identity and creativity*	**Culture and heritage shape wellbeing.** They are part of how wellbeing is experienced and how identity is expressed across the region.
Volunteer Engagement Framework (in draft)	*Participation and belonging*	**Volunteering strengthens community wellbeing**. When people are supported to contribute their time, skills, and experience in meaningful ways, communities become more connected, resilient, and inclusive.

How this plan is built to work

Five design choices shape how this plan works. Together, they keep the plan integrated, measurable, and usable rather than shelved.

01

One framework, one set of priorities

Wellbeing, public health and access and inclusion are not separate streams. This plan brings them together so that effort, investment, and reporting align around the same picture.

02

Strategy and measurement are connected

Every commitment in this plan can be tracked against measurement and evaluation changes, not just what we did, but how we can improve.

03

Strategic and operational layers are kept separate but speak the same language

This plan stays strategic. The internal documents that guide everyday work share the same goals, so direction and delivery stay connected.

04

Built to be used, not shelved

Plans that look impressive but never inform a decision are not strategies. They are just documents. This plan is designed to inform service plans, budget decisions, partnership agreements and project briefs across Council for the next four years.

05

Wellbeing as something Council can help build

Wellbeing is built year by year through the way Council invests, partners, and plans. Council can read its own investment clearly, not just what it has spent money on, but what it has built, protected, and strengthened.

Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan

Consultation feedback — full record

1. Online consultation survey — written feedback

Well done providing the Easy Read versions - this in itself is an important step in enacting inclusive practice.

The 'understand' phase for each focus area seems to rely heavily on existing services/providers to advise on what is needed within the community, which I think could be limiting because where these services are already at capacity or the criteria to access them is quite narrow it potentially fails to capture where the gaps are as the voices of those who can't - and don't even try to access them - for the aforementioned reasons are not actually being heard.

I believe that this document needs to be clearer on what it is going to do for the public. The plan also needs to go into more depth on what they are doing to connect with the public rather than the document being short and not in depth. Showing statistics or numbers, or list of different activates or programmes would in my opinion

help make clearly what the counsel is wanting to do and make people feel more connected.

It would be good to see more consideration and support for communication accessibility.

I can see the work that has gone into this and how some improvements are likely to occur as a result. It just seems at variance to what has actually been happening in the Barossa, enabled by Council behaviours. Eg mention is made of facilitating opportunities for movement, yet the footpaths at least in Tanunda are dangerous and are not maintained or repaired except on parts of the main road. I gave up walking 1 hour a day because of this. A core role for Council. Access to fresh food and getting what you want locally: Tanunda has lost most of its shops. We had 3 butchers, a fruit and veg shop, a hardware shop, a cobbler, a toy shop, a barber ... the list goes on. Now we have 15+ cafes, 6? wine bars etc. All this has happened due to tourism push. I think the focus should be on having the most liveable towns, not the top tourist town. Housing is critical to wellbeing - how will Council address that? Can we limit the number of short term rentals for example?

Would love to see free outdoor gyms set up (to incorporate with walking exercise) for Angaston, Tanunda, Nuri. Uses your own bodyweight. Free access, need to be under

shelter plus a water tap. Please refer to this site below..example - Akuna Street Park Outdoor Gym.

https://freeoutdoorfitness.net/listing/akuna-street-park-outdoor-gym/

I encourage the plan to include clearer time frames and more likely outcomes, almost like a time line.

I welcome stronger commitments to affordable housing advocacy as a young person myself trying to get into the housing market.

While the Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan sets a vision that respects diversity and articulates Council's role in leading local priorities, several focus areas need strengthening. 2.1: Clarify Council work to embed equity and diversity principles and how it will influence intersectional representation so that it is visible across community processes, programs, events and services—not only in physical spaces. 3.1: Year 1: Identify the changes required to ensure people with diverse lived experiences can fully participate in local life and feel safe, welcome, visible and included. Years 2-4: Strengthen or build new partnerships that support diverse aspects of identity; i.e. gender, age, ability, Indigenous background, ethnicity, language, faith, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation, so no one is left behind (i.e. connections through culture and faith are limited and exclude many).

