

Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget

Community Engagement Outcomes Report

June 2025



Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

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1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents feedback received during community engagement with residents between 21 May and 11 June 2025 regarding our Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 (ABP) and Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40 (LTFP). This report will be made available to those who participated in the consultation on Council's Engagement Platform after the final Annual Business Plan is adopted.

The consultation comprised an opportunity for the Community to provide feedback via hardcopy and online feedback form, email, letter, social media, phone contact and presentation at a public Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 10 June 2025, 6:30 - 7:30pm at the Stirling Council Chamber. A copy of information provided on Council's Engagement Platform and feedback form is available in Appendix A.

A total of 62 Participants provided feedback on Council's Draft ABP 2025-26 and LTFP 2026-40. 46 Respondents provided their feedback by online submission form. A further 12 participants provided a response by email or in writing. Three participants provided a deputation or public presentations at a Council Meetings during the engagement period. Two participants provided feedback via phone call, and one attended an engagement drop-in session.

Comments received through submission forms and emails in relation to the Draft ABP and LTFP have been summarised in Appendix B along with Council responses.

All online feedback responses are provided in Appendix C.

All email and letter submissions are provided in Appendix D.

All public presentation submissions are provided in Appendix E.

Social media posts, email blasts and advertisements are provided in Appendix F.

2 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT

2.1 BACKGROUND

The purpose of the engagement was to determine the community's level of support for our Draft ABP and LTFP, including their level of support for our focus areas, long-term capital investments and level of agreement with our proposed cost savings initiatives.

The engagement process provided information regarding our Draft ABP and LTFP including a list of project highlights for 2025/26 that link to our Your Place Your Space Strategic Plan 2024 and proposed investments for building new or upgrading existing assets of almost \$10M over the first five years of the LTFP plan.

Feedback received during the engagement period, will assist Council to finalise the ABP 2025-26 and LTFP 2026-40

2.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

A community engagement plan was developed, and engagement was undertaken with the Community over 22 days from Wednesday 21 May to Wednesday 11 June 2025.

Consultation was undertaken in accordance with Section 122 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Council's *Public Consultation Policy*.

2.3 ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The Council's engagement approach aimed to provide information and collect and collate community feedback about people's level of support for the Draft ABP and Draft LTFP including their level of support for the ABP highlights, feedback on cost saving initiatives and specific projects listed in the plan, level of agreement within LTFP strategies and support for long term capital investments.

Feedback could be provided via an online or hardcopy submission form, email, mail, phone or in person at the Ordinary Council Meeting held from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on Tuesday, 10 June 2025.

A simple submission form was developed and provided online and in hardcopy format. It contained 19 questions, including both closed and open style questions and demographic questions.

Anyone could participate in the consultation with submission forms and information made available online and in hard copy at our customer service centres and libraries in Gumeracha, Stirling, Woodside and Norton Summit.

Community drop-in sessions were offered at our Stirling, Woodside and Gumeracha Libraries and the opportunity to present was offered at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 10 June 2025.

Time and date	Location	Details
Monday 2 June 10.00am – 3.00pm	Stirling Coventry Library Centre 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling	In person session
Wednesday 4 June 11.00am – 4.00pm	Woodside Library 26 Onkaparinga Valley Rd, Woodside	In person session
Tuesday 10 June 12noon – 4.00pm	Gumeracha Library 45 Albert St, Gumeracha	Session was cancelled due to staff illness. Community members had the option to leave their contact details and receive a return phone call.
Tuesday 10 June 6:30pm – 7:30pm	Ordinary Council Meeting Stirling Council Chamber 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling	In person meeting

A copy of information provided, and the submission form is included in Appendix A.

2.4 DISTRIBUTION AND PROMOTION

The opportunity to provide feedback was promoted through a number of channels including:

- Advertisement in the Courier (21 May)
- Adelaide Hills Council Website and Community Engagement Hub Page
- Email via Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub (2,168)
- Email Campaign via campaign monitor to community and sporting groups (164)
- Email to Mayor and Elected Members to share including an engagement toolkit
- Messages on hold (AHC customer phone service)
- Social media posts (Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn)

- Hardcopy information and submission forms available at customer service centres and libraries and information evenings at Gumeracha, Stirling, Woodside and Norton Summit.
- Email and social media promotion statistics are presented below:

Media	Number of posts	Unique impressions (viewed / reached)	Engagement (reaction, comment, share or opening link)
Facebook	3	1,348	77
Linked In	2	385	17
Instagram	2	401	18
X	2	55	2
Email Engagement Hub	1 (2168 recipients)	1,102	81
Email Campaign Monitor	1 (164 recipients)	82	5

All email blasts, advertisements and posts are provided in full in Appendix E.

3 PARTICIPANTS

This section provides details about participation during the engagement period and demographic information about respondents who completed a submission and/or provided an email.

