

2025/26 Business Plan & Budget - Receipt of Consultation Submissions

Tuesday, 10 June 2025
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

Program Contact:
Rebecca Hayes, Associate
Director Governance & Strategy

Public

Approving Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief
Operating Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of consultation responses to inform final decision-making ahead of its consideration of the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget at the Council meeting on Tuesday 24 June 2025.

At its meeting on 29 April 2025, Council endorsed the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget (BP&B) for the purpose of public consultation. Consultation on the Draft 2025/26 BP&B commenced at 9.00am on Tuesday 6 May 2025 and concluded at midnight on Tuesday 27 May 2025.

Consultation on the Draft 2025/26 BP&B provided ratepayers, key stakeholders and the wider community an opportunity to provide feedback. Key components of this consultation included informing and seeking feedback from the community on Council's services, programs, capital and strategic projects, updated fees and charges, changes to the Rating Policy and, Council's priorities to deliver on the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

Feedback on the Draft 2025/26 BP&B was provided in person to Council staff at drop-in sessions, via Council's online consultation platform Our Adelaide, and by email or in writing. As part of the consultation, 110 Our Adelaide surveys, 99 written submissions (letters and emails), and one verbal submission were received. Five community members elected to speak at the public hearing, held during the Council meeting on 27 May 2025.

An analysis of the feedback received is summarised in **Attachment A**. A copy of the feedback is provided in **Attachment B** (Our Adelaide surveys), **Attachment C** (written and verbal submissions), and **Attachment D** (in person feedback).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the consultation summary on the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget, as contained in Attachment A to Item 16.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on 10 June 2025, and that the outcomes may inform the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget that will be presented to the City Finance and Governance Committee on 17 June 2025 for recommendation to Council to adopt at its meeting on 24 June 2025.
2. Receives the feedback from the community on the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget, as contained in Attachments B, C & D to Item 16.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of Council held on 10 June 2025.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation Outcome – Financial Sustainability and Strategy, Value and Efficiency Focus on budget repair to ensure responsible financial management through the principle of intergenerational equity while delivering quality services.
Policy	Not as a result of this report.
Consultation	Public Consultation on the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget took place between 6 May and 27 May 2025.
Resource	Not as a result of this report.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Consultation has occurred in line with the requirements of Sections 123 and 151 of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> (SA) and Council's Community Consultation Policy.
Opportunities	To consider the outcomes of consultation on the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget to finalise the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget.
24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Proposed 25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report.
24/25 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report.
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report.

DISCUSSION

1. At its meeting on 29 April 2025, Council approved the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget (BP&B) for the purpose of public consultation.
2. The public consultation activities undertaken exceeded statutory requirements and offered a range of methods for our community to consider Council's Draft 2025/26 BP&B and provide feedback.
3. Consultation was focused on seeking the views of the community on Council's services, programs, capital and strategic projects, updated fees and charges, changes to the Rating Policy, and Council's priorities. The Draft 2025/26 BP&B focuses on delivering on City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028 by prioritising the following Key Actions:
 - 3.1. Supporting increased residential growth and housing affordability.
 - 3.2. Celebrating and elevating our community culture and multicultural communities by creating welcoming programs and services.
 - 3.3. Making electric vehicle charging available for users to improve Council and community performance on transport emissions.
 - 3.4. Creating innovative ways to create or convert underutilised areas to green space.
 - 3.5. Reinforcing the position of Adelaide as the State's central business district and amplifying Adelaide's reputation as a place to learn, work and start a business.
 - 3.6. Providing services and information that contribute towards a high productivity economy.
 - 3.7. Increasing active and diverse transport measures to ensure all City users can safely and easily move within the city.
 - 3.8. Encouraging repurposing and adaptive reuse of buildings and facilities.
 - 3.9. Creating, maintaining and integrating plans and policies that reflect and guide decision making to support our city and community to thrive.
 - 3.10. Attracting and retaining people with skills and behaviours which align with our organisational objectives and values.

Audit and Risk Committee Feedback

4. The Draft 2025/26 BP&B was also presented to the Audit and Risk Committee, at its meeting on 16 May 2025.
5. The Audit and Risk Committee provided feedback that [\[Link 1\]](#):
 - 5.1. The Committee was supportive of Council's proposal to introduce a minimum rate.
 - 5.2. The Committee considered that the Draft 25/26 Business Plan and Budget appropriately responds to the financial sustainability observations of the ESCOSA report.

Community Consultation

6. Public consultation on the Draft 2025/26 BP&B was undertaken from 6 May 2025 to 27 May 2025. During the consultation there were:
 - 6.1. 6,341 total visits to the Draft 2025/26 BP&B project page on Council's consultation platform, Our Adelaide.
 - 6.2. 110 survey forms were received, either online on Our Adelaide or as a hard copy.
 - 6.3. 99 written submissions were received via email or letter. Written submissions are defined as any feedback received in writing that does not follow the survey format.
 - 6.4. One verbal submission was received.
 - 6.5. Five representations were made by community members to Council at its public hearing held during the Council meeting on 27 May 2025.
 - 6.6. Approximately 95 people were engaged during the four in-person sessions held at the Adelaide Central Market, Meander Market – North Adelaide, Rundle Mall and the City Library – Rundle Mall.
7. The consultation sought feedback from City of Adelaide ratepayers and residents, community and key stakeholders.