Just get some stuff done instead of paying people to come up with plans and fancy reports. Spend on some infrastructure and practical on the ground staff !!

1.2 Healthy Living: Needs to also emphasise coordinated community-wide education that supports healthy choices & makes prevention a visible, shared practice.

2.1 Inclusion: Must be broadened beyond disability access to safe, welcoming programs & services for people with diverse identities, backgrounds & lived experiences, particularly those facing vulnerability & exclusion.

3.1 Belonging: Should affirm diverse pathways to connection – arts, sport, social groups, intergenerational activities, creative communities, & identity-based networks, not only faith & cultural groups.

4.2 Visibility and Voice: Needs to also promote representation of families, older people, carers, First Nations peoples, LGBTIQ+ communities, and people with lived experience of vulnerability.

Community Safety: The Plan should highlight risks such as homelessness, housing insecurity, cost-of-living stress, domestic violence, elder abuse, safety concerns for women & LGBTIQ+ people

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Looking forward to the rollout of this Plan.

Year 1 – Understand. We work with community spaces such as markets, gardens,

food relief, health services, and community groups that already support healthy

living, to understand where access is strong and where it is not.

Need to open this up more - what about engaging with families and people outside of these spaces, how you will capture their voices as there are a lot of people who are socially isolated and may only be connected with one service with limited supports. Your plan is great if the first year is not correctly undertaken and all voices heard and had a opportunity then the rest of the plan is a waste of time. How are you going to tap into them and work out where access is not strong and what the barriers are, compare to strong - I would like to see t his plan changed and more information in year 1 to really understand what the council plans to do, to really understand everyone's needs - those that are supported strongly and those that are not and where the gaps are.

2. Emailed submission

Dear Mayor and Councillors, At the Council meeting on the 16th of June 2026, Councillor Jess Greatwich stated: "...the wellbeing of your community is about as basic as it gets. So having resources like this (The Wellbeing Project) is the absolute foundation of a successful government area." I disagree. I don't believe wellbeing is the foundation - I believe trust is. Trust that our local government is delivering meaningful outcomes rather than simply producing more strategies, websites and well-intentioned language. After reading the Wellbeing and Inclusion Framework and exploring the Wellbeing Project website, I was left with one simple question - What is actually new? The website is largely a directory of existing services, businesses and community groups. Its news section redirects back to Council, while its data section presents broad statements about community wellbeing but little explanation of what practical action will follow. It explains why wellbeing matters, but not how life in the Barossa will actually improve because of this 'Wellbeing Project'.The Framework repeatedly refers to wellbeing, inclusion, connection and empowerment. They are all worthy goals, but they are not outcomes. Where are the measurable commitments? What projects will residents actually see and how will families know this strategy has succeeded? Recently I spent time alongside an occupational therapist supporting a local family caring for a young child with profound disabilities. The family had cared for multiple foster children over decades and what struck me most was how these experienced carers felt scrutinised by the systems around them rather than supported by them. Systems designed to protect vulnerable people should also respect the experience and knowledge of those providing care every day. For families living with disability or caring for someone with a disability, wellbeing isn't another framework. It is accessible public spaces, respite, inclusive community programs and professionals who work alongside carers instead of adding to their burden. Those are the key elements that build trust within the community. Council has every right to develop long-term strategies, but strategies are only as valuable as the change they produce. Therefore, I'd like to ask the council the following: 1. What new initiatives will exist because of the Wellbeing and Inclusion Framework? 2. What funding has been committed to disability inclusion? 3. What measurable improvements should residents expect to see over the next four years? 4. How will Council know whether families and carers genuinely feel better supported? The Barossa is home to many people quietly caring for children, partners and parents with complex needs. They are not asking for another strategy, report, website or 'hub'. They are asking for practical and tangible support, genuine collaboration and visible action. The challenge the Council faces is not to convince residents that wellbeing is important. (Most of us already know that). The challenge is to demonstrate that this project delivers something more than language. Trust is not built through frameworks. It is built when people can see, in their everyday lives, that Council has made their community a better place to live. Thank you for your time.