Engaged Participants are considered to be those who were not only aware of and informed about the consultation process but who also chose to provide their feedback. The number of aware and informed people who chose not to provide feedback is presented within the table below:

Table 1 Aware, informed and engaged community

	Email	Social media	EHQ Platform
Aware <i>Sighted information that the consultation was open</i>	1184	2,189	269
Informed <i>Accessed information via visiting multiple sites or downloading information</i>	86	114	166
Engaged <i>Provided feedback</i>	Unknown		46

Table 2 Engagement document downloads

Document	Number of downloads
Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26	133
Draft long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40	57
Draft Capital Works Program 2025-26	15

3.1 PARTICIPATION RATE

The following table displays the level of engaged participation.

Table 3 Level of Participation

Activity	Number Participating
Online submissions	46
Hardcopy submission	0
Written response –email and letter submissions *3 emails from 1 respondent who also completed a survey. 1 email was also received as a letter.	15
Representation at Ordinary Council Meeting *1 respondent also wrote feedback letter	3
Phone calls	2
Drop-in session	1
TOTAL CONSULTATION PARTICIPATION *with 4 duplicates removed	62

3.2 PARTICIPANT CHARACTERISTICS

Demographic data was collected from Respondents on the suburb/township in which they lived, their age range and what their connection was to the hills.

Respondents Suburb

Respondents were asked if they could provide the suburb/township in which they resided. This was a mandatory question within the feedback survey resulting in 46 submission responses. Suburbs could also be identified for 12 email, letter and presentation submissions.

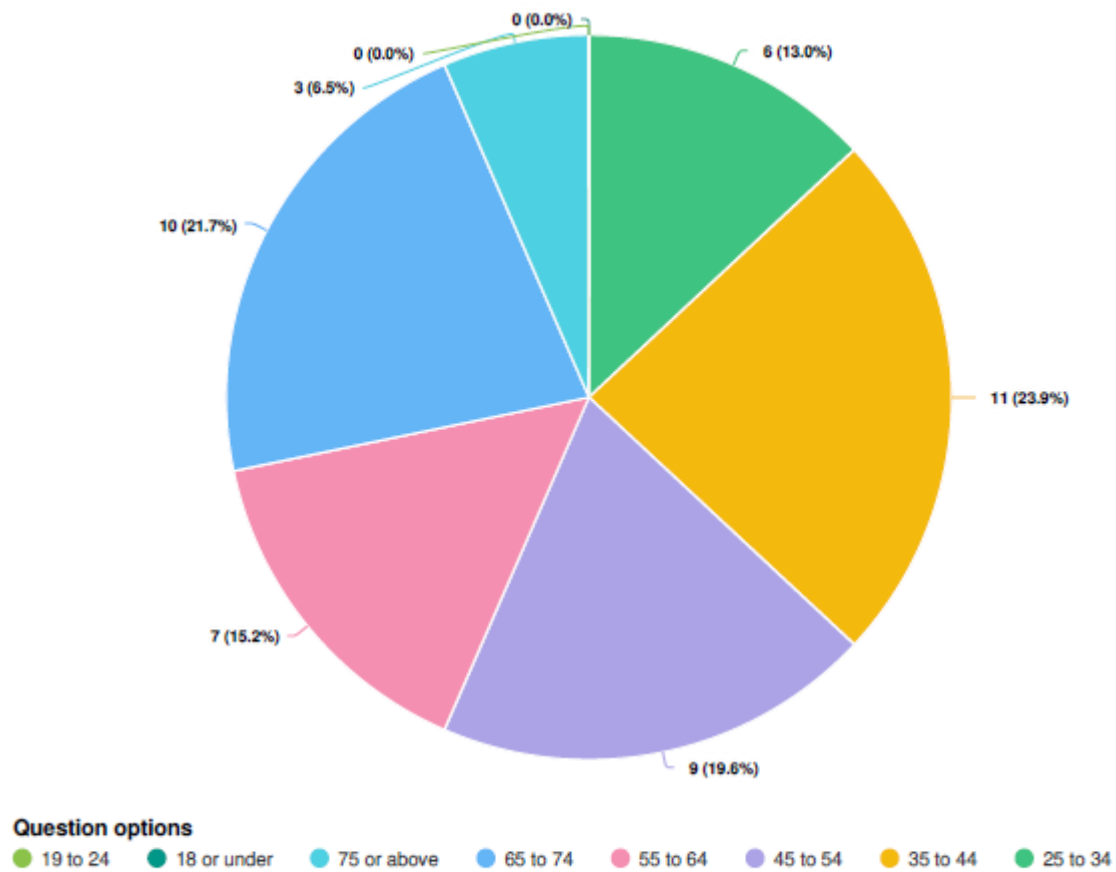
Table 4 Participant Suburbs

Suburb / Township	No. of Participants
Inglewood	6
Lobethal	6
Balhannah	5
Woodside	5
Oakbank	4
Houghton	4
Aldgate	3
Bridgewater	3
Lower Hermitage	2
Gumeracha	2
Nairne	1
Mylor	1
Lenswood	1
Birdwood	1
Ashton	1
Vista	1
Paracombe	1
Upper Hermitage	1
Forreston	1
Tea Tree Gully	1
Mount Torrens	1
Stirling	2
Crafers	1
Uraidla	1
Verdun	1
Cudlee Creek	1
Adelaide	1
NA	4
TOTAL	62

