



# Frequently Asked Questions

**2024/25**

- Draft Annual Business Plan & Budget
- Draft Long Term Financial Plan
- Draft Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Draft Rating Policy & Procedure
- Draft Rate Rebate Policy & Procedure



1. **What is the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25?**

The Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget (ABP) is our proposed plan for how we will support our diverse and growing community over the coming year.

2. **What will I see in the Draft ABP?**

The Draft ABP outlines the services, projects and programs Council will deliver in the year ahead, including:

- The delivery of 25 services, made up of over 200 different activities;
- New projects and improved services that meet the demands of growth while sustaining and improving existing communities; and
- How we will do this in a financially sustainable way, even though we've had increases to our costs.

3. **What new projects are proposed for 2024/25?**

Some examples of the new projects outlined in the Draft ABP include:

- Construction of Stage 2B of the Broadacres Drive Outfall Drain
- Construction of changerooms and car park at Dwight Reserve
- Construction of Munno Para Sportsground Stage 1
- Delivery of over 600m of new footpaths
- Installation of playground communication boards at newly constructed, refurbished or currently under construction play spaces

*For further details of these projects, see Appendix 1, Proposed Capital Works 2024/25.*

4. **What is the Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2024/25?**

The Draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) ensures Council can deliver services, maintain assets and achieve its strategic objectives in a financially sustainable manner over the medium to longer term. It is underpinned by a "business as usual" assumption which means Council will continue to provide the existing services at the same service standard. The Draft LTFP incorporates the draft 2024/25 budget and key assumptions about growth, inflation rates, interest rates and the revenue index which is used to estimate rates revenue.

5. **What is the Draft Strategic Asset Management Plan 2024/25?**

The Draft Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) provides an overview of Council's assets, including what assets we are responsible for, their replacement value and how our asset management activities fit into Council's broader strategic planning framework.

6. **What is the Draft Rating Policy and Procedure and Rate Rebate Policy and Procedure?**

The Draft Rating Policy and Procedure outlines Council's process for setting and collecting rates from its community.

The Draft Rate Rebate Policy and Procedure ensures that all applications for rate rebates are considered in an equal and fair manner in line with the provisions set out under the *Local Government Act*.

7. **Will there be a rate increase in 2024/25?**

While the Draft ABP proposes a 6.5% increase in rate revenue for 2024/25, no final decision has been made regarding a rate increase. The Draft Plans are subject to a 28-day public consultation period after which Council will consider all feedback received and make a final decision following the close of the consultation period on 28 May 2024.

8. **Why has Council proposed an average rate increase for existing ratepayers of 6.5 per cent?**  
The Draft ABP proposes a 6.5% increase in rate revenue for 2024/25. This equates to a \$2.28 per week, or \$29.48 per quarter, increase on the average rates bill in Playford.

The proposed increase funds new projects and services that the community has asked for while covering rising costs due to inflation, and also meeting budget goals that support long-term financial sustainability.

We have worked diligently to reduce the impact of cost increases on ratepayers by only factoring in inflationary pressures where absolutely necessary. However, there are some rising costs that can't be avoided. Not being financially responsible in the short term would mean higher debt and interest costs for ratepayers in future.

9. **What rising costs are Council facing?**

Like much of the business community, local government is facing significant cost pressures. Many of these pressures are outside of our control, such as inflation, electricity and insurance premium increases as well as legislated superannuation obligations. We are also experiencing increases in contracted prices and license fees above inflation for services provided in some sectors, reflecting current market conditions. This means that the cost of providing the same services in 2024/25 will be higher than last year.

10. **How was the plan developed?**

The Draft Plans have been developed in line with Council's [2020-24 Strategic Plan - Community and City Foundations](#) - and mark the final year of delivery against this strategic theme. The plan outlines how we will continue to deliver the things that make a difference to our residents' everyday lives and the services and programs you know and value. That includes services that contribute to a happy and healthy community and help keep our city looking nice and operating safely. We are also committed to focusing on maximising opportunities for external funding and finishing what we have started, while always meeting our legislative requirements and legal obligations.

11. **How do I know if this is a financially responsible budget?**

Financial sustainability, in line with Council's Finance Strategy, has been a focus in the development of this plan, ensuring Council has the means to fund the services and projects it provides to the community now and into the future.

12. **What will be delivered in my local area?**

Council provides a broad range of services across the whole of the city. There are ongoing initiatives and activities available to all residents, including:

- Community facilities like libraries, the Grenville Hub, Elizabeth Rise Community Centre and The Precinct Community.
- Business support services provided through The Stretton Centre.
- Access to sport and recreation facilities to support healthy and active lifestyles as well as the opportunity for people to participate in the sports they love.
- Building and maintaining playgrounds for families to socialise and connect.
- Maintaining verges, reserves and streets and roads to support a connected city.
- Prioritising services that keep our community safe such as food and environmental health, immunisations, development planning, stormwater and waste management.

Annually, we look to deliver the things we know will continue to maintain and improve current community assets, as well as support growth in our community. The ABP includes suburb maps showing the locations of all new and continuing projects. *See Appendix 1.*

### 13. How can I share my views on these plans?

Copies of the Draft Plans are available at Engagement Hub - [playford.engagementhub.com.au](http://playford.engagementhub.com.au) and in hard copy from Customer Contact locations at:

Playford Civic Centre  
10 Playford Boulevard  
Elizabeth

Stretton Centre  
307 Peachey Road  
Munno Para

You can share your views on the Draft Business Plans by:

- Visiting City of Playford online Engagement Hub - [playford.engagementhub.com.au](http://playford.engagementhub.com.au)
- Completing a hard copy feedback form available from Customer Contact locations
- Emailing [connected@playford.sa.gov.au](mailto:connected@playford.sa.gov.au)
- Making a verbal submission at the Council meeting being held on Tuesday 28 May (registration required)
- Written feedback can also be sent to:  
Community Engagement Officer  
Playford Operations Centre  
12 Bishopstone Road  
Davoren Park SA 5113

To register your interest in making a verbal submission to Council, please contact us at [connected@playford.sa.gov.au](mailto:connected@playford.sa.gov.au). You can also tick 'yes' when asked on the online feedback form.

Written feedback should be submitted by midnight on Tuesday 28 May and may be made publicly available, unless specifically requested otherwise.

For further information, please contact Customer Contact on 8256 0333 or email [connected@playford.sa.gov.au](mailto:connected@playford.sa.gov.au)