CITY OF ADELAIDE
DRAFT 2025/26 BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET AND RATING POLICY

Attachment A
CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Consultation on the City of Adelaide Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget (BP&B) and Rating Policy occurred between 6 May 2025 and 27 May 2025

During the consultation period, the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget project page on Our Adelaide had 6,341 visits.

A total of 110 Our Adelaide survey forms, 99 written submissions (email or letter), and one verbal submission were received. We also engaged with approximately 95 community members through in person opportunities during the consultation period.

This attachment provides a summary of the results from the Our Adelaide surveys and key themes that emerged across all feedback received.

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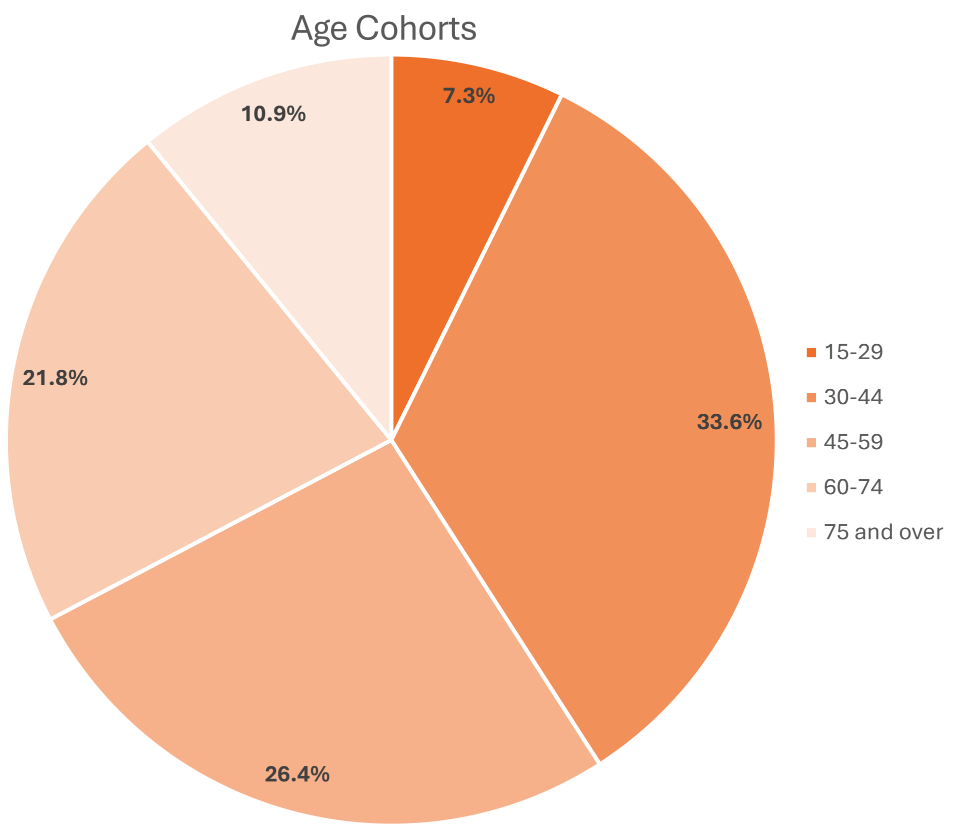
Attachment A - Consultation Summary

DRAFT 2025/26 BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET AND RATING POLICY

OUR ADELAIDE SURVEYS (110 responses)

Who did we hear from?

- 64.5% of respondents identified themselves as City of Adelaide ratepayers.
- People between 30 and 44 accounted for the largest age group (33.6%), followed by those aged between 45 and 59 (26.4%), and 60 to 74 (21.8%).
- Shop, work and play (leisure/recreation) were the main ways that respondents participated in city life.



Survey Results

Within the Our Adelaide survey, multiple-choice questions were asked to gauge the level of support for the proposed priorities, projects, and approach to rates and fees and charges.

