



MEDIA RELEASE

23 June 2026

Draft 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan & Budget released for community consultation

At a Special Meeting held on 10 June, Council approved the Draft 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan & Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2027 to 2036 for release and community consultation.

The draft budget proposes a 6.9% increase to rates, including CPI. This is a significant reduction from the 12% increase previously forecast. South Australian CPI, currently 4.9%, remains a major factor because it reflects recent operational cost increases that will continue to affect the year ahead. The real Council increase is 2%.

Council has also had to respond to pressures outside its control, including the impacts of drought, subsequent rain events that damaged \$2.4 million of roads, and rising fuel and power costs. Council personnel have delivered exceptional service in maintaining road works given the scale of damage.

Mayor Stephen McCarthy said ratepayers and the broader community can be assured there will be no reduction to services provided by Council in the 2026-2027 financial year.

Key priorities for 2026-2027

- Upgrades to Weeroona Island Causeway Road
- Weeroona Island water upgrade
- Road sealing in Port Germein and Wilmington
- Port Germein Foreshore Beautification
- Port Germein Streetscaping
- Port Germein Tidal Wall
- Flood reparations in the Bruce, Hammond, Amyton and Wilmington areas

- Willowie Creek and Coonatto Road culvert upgrades
- Storm damage works to Port Germein Jetty
- Community engagement and support with community events

Road re-sheeting program

The 2026-2027 re-sheeting program will cover more than 20 kilometres of roads, including:

- Hammond Road
- Booleroo Road
- Wirrabara Appila Road
- Collins Road
- Mount View Road
- Zilm Road

Budget approach and efficiencies

Council administration has worked diligently to review current and forecast operational and capital costs, risk strategies, and all classes of asset management plans while compiling the draft budget.

The reduction in the anticipated rate increase reflects continued efficiencies and rationalisation, building an evidence-based budget from the ground up, plus consideration of savings delivered in the previous budget and across the Long-Term Financial Plan. Council has adopted an approach that allows these strategies to reach their full potential.

Community consultation

The consultation period for the Annual Business Plan & Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan commenced on Thursday 18 June and closes on Wednesday 8 July.

A Special Meeting of Council will be held on Thursday 9 July for community members to present verbal submissions. All written and verbal feedback will be considered by elected members before a Special Meeting on Tuesday 14 July, where the 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan & Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2027 to 2036 will be presented for adoption.

Mayor's comment

"In partnership with elected members, Council's administration team has delivered an Annual Business Plan and Budget with significant savings driven by the continued rationalisation and review of Council operations," Mayor McCarthy said.

“This reflects our ongoing commitment to our communities to provide considered, sustainable and efficient operations across our district, now and into the future, in the most cost-effective way.”

Further information

The Draft 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan & Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2027 to 2036 are available on Council’s website:

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/2000345/Draft-Annual-Business-Plan-and-Budget-2026-2027-1.pdf

https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0015/2000346/Draft-Long-Term-Financial-Plan-2026-36-1.pdf

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