

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2021/22?

The Annual Business Plan and Budget outlines the services we will deliver to the community during the coming year.

What is the draft Long Term Financial Plan 2021/22 – 2030/31?

The draft Long Term Financial Plan ensures Council can deliver services, maintain assets and achieve our strategic objectives in a financially sustainable manner.

Will there be a rate increase in 2021/22?

No decision has been made regarding a rates 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 30 May 2021. For consultation purposes, the *Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2021/22* is based on a rate rise of 1.25 per cent.

Why has Council proposed to raise the rates by 1.25 per cent?

The draft Annual Business Plan provides details on how Council will fund the inflationary costs for our existing services, new services and assets, and cost pressures.

These additional costs to Council's budget have been partially offset with over \$1 million of continuous improvement savings as well as \$0.4 million of growth revenue (revenue generated from new rateable properties). This has resulted in a proposed rate increase of 1.25% for 2021/22.

What if I am experiencing difficulty paying my rates?

If you are having trouble paying your rates, we have a great hardship policy to help you out. We encourage you to contact us about how we can support you. Ph. 8256 0333. Email: playford@playford.sa.gov.au

What are Cost Pressures?

Each year Council's costs may be impacted by increases above inflation due to external pressures. In addition some cost pressures are caused by cost shifting through legislative changes and additional compliance requirements by the State Government.

This year's cost pressures arise as a result of an increase in the cost of income protection and insurance premiums, additional 0.5% in the Superannuation Guarantee Charge and the increased cost of managing hard waste collection. Council's budget has also been impacted by cost shifting as a result of the implementation of the new State Government E-Planning Portal. These cost pressures are funded through an increase to rates.

What will I get for my rates in 2021/22?

Existing Services

Council's existing services make up the majority of our overall expenditure budget. Over the next year, we will continue to invest to continue to provide a wide range of existing services to our community, including:

- Community facilities, programs and events
- City maintenance
- Waste and recycling
- Public health, regulatory and environment
- Local business support

Capital Projects

Council's \$72.1 million Capital Works Program includes the \$21.9 million to renew or replace existing assets, \$26.6 million for new services and assets, \$11.7 million for projects previously commenced and \$11.9 million for donated assets.

Asset Renewal

Council will spend over \$21.9 million of its capital budget on renewing or replacing existing assets such as kerbs, footpaths, roads and recreational and sporting facilities. Works include:

- Renewal of transport assets throughout 25 suburbs
- Footpath renewals across 11 suburbs
- Significant work at the Aquadome, along with minor work at four halls and clubrooms, and the John McVeity Centre
- Replacement of stormwater and recycled water assets
- Various assets replaced at 30 parks and reserves

New Services and Assets

During the development of our Strategic Plan in 2020, our community told us they wanted to focus on their foundational needs which means addressing the things that impact their everyday lives, from having safe roads, well presented neighbourhoods and local employment opportunities, to a Council that talks to them more and uses their money wisely.

These foundational needs have been used to determine what new services or assets will be introduced for 2021/22. We have also had a large number of grant funding opportunities available this year, including stimulus funding to aid post-COVID economic recovery. This has given us the opportunity to bring forward work from subsequent Strategic Plans to take advantage of potential grant funding.

The draft Plan includes a number of new projects that have grant applications pending. Council is expecting notification from the Australian and SA Governments regarding these applications between now and June. Due to these various notification dates there will be a need for Council to adjust the budget throughout the year to deal with these funding announcements. Final decisions on progressing grant funded projects will be dependent on whether the applications are successful or not.

The draft Annual Business Plan and Budget includes the following new projects and assumes we are successful in gaining grant funding for all eligible projects:

- Munno Para Linear South Reserve Irrigation
- New Footpath Projects
- Open Space Minor Projects
- Sport & Recreation Minor Projects
- Traffic Management Minor Projects
- Virginia Main Street Sewer
- Park Road Drainage System
- Stebonheath Road Upgrade Stage 2*
- Curtis Road/Peachey Road Intersection Minor Safety Upgrades*
- Fremont Park Stage 3*
- McGilp Reserve Upgrade*
- Playford Sports Precinct - Central District Football Club Change Rooms (Elizabeth Oval) and Playford International College Floodlights*
- Playford Sports Precinct – Softball Lights*

**Grant Funded projects*

How can I provide feedback?

Your feedback is encouraged in writing or by email by 5pm on Sunday 30 May 2021.

The draft plans and feedback form are available at <https://playford.engagementhub.com.au/>.

The plans can also be viewed at City of Playford Customer Service Counters and Libraries.

For further information, please contact Customer Care on 8256 0333 or email publicconsultation@playford.sa.gov.au.

What is the Public Hearing?

Feedback can also be made via a verbal submission, either in person or online via Zoom, at a Public Hearing to be held in the Council Chambers at 7pm on Tuesday 25 May 2021. Your submission may last for a maximum of five minutes.

Please note that prior registration for the Public Hearing is recommended by 5pm on Friday 21 May 2021 to allow for the venues COVID Safe Plan capacity limits to be adhered to.

Should the venue reach capacity on the night of the Public Hearing we will be unable to accept any walk-ins and priority will be given to registered speakers. Instructions for online submissions via Zoom is to be made available. Register via the Feedback Form or by contacting publicconsultation@playford.sa.gov.au

The opportunity for in person verbal submissions is subject to COVID-19 restrictions and directions at the time.

What will happen to my feedback?

All feedback will be logged and considered by Council following the close of the public consultation period.

When will a decision be made?

Following the close of the consultation period on 30 May 2021, Council will consider feedback received before making a final decision at a subsequent Council Meeting in June.