

# Councillor Davis - MoN - Council's role in supporting major events

Tuesday, 23 June 2026  
Council

**Council Member**  
Councillor Henry Davis

Public

**Contact Officer:**  
Jo Podoliak, Director City  
Community

## MOTION ON NOTICE

**Councillor Henry Davis will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:**

That Council:

1. Notes recent public commentary regarding the proposed MotoGP event and the role of the City of Adelaide in relation to major events held in the city and Park Lands.
2. Reaffirms its strong support for major events that bring visitors, economic activity, vibrancy, jobs and energy into the City of Adelaide.
3. Recognises that major events are an important part of Adelaide's identity as a festival, sporting, cultural and tourism city.
4. Recognises that the State Government has a legitimate role in pursuing major events for the benefit of South Australia, and that the City of Adelaide has an important role in helping ensure those events are successfully integrated into the city.
5. Affirms that Council's role is not simply to oppose or support events in the abstract, but to:
  - a. advocate for residents and local businesses;
  - b. protect the Adelaide Park Lands and areas of environmental sensitivity;
  - c. ensure proper consultation and transparency;
  - d. minimise disruption where possible;
  - e. support city traders, hospitality operators, hotels and venues to benefit from major events;
  - f. help prepare the city so that major events are safe, successful and well managed.
6. Affirms that the Adelaide Park Lands are held for the benefit of the whole community, including city residents, metropolitan Adelaide, regional South Australians and visitors to the state.
7. Confirms that Council does not oppose, in principle, major motorsport and major sporting events being held in Adelaide, provided that proper information is supplied, residents and businesses are consulted, environmental impacts are properly managed, and the city is prepared to host the event successfully.
8. Requests the Chief Executive Officer write to the Premier, the Minister for Tourism, the South Australian Tourism Commission and relevant State Government agencies to:
  - a. confirm Council's willingness to work constructively with the State Government on major events;
  - b. seek detailed information about the proposed MotoGP event, including proposed location, timing, infrastructure, road closures, tree impacts, Park Lands impacts, butterfly conservation impacts, resident impacts, business impacts, noise management and economic benefits;
  - c. request the establishment of a joint working group between the State Government and Council to ensure the city is properly prepared.

9. Requests Administration prepare a report for Council on how the City of Adelaide can better support major events, including opportunities for local businesses, city activation, resident communication, transport management, cleaning, safety, parking, wayfinding and post-event restoration.
  10. Notes that the Adelaide City Council is a council that says yes to major opportunities while also protecting residents, businesses and the Park Lands through proper planning, transparency and practical delivery.
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## ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. The City of Adelaide (CoA) recognises that major events are an important and valued part of Adelaide and South Australia's civic, cultural and economic life.
2. The CoA supports major events in the City through several of its strategies and policies, including the CoA Strategic Plan 2024- 2028, Economic Development Strategy, Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy and the Cultural Policy.
3. In the 2025/26 financial year to date, the CoA has facilitated and approved 184 major events, at an average of 3.4 events per week, including major events such as the AFL Gather Round live site, Santos Tour Down Under, Tasting Australia and the National Pharmacies Christmas Pageant.
4. In addition, the CoA also delivers major events annually including New Years Eve, East End Unleashed, Anzac Day, the Christmas Tree Lighting Event and many other initiatives through the place making and City Activation programs.
5. CoA also assists the State Government in coordinating State events including the Opening of Parliament, the Voice to Parliament and events celebrating the successes of South Australia's Olympians and sporting teams.
6. Under the CoA 'Adelaide Event Guidelines', a 'Major Event' is defined as any event with an anticipated attendance of over 1,500 people at any one time, held in the City's Park Lands or roadways.
7. A Major Event under the *Major Events Act 2013* is defined as any event declared by the Minister to be a major event, for the purposes of the Act.
8. The CoA has a key role in approving the use of the CoA Park Lands and roads for events, under the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA).
9. The CoA's Major Event Facilitators work collaboratively with the State Government, event organisers and key stakeholders to coordinate successful events that align with legislative requirements, Council policies and community expectations. They provide guidance, support and strategic advice to enable events across the city's streets, roads and Park Lands, helping to grow Adelaide's cultural vibrancy, strengthen its reputation, and enhance its recognition as a leading events destination.
10. The CoA is a member of the State Government's Major Event Group (MEG) The last MEG meeting was held in August 2025. The MEG is a consultative group that provides a forum to:
  - 10.1. support the State Government's endeavour to maximise the economic and community outcomes of the major events calendar
  - 10.2. provide a forum to share ideas about growing major events in line with the 2030 Tourism Plan (in particular the Events & Festivals Strategy), and
  - 10.3. share insights for the benefit of all events.