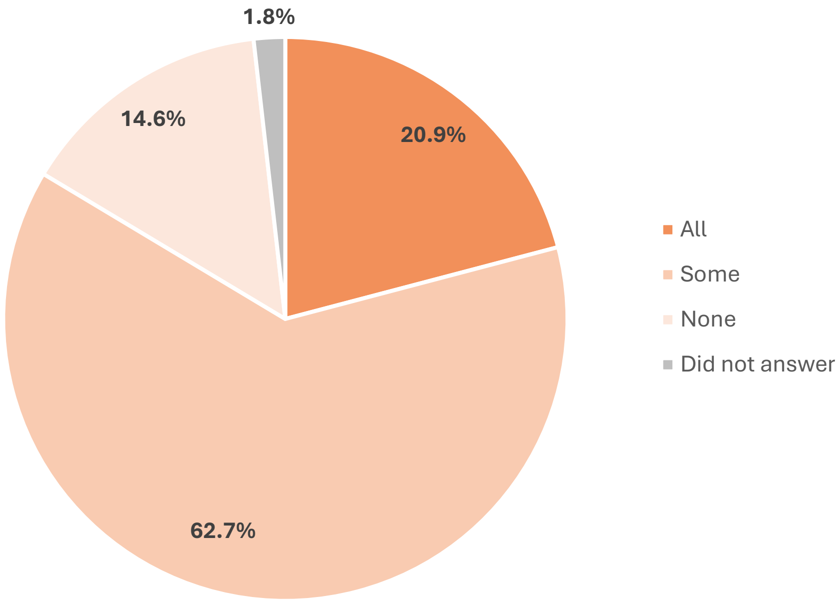
Prioritised Strategic Plan Key Actions

Question Asked

Do you support the key actions being prioritised for 2025/26?

Results

The majority of respondents (62.7%) indicated that they only supported some of the proposed Prioritised Strategic Plan Key Actions. Around one-fifth (20.9%) supported all the Key Actions while 14.6% did not support any of the Key Actions proposed.



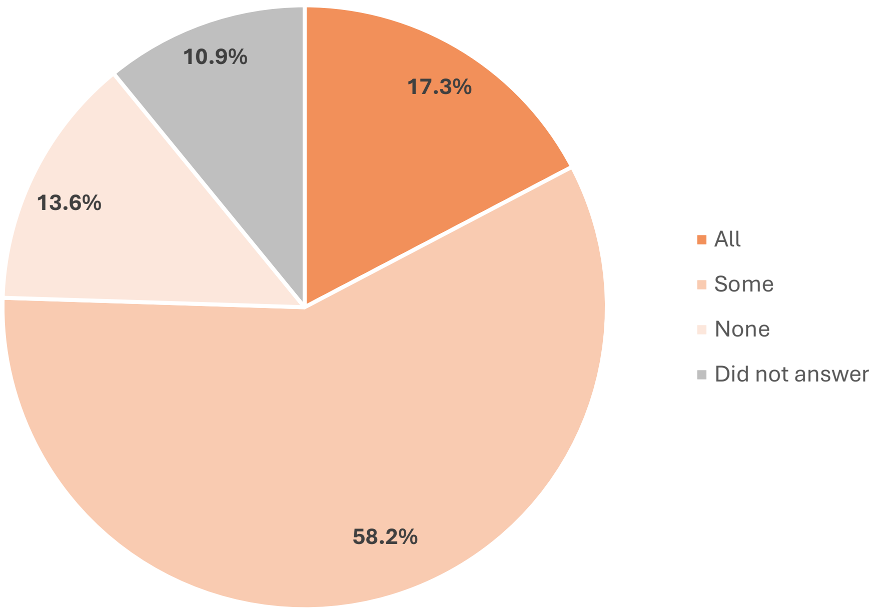
Strategic Projects

Question Asked

Do you support the proposed Strategic Projects for 2025/26?

Results

Over half of the respondents (58.2%) indicated that they only supported some of the proposed Strategic Projects, 17.3% indicated that they supported all the projects while 13.6% didn't support any of the projects proposed.



