



CITY OF ADELAIDE

# COUNCIL

## Minutes

for the Special meeting on

Monday, 19 January 2026

in the Council Chamber, Adelaide Town Hall

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Our Adelaide.  
**Bold.**  
Aspirational.  
Innovative.

Present – The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith (Presiding)

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon

Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Cabada, Davis, Freeman, Giles, Maher, Martin, Dr Siebentritt and Snape

## **1 Acknowledgement of Country**

At the opening of the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor stated:

'Council acknowledges that we are meeting on traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today.'

And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations who are present today.'

## **2 Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Apology:

Councillor Couros

## **3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Nil

## **4 Deputations**

The Lord Mayor advised the meeting that three deputation requests had been received in relation to Item 5.1 – Adelaide Writers' Festival – Alternate Event.

The Lord Mayor invited Phil Kalogeras to address Council, who was not present.

Greg Mackie OAM addressed the Council:

- In relation to the City of Adelaide relationship to Adelaide Festival Corporation and Adelaide Writers' Week.

The Lord Mayor thanked Greg Mackie for the deputation.

Claire Hicks addressed the Council:

- To assist in the consideration of the motion raised by Councillor Keiran Snape in response to the cancellation of Adelaide Writers Week 2026 event, and an alternative event/s in February/March 2026 featuring participants from the original event.

The Lord Mayor thanked Claire Hicks for the deputation.

Phil Kalogeras addressed the Council:

- On the necessity of a coordinated and resourced alternative to Writers Week and the cultural and economic implications thereof.

The Lord Mayor thanked Phil Kalogeras for the deputation.

## **5 Reports for Council**

### **5.1 Adelaide Writers' Festival - Alternative Event**

Discussion ensued

It was then –

Moved by Councillor Snape,  
Seconded by Councillor Giles -

**THAT COUNCIL:**

Noting the City of Adelaide's longstanding support for the Adelaide Writers Festival and the impacts of the cancellation of the 2026 event, including an expected, estimated 50 million dollar boost to the City economy and the loss to our community of the City's most significant forum for books and conversation, asks the Administration to;

1. Immediately enter into discussions with the not for profit, Writers SA to assist the organisation to an alternative event/s in February/March 2026 featuring participants who had been prepared to participate in the cancelled event
2. Request the Adelaide Economic Development Authority (AEDA) to make available to Writers SA any funding it considers appropriate to facilitate the alternative event/s.
3. Supplement any funding for the alternative event from AEDA or sponsors of the cancelled event or other organisations and new sponsorship agreements with an amount from the Council's QF2 review not exceeding \$250,000 and
4. Make available to the alternative event/s any available venue such as the Town Hall, any Council owned or controlled building and public space, including the Park Lands.

Discussion continued during which the motion was varied to read as follows:

**'THAT COUNCIL:**

Noting the City of Adelaide's longstanding support for the Adelaide Writers Festival and the impacts of the cancellation of the 2026 event, including an expected boost to the City economy and the loss to our community of the City's most significant forum for books and conversation, asks the Administration to;

1. Immediately enter into discussions with the not for profit Writers SA to assist the organisation with an alternative event/s in February/March 2026
2. Supplement any funding for the alternative event from sponsors of the cancelled event or other organisations and new sponsorship agreements with an amount from the Council's QF2 review not exceeding \$250,000 and
3. Make available to the alternative event/s any available venue such as the Town Hall, any Council owned or controlled building and public space, including the Park Lands.'

**Amendment**

Moved by Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon,  
Seconded by Councillor Cabada -

That the motion be amended to read as follows:

**'THAT COUNCIL:**

Noting the City of Adelaide's longstanding support for the Adelaide Writers Festival and the impacts of the cancellation of the 2026 event, including the potential economic and cultural impacts on the City and community, asks the Administration to;

1. Engage with any interested organisation, including Writers SA, that may wish to propose an alternative literary event in 2026, noting that any engagement does not constitute approval or commitment by Council and that any consideration of support is subject to the receipt of a formal proposal, including governance arrangements, financials, delivery timelines, and risk management.
2. Note that any consideration of financial support from Council, including through the QF2 review process, would be subject to a formal report to Council outlining a business case, funding sources, risks, and value for money, and that no funding is approved at this time.
3. Note that Council-owned or controlled venues and public spaces may be considered as in-kind support for any future approved event, subject to availability, standard application processes, and Council policies.'

