

Draft Annual Business Plan 2026-27 and Budget



We'd like to share with the community our Draft Annual Business Plan 2026-27.

This important document is currently open for community feedback. Does it cover what is important to you?

The Draft Annual Business Plan (ABP) 2026-27 continues the process of underpinning our long-term financial sustainability while maintaining and improving the facilities and services our community deserves.

The ABP is our way to ensure that we continue to develop and maintain essential infrastructure services such as roads, footpaths, bridges, public toilets and open spaces as well as providing important services including libraries, health, planning, support services and waste collection.



Key considerations

The key focus in preparing the 2026-27 budget has been to balance financial sustainability with the delivery of essential services and community infrastructure.

Considerations include:

- Responding to ongoing cost pressures, including increased infrastructure, depreciation and finance costs in a challenging economic environment;
- Maintaining, rationalising and renewing a large portfolio of community assets;
- Taking a disciplined approach to expenditure, including reducing new initiatives compared to previous years;
- Supporting community priorities through targeted investments in safety, accessibility and connectivity;
- Returning to surplus in the coming years and achieving the goals of the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Capital project highlights

- \$675,000 on the Amy Gillett Bikeway connection at Station Road, Woodside.
- \$400,000 on new footpath program.
- \$240,000 on school safety and activation at Lenswood and Stirling East.
- \$75,000 on enhancements to existing electrical vehicle charging infrastructure.



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Our Rates

Rates revenue is Council's primary source of income, raised from property owners to fund the delivery of services, infrastructure, and community outcomes.

The draft plan reflects a rate increase in line with CPI plus 1.5 per cent to manage the Council's 800m portfolio of infrastructure assets and deliver \$2.2 million in key capital expenditure.

An additional 1.5 per cent is proposed as the Council continues the process of ensuring long term financial sustainability. This is reflective of the cost of maintaining legacy infrastructure, higher depreciation and increased finance costs against a background of challenging economic and geopolitical conditions.

The combined proposed rate increase of 7.6% equates to approximately \$223 for an average value residential property.

Note: This draft plan is based on the March quarter CPI figure (4.6%). Recognising inflation eased in the April quarter, Council will reassess in line with latest CPI data at the conclusion of the consultation period and this may influence the final rate that is adopted.

We want to hear from you

Your feedback on the draft ABP 2026-27 is appreciated, and all feedback received during the engagement period will be considered, prior to the plan being finalised.

You can view the draft ABP 2026-27 online at Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub or copies are available for viewing in our libraries and customer service centres at Stirling, Woodside, Gumeracha and Norton Summit.

Sharing your feedback

Once you have reviewed the draft plan, you can provide your feedback in one of the following ways:

- Complete the online feedback form at engage.ahc.sa.gov.au or via the QR code below.
- Email feedback to engage@ahc.sa.gov.au.
- Mail feedback to 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152.
- Phone 8408 0400.
- Present at the public Council Meeting being held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 23 June 2026.
- Collect a hardcopy feedback form from any AHC Library or Customer Service Centre and submit via any of the ways listed above or by handing into our Council Service Centres or Libraries

This engagement closes at 5pm on Monday 6 July 2026.