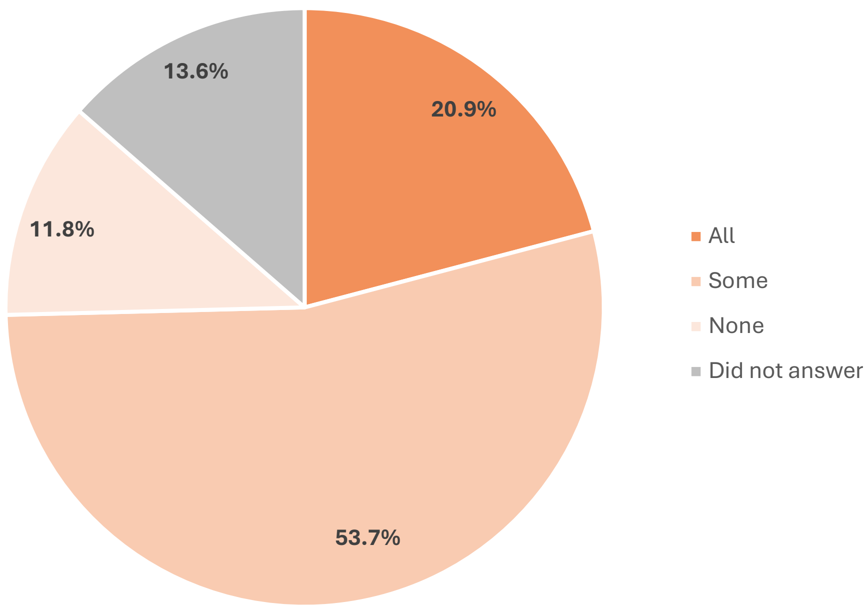
New and Upgrades Capital Projects

Question Asked

Do you support the proposed Capital Projects for 2025/26?

Results

Just over half (53.7%) of the respondents indicated their support for some of the proposed New and Upgrades Capital Projects, 20.9% indicated that they supported all the proposed projects and 11.8% did not support any of the capital projects proposed. This question also had the highest share of respondents who did not provide a response (13.6%).



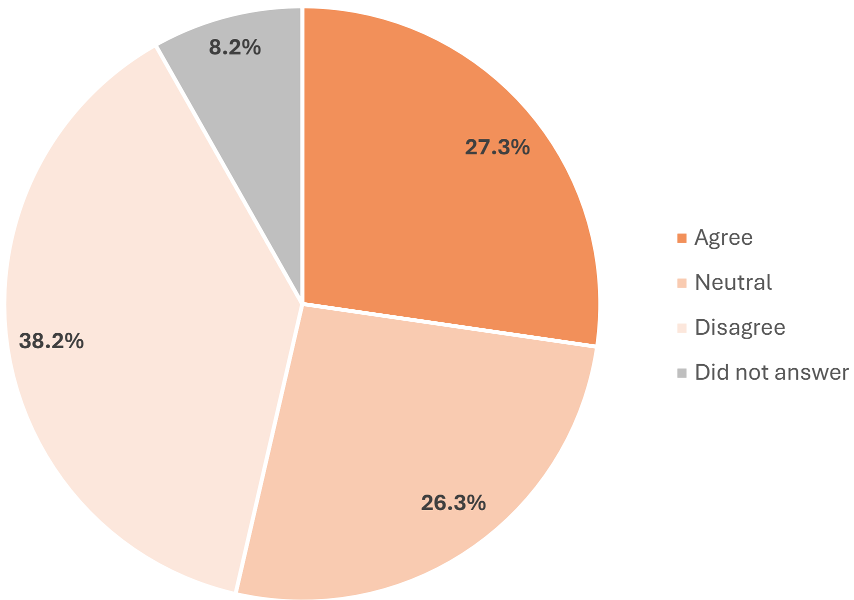
Proposed Changes to Rate Policy

Question Asked

Do you agree with/have comments about the proposed approach to charging minimum rates of $600?

Results

Responses around the proposed changes to the rate policy were mixed with the highest share of responses (38.2%) disagreeing with the proposed introduction of a minimum rate. There was a similar proportion of respondents who agreed or were neutral about the proposed change at 27.3% and 26.3% respectively.