Discussion ensured during which:

- The Chief Executive Officer advised that the amendment could not be accepted as it would substantially change the intent of the motion.

## Special Meeting Minutes, Monday, 19 January 2026, at 5.30 pm

- With leave of the meeting, the Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting for a period of 5 minutes at 6.27 pm.
- The meeting resumed at 6.34 pm with the following members present:  
The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith (Presiding), Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Cabada, Davis, Freeman, Giles, Maher, Martin, Dr Siebentritt and Snape.
- The Chief Executive Officer advised the meeting that the amendment proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon must be considered as a foreshadowed motion.

It was then –

Moved by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon,  
Seconded by Councillor Siebentritt -

That the alternative motion as proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon, be considered should the motion before the Chamber be lost.

The motion was then put and lost

Councillor Snape requested that a division be taken on the motion.

Division

For (3):

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Cabada and Dr Siebentritt

Against (7):

Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Davis, Freeman, Giles, Maher, Martin and Snape

The division was declared against the motion

Discussion ensued during which:

- Councillor Snape called a Point of Order in relation to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon speaking to the foreshadowed motion rather than the motion that was before Council. The Lord Mayor ruled in favour of the Point of Order and asked the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon to speak to the motion that was before Council.
- With leave of the mover, seconder and the meeting, Part 2 of the motion was varied to read as follows:  
'2. Prioritise provision of funding through the Council's QF2 review not exceeding \$250,000 for the alternative event, based on a proposal from Writers SA.'
- Leave of the meeting was sought to adjourn the meeting for a period of 5 minutes.

The Lord Mayor requested that a division be taken on the 5 minute adjournment.

Division

For (6):

Councillors Davis, Freeman, Giles, Maher, Martin and Snape

Against (4):

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Cabada and Dr Siebentritt.

The division was declared in favour of the 5 minute adjournment

- With leave of the meeting, the Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting for a period of 5 minutes at 6.55 pm.
- The meeting resumed at 7.00 pm with the following members present:

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith (Presiding), Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Cabada, Davis, Freeman, Giles, Maher, Martin, Dr Siebentritt and Snape.

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- Councillor Martin called a Point of Order in relation to the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon's comments about Council curating the event. The Lord Mayor ruled against the Point of Order.
- Councillor Martin called a Point of Order in relation to Councillor Davis breaching the behavioural code. The Lord Mayor ruled in favour of the Point of Order and asked Councillor Davis to behave with propriety.
- With the consent of the mover and seconder, the Lord Mayor advised the meeting that the motion would be taken in parts

The preamble and part 1 of the motion was then put  
Councillor Snape requested that a division be taken on the preamble and part 1 of the motion.

Division

For (5):

Councillors Freeman, Giles, Maher, Martin and Snape

Against (5):

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Cabada, Davis and Dr Siebentritt

The division was declared in favour of the preamble and part 1 of the motion on the casting vote of the Lord Mayor

Part 2 of the motion was then put

Councillor Snape requested that a division be taken on part 2 of the motion.

Division

For (5):

Councillors Freeman, Giles, Maher, Martin and Snape

Against (5):

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Cabada, Davis and Dr Siebentritt

The division was declared against part 2 of the motion on the casting vote of the Lord Mayor

Part 3 of the motion was then put and carried

Councillor Snape requested that a division be taken on part 3 of the motion.

Division

For (7):

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon and Councillors Freeman, Giles, Maher, Martin, Dr Siebentritt and Snape

Against (3):

Councillors Abrahamzadeh, Cabada and Davis

The division was declared in favour of part 3 of the motion

## Closure

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Dr Jane Lomax-Smith  
Lord Mayor

Date of confirmation: