



Frequently Asked Questions

2025/26

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

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2025/26?

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. All Councils are required under the Local Government Act 1999 to develop an ABP and include the services and projects that will be undertaken and how Council intends to fund these. It's an important part of Council's commitment to achieve outcomes in line with what our community needs.

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 2025/26?

Some of the new projects outlined in the draft ABP include the upgrade of the eastern end of Sheedy Road, city uplift works at two roundabouts, and minor works across stormwater, open space, sport and recreation, and traffic management.

Project delivery has also been gathering momentum, with several multiyear initiatives making significant progress. The upgrades to Kalara Reserve, the Mark Oliphant Kiss & Drop, and the Argana Park car park and change facilities are expected to be completed by the end of 2025. These projects have been delivered with support from State Government funding.

Other continuing projects include the Stebonheath Road/Dalkeith Road Roundabout, Munno Para Sportsground Stage 1, and the Dwight Reserve changerooms and car park.

4. What is the Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025/26?

The Draft Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) ensures Council can deliver services, projects, 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 2025/26 budget and key assumptions about growth, inflation rates, interest rates and the revenue index which is used to estimate rates revenue. It's an important way to demonstrate Council's accountability and transparency to the community.

5. What is the Draft Strategic Asset Management Plan 2025/26?

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. This enables Council to make the right decisions at the right time to optimise the longevity of existing community assets and helps us plan for replacement or new assets for our communities' needs over time.

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

The Draft Rating Policy and Procedure outlines Council's decision-making 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. What do I get for my rates?

Council rates help fund 25 core services made up of over 200 activities that support daily life in our community—things people have told us matter most. This includes:

- Keeping streets, verges, ovals, and playgrounds clean and maintained
- Upgrading roads and footpaths to make getting around safer and easier
- Supporting community health, safety, and wellbeing
- Waste collection and recycling
- Running local libraries and community centres

8. Will there be a rate increase in 2025/26?

The Draft ABP proposes a 4.54% increase in rate revenue for 2025/26, however, 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 27 May 2025.

9. Why has Council proposed an average rate increase of 4.54%?

The proposed 4.54% increase in rate revenue would enable Council to continue delivering the services our community values and to fund new projects that residents have told us are important.

This includes key upgrades like unsealed road capping on Bevan and Bentley Roads, improvements to the eastern end of Sheedy Road, beautification of two roundabouts as part of our City Uplift Projects, and the construction of over 3km of new footpaths.

The increase also helps us manage the rising cost of delivering services due to inflation, while ensuring we remain financially sustainable into the future.

10. 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 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 2025/26 will be higher than last year.

11. How were the Draft Plans developed?

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The Draft Plans have been developed in line with Council's [2020-24 Strategic Plan - Community and City Foundations](#) and Council's Draft 2025-28 Strategic Plan. 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.

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

Council's budget has been developed with a strong focus on long-term financial sustainability, guided by our Finance Strategy. To ensure financial responsibility, a number of assurance measures are in place:

- Oversight by a committee that includes external independent members who assess and advise on Council's financial performance and sustainability.
- Annual external audits are conducted to provide an objective review of Council's financial health.
- Regulatory review by ESCOSA (Essential Services Commission of SA), which evaluates Council's financial performance against established indicators.

In each of these assessments, Council has consistently been found to be operating within appropriate financial indicators. These checks provide confidence that the budget is not only financially responsible but also supports the long-term delivery of services and projects for the community.

13. 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 and John McVeity Centre.
- 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 2.*

14. What support is available if I'm struggling to pay my rates?

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We understand that sometimes it can be tough to keep up with rate payments, and we're here to help. If you're experiencing financial difficulty, our Hardship Policy offers flexible options, including:

- Setting up a payment plan or direct debit
- Using Centrepay for automatic deductions
- Connecting you with a free financial counsellor for personalised support

If you're finding it hard to pay, please don't wait—reach out to our friendly Rates team for a confidential chat about the support available to you.

15. What is happening with Curtis Road?

We know congestion along Curtis Road is a concern for our community and Council shares this concern.

This once local road is now functioning as an arterial road, with congestion being driven by population growth following State Government land rezonings and housing developments

Council is working closely with other levels of government to realise a long-term, whole of road solution.

There have been some important funding announcements which confirm the level importance in finding a solution for Curtis Rd including:

- A Federal Government commitment of \$125 million as part of the 2025 budget to remove the railway level crossing on Curtis Road.
- A \$15 million State Government announcement for upgrades linked to the new 1,300-home development at Playford Alive East.
- Commitments to upgrade the Curtis and Heaslip Road intersection at Angle Vale with a dual-lane roundabout.

However, these announcements do not provide a full solution for the entire length of Curtis Road.

In 2023, the State Government commissioned a traffic study on Curtis Road and other key east-west roads in the area. Council is waiting for the final report from that study to be released, which is critical in determining the design and funding solutions required for a comprehensive upgrade of Curtis Road. Council is committed to partnering with the Federal and State Governments to deliver the best infrastructure outcomes for our community. We will continue advocating for a well-planned, fully funded road upgrades across northern Adelaide's transport network that support our growing community.

16. How can I share my views on these draft plans and documents?

Copies of the draft Plans are available at Engagement Hub - 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

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

- Visiting City of Playford online Engagement Hub - playford.engagementhub.com.au
- Completing a hard copy feedback form available from Customer Contact locations
- Emailing connected@playford.sa.gov.au
- Making a verbal submission at the Council meeting being held on Tuesday 27 May (registration required)
- Written feedback can also be sent to:
Reply Paid
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. You can also tick 'yes' when asked on the online feedback form. Written feedback should be submitted by midnight on Tuesday 27 May 2025 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