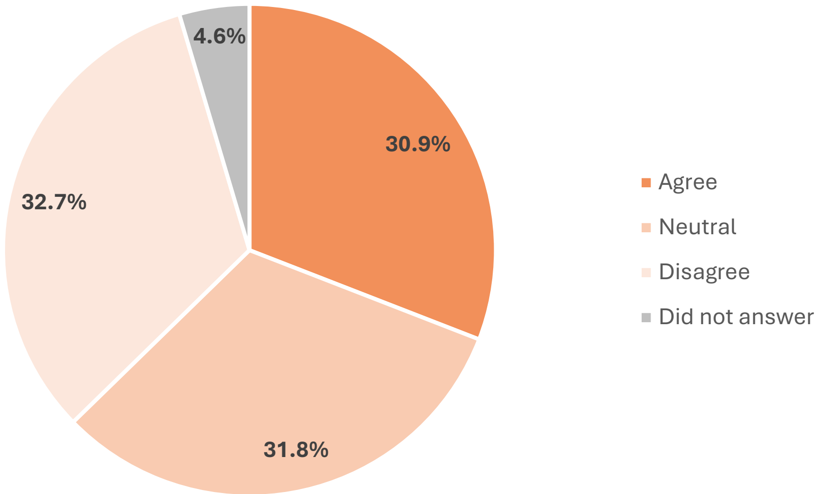
Proposed Changes to Fees and Charges

Question Asked

Do you support the City of Adelaide charging a daily rate for the closure of defined major roads during events?

Survey Results

The responses to charging a daily rate for the closure of major roads were mixed. Those who disagreed accounted for the largest share at 32.7%. This was marginally higher than the proportion of respondents who felt neutral (31.8%), or agreed with the proposed changes (30.9%).



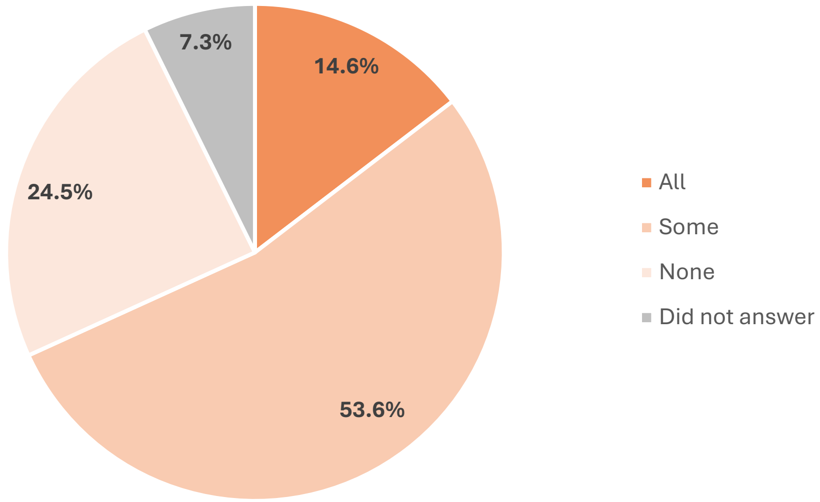
Proposed Changes to Fees and Charges (continued)

Question Asked

Do you agree with the other proposed changes to Fees and Charges?

Survey Results

Over half (53.6%) of the respondents agreed with some of the other proposed changes to fees and charges and 24.5% did not agree with any of the proposed changes. Only 14.6% agreed to all the proposed changes and 7.3% did not provide a response.



Key Themes

In addition to the questions above, respondents to the Our Adelaide online survey also had the opportunity to provide the reasoning for their indicated level of support as well as provide further comments.

The written and verbal submissions, and in person feedback received outside of the Our Adelaide online community engagement platform covered various topics across the Draft 2025/26 BP&B as well as changes to the Rating Policy. There were common themes identified across all the responses received with the key themes outlined below.

Rates

Just over a quarter (28%) of the responses received related to rates. Of these responses, two-thirds (67%) were on the proposed introduction of a minimum rate with the majority indicating that they were against this initiative. Examples of the feedback received included that the properties potentially impacted by the minimum rate do not necessarily access services (such as bin collection), it would be expensive and would impact resale value.

One of the comments suggested that properties such as carparks or offices near each other should be rated as one, instead of paying the minimum rate multiple times. Other suggestions included reducing the minimum rate to a lower amount, staging the introduction over multiple years, potentially using it as a way of reducing car-centricity, and only applying it to some property types.

With regards to the proposed rate increase, 60% were against the level of the increase and an increase in rates in general. Comments received were related to the proposed rate increase being too high and that it should be in line with CPI (Consumer Price Index) or WPI (Wage Price Index). Responses also mentioned that the rate burden on residents should be reduced, and that the proposed rate increase would exacerbate the existing cost of living pressures. There were also comments that indicated dissatisfaction with the valuation method used for owner-occupiers.

Other comments mentioned reducing the rate cap to 5%, further increasing rates for vacant properties, parking lots and short stays, and introducing incentives or discounts for older residents, those who pay strata fees or have solar installations.