8. The consultation was advertised through general channels, including:
 - 8.1. Legislatively required public notice in the South Australian Government Gazette, The Advertiser public notices and the City of Adelaide website.
 - 8.2. An article in the Adelaide Economic Development Agency, Adelaide Central Market, City of Adelaide Libraries and Community Centres' newsletters.
 - 8.3. Notifications and displays at Council's Customer Centre, libraries, and community centres.
 - 8.4. Council's social media, with 30 posts published across the City of Adelaide Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts – generating 52,153 views, with 3,742 people clicking to follow through to the link. An additional 5,856 people clicked the link through sponsored/paid posts on Facebook and Instagram.
 - 8.5. Council's digital assets, including external TV displays and Council's consultation platform Our Adelaide.
 - 8.6. 20,000 flyers were distributed to all properties in the city.
 - 8.7. 200 posters were distributed to city businesses for display (100 in English and 100 in Simplified Chinese).
9. Specific audiences were also targeted to seek feedback during the consultation period. This included:
 - 9.1. Over 9,000 direct emails to City of Adelaide ratepayers providing a link to the survey and information on how they could participate.
 - 9.2. Direct emails and letters (when emails were not available) to ratepayers potentially impacted by the introduction of a minimum rate of \$600.
 - 9.3. Direct emails to resident groups and precinct groups.
 - 9.4. Email newsletter sent to over 11,500 Our Adelaide subscribers in the first week of consultation, and inclusion in the Our Adelaide newsletter in the third week of consultation.
10. Numerous options for the community to provide comments were offered including:
 - 10.1. Hard copies of the survey available at various locations including the Customer Centre, libraries and community centres, along with provision of relevant documents for reference.
 - 10.2. Opportunities provided to request an in person meeting with Council staff to discuss and ask questions about the Draft 2025/26 BP&B.
 - 10.3. In person opportunities were available for the community to attend at the four Draft 2025/26 BP&B stalls, held at the Adelaide Central Market, North Adelaide, Rundle Mall and the City Library.
 - 10.4. A public hearing, as part of Council's ordinary meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2025, which was advertised on Council's website, Our Adelaide consultation page, the Government Gazette on 1 May 2025 and in the Advertiser on 2 May 2025.

Consultation Outcomes

11. A total of 210 pieces of feedback were received as part of the consultation. This was made up of 110 completed survey forms, 99 written submissions (emails and letters), and one verbal submission.
12. Some common themes emerged from the feedback received, which are summarised in the detailed summary and analysis of feedback contained in **Attachment A**.
13. The most prominent themes which emerged include:
 - 13.1. Rates (including proposed introduction of a minimum rate)
 - 13.2. Transport and parking
 - 13.3. Fees and charges (including parklets, outdoor dining and event road closures)
 - 13.4. Budget (including sponsorship to the Australia Day Council of South Australia)
 - 13.5. Projects
 - 13.6. Park Lands
 - 13.7. Subsidiaries
 - 13.8. Priorities
 - 13.9. Greening and environment

13.10.Economy and business

14. Copies of the feedback are provided in **Attachment B** (Our Adelaide surveys), **Attachment C** (written and verbal submissions) and **Attachment D** (in person feedback).
15. The Our Adelaide survey form asked about the level of support for the prioritised key actions, strategic projects, new and upgrade capital projects, proposed changes to the Rates Policy and proposed changes to fees and charges. The key findings based on the 110 completed forms are outlined below:
 - 15.1. 20.9% of respondents supported all the proposed Strategic Plan Key Actions prioritised for 2025/26, 62.7% supported some of the proposed Key Actions, 14.6% supported none of them and 1.8% did not provide a response.
 - 15.2. 17.3% of respondents supported all the proposed Strategic Projects, 58.2% supported some of the proposed projects, 13.6% supported none and 10.9% did not provide a response.
 - 15.3. 20.9% of respondents supported all the proposed New and Upgrade Capital projects for 2025/26, 53.7% supported some of the projects, 11.8% supported none of the projects and 13.6% did not provide a response.
 - 15.4. Respondents provided their opinion on the proposal to introduce a minimum rate in 2025/26. 27.3% agreed with the introduction of a proposed minimum rates, 26.3% were neutral, 38.2% disagreed and 8.2% did not provide a response to this question.
 - 15.5. Respondents provided their opinion on the changes to fees and charges for road closures of defined major roads during events for 2025/26. 30.9% agreed with Council's approach to road closure fees, 31.8% were neutral, 32.7% disagreed and 4.6% did not provide a response to the question.
 - 15.6. Additionally, respondents provided their opinion on the other changes to fees and charges for 2025/26. 14.6% supported all changes to fees and charges, 53.6% supported some of the changes, 24.5% supported none and 7.3% did not provide a response to the question.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1: [Audit and Risk Committee feedback on the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Consultation Summary

Attachment B – Our Adelaide Surveys

Attachment C – Written and Verbal Submissions

Attachment D – In Person Feedback

- END OF REPORT -