3. Written submission — Age-Friendly lens

Do you have any feedback on the draft Wellbeing and Inclusion Plan?

I have applied an Age-Friendly lens to the each of the 11 domains:

Being Well

- Active Living and Movement: Supports environmental and service design that assists with mobility, safety, independence, ageing in place and maintaining connected to rural living and outdoor activity close to home; i.e. access to green spaces, parks, trails, gardens and natural environments that encourage movement, time outdoors, sensory engagement and restorative experiences, outdoor activity, walkability, seating, shade to support active ageing.
  Also links with reliable transport options that enable access to community and health services, social connection, fresh food outlets, and nature based activities.

- Healthy living: Supports a focus on education and information about modifiable lifestyle risk factors, including nutrition, physical activity and preventative health approaches – i.e. to encompass heart and brain health, cancer-related risk reduction, and other preventatble or manageable chronic health conditions across the lifespan.

- Mental health and resilience: For older adults a focus is required for appropriate life-stage planning and decision-making, access to information and services regarding chronic condition pathways and health supports with coordinated responses when needs change.

Being Included

2.1 Inclusive spaces: Aligns with safety and accessible physical environments - buildings, paths, toilets, signage, lighting, etc.

2.2 Cultural safety: Whilst essential and vital for the identity, history and lived experience of culturally diverse people, especially for reconciliation with First Nations people, Social Inclusion and Respect is missing as a focus and deserves to stand as its own domain; i.e. it addresses whole-of-community inclusion issues where everyone feels safe, welcomed, visible, valued and able to participate in everyday day. For older people its about valuing their contributions and fostering intergenerational respect, etc. and reducing ageism, stigma, discrimination and elder abuse. It also will enable attention to other community safety initiatives (e.g. to address domestic and family abuse, etc)

2.3 An easy way to council: This domain is more aligned with Being Connected and Council's role in fostering Community Voice (3.3). It currently stands as a specific service improvement action – important, but not a community wellbeing outcome under the Inclusion domain; i.e. it does not build the physical and social conditions that will allow

and benefit older people to move confidently, feel valued and remain visible in community life. I therefore suggest an alternative structure
2.2 as Social Inclusion and Respect
2.3 as Cultural Safety and
3.3 Community Voice to include elements of An Easy Way to Council

Being Connected

3.1 Belonging and connection: Supports social connection and participation to reduce isolation - but needs to be broadened to recognise inclusive pathways for older people with diverse lived experiences.

3.2 Volunteering and contribution: Seems limited and could be better expressed as Civic participation or Civic participation and contribution? i.e. provides a broader recognition of older people's meaningful roles in volunteering, caring, paid employment, with opportunities to contribute skills, knowledge, community decision-making and leadership.

3.3 Community voice: Could be better served as Community voice and communication? This will enable a focus on timely and easy access to information about what's happening in the Barossa that keeps people connected and informed about physical and social health and active pursuits.

Being Empowered

4.1 Livelong learning and skills: Supports older people to keep learning and stay mentally active through a range of creative, cultural and learning activities that support individual's identity and purpose, and provides for digital inclusion.

4.2 Confidence and leadership: Could be better expressed as Purpose and leadership? While programs that build confidence and capability are important, older people also need to maintain a strong sense of purpose, particularly after giving up paid employment with opportunities to share skills, knowledge, expertise and offer community leadership.

Margin comment on section 2.2 in the source document (Sharon Wessels, 30 July 2026):
See addition to 2.1 based on ArcGIS feedback