Transport and Parking

Approximately 21% of the responses related to transport and parking with an even split of feedback between the two topics. Most of the feedback related to parking (65%) were concerned with the loss of carparks, particularly on O'Connell and Hutt Streets. There were specific mentions of the potential impact on businesses, accessibility concerns of removing car parking, cost of parking, and that there should be more free parking.

Comments around transport indicated support for active transport modes and that more investment was required in infrastructure such as separated bike paths, an east-west bike path connection, high quality and wider footpaths, and raised pedestrian crossings. There were also comments on public transport such as investing in the extension of the tram network, introducing a rail connection to the hills, and for the City Loop to run more frequently and later in the evenings.

Fees and Charges
Approximately 17% of responses received related to fees and charges, predominantly on the topic of parklets and outdoor dining fees and the proposed changes to event road closure fees.

Majority of the feedback received in relation to parklets and/or outdoor dining fees indicated a lack understanding of the difference between outdoor dining and parklets, commentary on the benefits of parklets and outdoor dining and requests for reduced fees and a consistent fee structure for all parklets.

In terms of the comments around event road closure fees, most responses were against the proposed changes to the fee model with only some responses indicating support. Commentary was also made generally on increasing costs facing the events sector and concerns that it could reduce the number and duration of events.

Just under a third of the fees and charges responses (30%) provided general feedback on other fees and charges changes. These comments were related to the impacts of raising rates above CPI and its impact on community and businesses and concerns around fees charged to access information from Council e.g. access to archives.

Budget (including sponsorship to the Australia Day Council of South Australia)
Around 21% of responses related to the actual budget with most of the feedback received relating to the budget for the Australia Day Council of South Australia (ADCSA), with strong representation from ADCSA Board and Corporate Members captured in this theme. Feedback received also included general comments on reducing Council expenditure overall and opposition to specific budget reductions in Arts and Culture grant funding and Adelaide Prize funding.

Projects
Approximately 12% of responses related to the proposed projects in the budget with the majority of this feedback relating to capital projects. Comments focussed on support for specific projects such as Mainstreet Revitalisation, capital works renewals and Park Lands buildings. There were also suggestions for additional funding and new projects such as the undergrounding of powerlines, additional investment in the west end, and on housing and economy related projects. Comments that were not supportive of the projects proposed mentioned O'Connell Street and Hutt Street revitalisation projects, Light Square masterplan, and the One Market development. There were also comments on the length of time required to deliver projects and Council's ability to deliver complex projects.

Only a couple of the comments received were related to strategic projects.

Park Lands
Approximately 11% of responses related to the Park Lands with two-thirds of this feedback being on the topic Adelaide Park Lands Association submission. This submission mentioned a variety of issues such as:

- Concerns around the size/footprint of buildings in the Park Lands to be upgraded
- Disappointment in lack of progress in Helen Mayo Park
- Returning Park Land areas back to green space
- Concern with reduced expenditure on Park Lands maintenance
- Partnering with Adelaide Park Lands Association for greening in the Park Lands

The remaining responses indicated general support for the Park Lands including additional investment, ensuring the protection of the Park Lands by minimising the impact of development, and that the Park Lands remain usable by all and are not closed for events.

Subsidiaries
Approximately 8% of all responses were related to Council's subsidiaries with most of this focussed on support for additional funding for the Adelaide Economic Development Agency.

Priorities
Approximately 6% of responses related to the 2025/26 priorities. These comments were broadly supportive of the proposed priorities with specific mentions of electric vehicle charging, culture, housing and request for greater clarification on the actions that would deliver on the priorities.

Other Themes
There was also a small proportion (15%) of feedback on the topics of environment and greening, economy and business, and on the Draft BP&B document itself.

Comments related to the environment and greening indicated high levels of general support for environmental and greening investment and projects, with some mentioning increased funding.

Comments related to the economy and business were focused on direct support for small businesses and the potential impacts of increased rates and fees.

Feedback on the Draft BP&B document were related to having clearer and more detailed project information, presentation of rate information, providing more detail on the priorities, major projects, and Long-Term Financial Plan. This would provide additional context and would facilitate a better understanding of the long-term impact of the proposed budget.

Another 15% of the responses provided other general feedback and covered topics such as cleanliness and safety in the city.