### **Council's Financial Support for Major Events**

11. The CoA, through the Adelaide Economic Development Agency (AEDA), provides approximately \$2 million each year through its Events and Festivals Sponsorship Program to support the staging of medium and major public-facing events that generate vibrancy and economic activity within the City.
12. All events registered with the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) digital platform are promoted through the Experience Adelaide newsletter that is distributed to its 125,000 subscribers each week and through AEDA's social media channels.

- 12.1. For some events, such as the Chihuly Exhibition at the Botanic Gardens or the 2025 British & Irish Lions rugby tour, AEDA will work with event organisers to increase the engagement of businesses with those opportunities.
- 12.2. For other events, such as the Santos Tour Down Under, a heightened presence of visitor information services is provided to assist visitors to connect more deeply with the City.
13. The CoA also funds strategic partnerships and grants to major events, including the annual Australia Day Event Program and the Lunar New Year Street Party.
14. During the Adelaide Fringe period, the CoA delivers East End Unleashed to enhance the City's offering at that time and create additional benefits to businesses and visitors.
15. The following Council decisions made in this term of Council are examples of having provided support to major events in the City:
  - 15.1. On 9 July 2024 Council approved multiyear event licences to be issued to 23 major events, providing the ability for longer term planning by event organisers.
  - 15.2. On [19 January 2026](#) council noted its longstanding support for the Adelaide Writers Festival and the impacts of the cancellation of the 2026 event. Council resolved to 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.
  - 15.3. This Council has supported Harvest Rock to be held in the city in 2023, 2024 and 2025, including approving the use of Park Lands and the closure of a major city road.
16. In this term of Council, CoA spent \$389,636 to upgrade Light Square with additional power to better service events held in the West End.
17. Council previously invested approximately \$4.5 million in capital projects to upgrade the Eastern Park Lands with event-specific power, sewer and water. These services are used by a range of major events each year.

### **Public Consultation and Engagement**

18. Supporting events and managing their impacts are necessary to maintain Adelaide's reputation as a vibrant, liveable and welcoming festival City. The CoA welcomes events that activate our streets, spaces and Park Lands, while recognising the importance of responsible planning, accessibility, sustainability and stewardship to protect the character, amenity and long-term value of our shared places.
19. The CoA facilitates ongoing public consultation to ensure major events can be delivered successfully in the City. This includes engagement with residents, businesses and other stakeholders to ensure any disruptions that may be caused by an event occurring in the City can be minimised, in acknowledgement of the economic and cultural and social value these events bring to the City.
20. In June 2024, Council requested that the South Australian Motorsport Board (SAMSB) convene a working group with CoA representatives to discuss approaches to minimise Park Lands occupation and maximise public access during the Prescribed Works Period, starting in 2024/25 ahead of the 2025 edition of the event. This working group collaboratively discusses operational matters related to the impacts and opportunities of SAMSB motor sport events in the City, particularly the Adelaide Grand Final.
21. The CoA has written to the State Government through the SAMSB on two occasions, seeking a briefing on plans for the 2027 Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix MotoGP™ (MotoGP™) event.
22. Following a Council decision on [9 June 2026](#), the City of Adelaide will facilitate and support a representative Eastern Park Lands Community Reference Group, to bring together a diverse range of community perspectives and articulate key community concerns and views on the impacts of motor sport events in the Adelaide Park Lands to the SAMSB and the State Government.
23. CoA staff continue to work with East End residents, businesses (including the East End Coordination Group), emergency services, and relevant State Government departments to monitor, review and manage activities associated with the Adelaide Fringe period in the East End.

## Next Steps

24. Should Council resolve to support the proposed Motion:

24.1. Administration will prepare a report for Council on how the City of Adelaide can better support major events in the City.

24.2. Administration will draft a letter from the Lord Mayor to the Premier, the Minister for Tourism and the South Australian Tourism Commission to:

24.2.1. Affirm Council's willingness to work constructively with the State Government on major events.

24.2.2. Seek detailed information about the proposed MotoGP™ event, including proposed location, timing, infrastructure, road closures, tree impacts, Park Lands impacts, Butterfly Conservation Zone impacts, resident impacts, business impacts, noise management and economic enefits.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not applicable
External consultant advice	Not applicable
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	Not applicable
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Approximately 40 hours.
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 4.5 hours.

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