Respondents Age Range

Respondents were asked to select their age range. This was a mandatory question within the feedback form with 46 submission responses. As seen in the chart over the page the highest response rates came from the 35-44 age group (n=11), 65 to 74 age group (n=10) and the 45-54 age group (n=9).

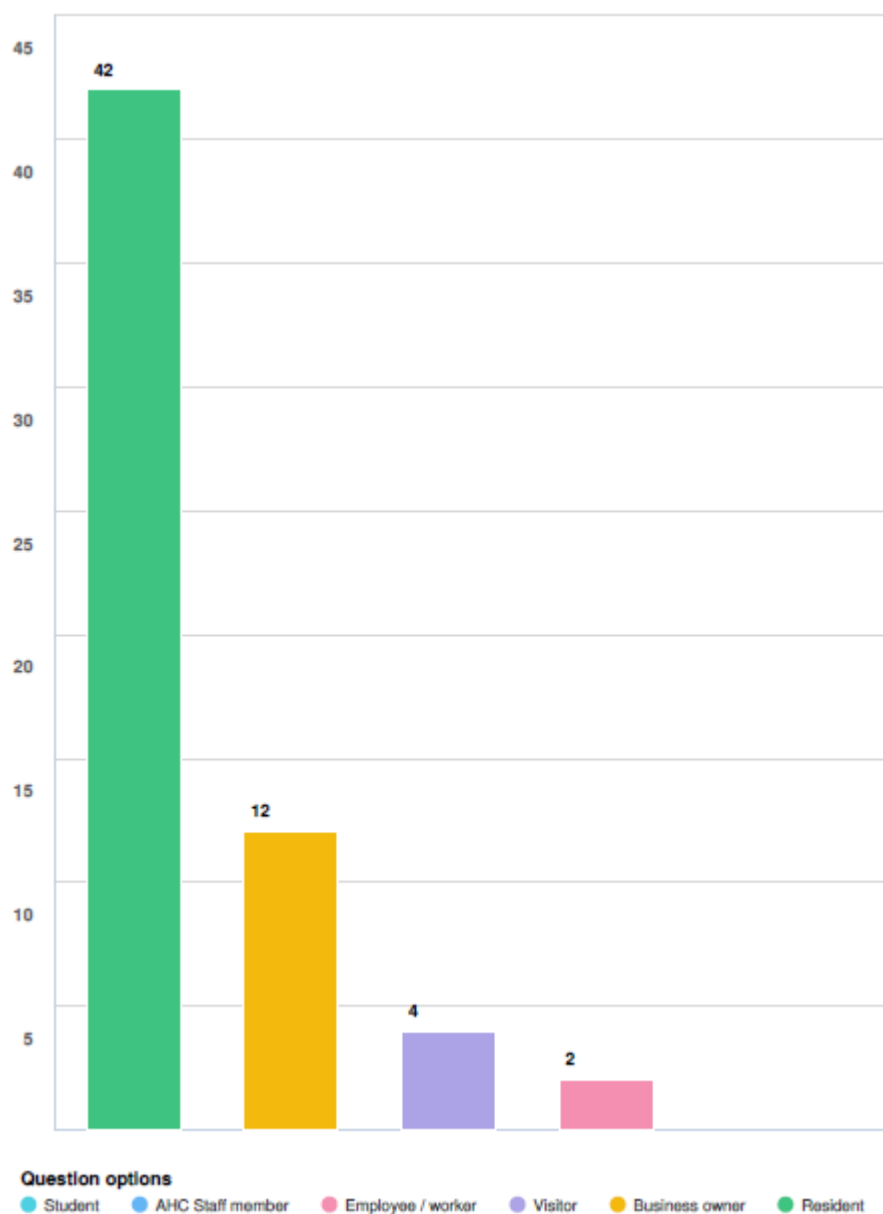
Chart 1 Respondents Age Range



Respondents Connection to the Hills

Respondents were asked what their connection was to the Hills. This was a mandatory question within the feedback form with 46 submission responses. As seen below most respondents (n=42) were residents of the Adelaide Hills Council area.

Chart 2 Respondents Connection to the Hills



4 ONLINE FEEDBACK

46 online responses were received as part of this consultation. Analysis of questions in the submission form on the Draft ABP and LTFP are provided below.

4.1 WHO READ THE DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

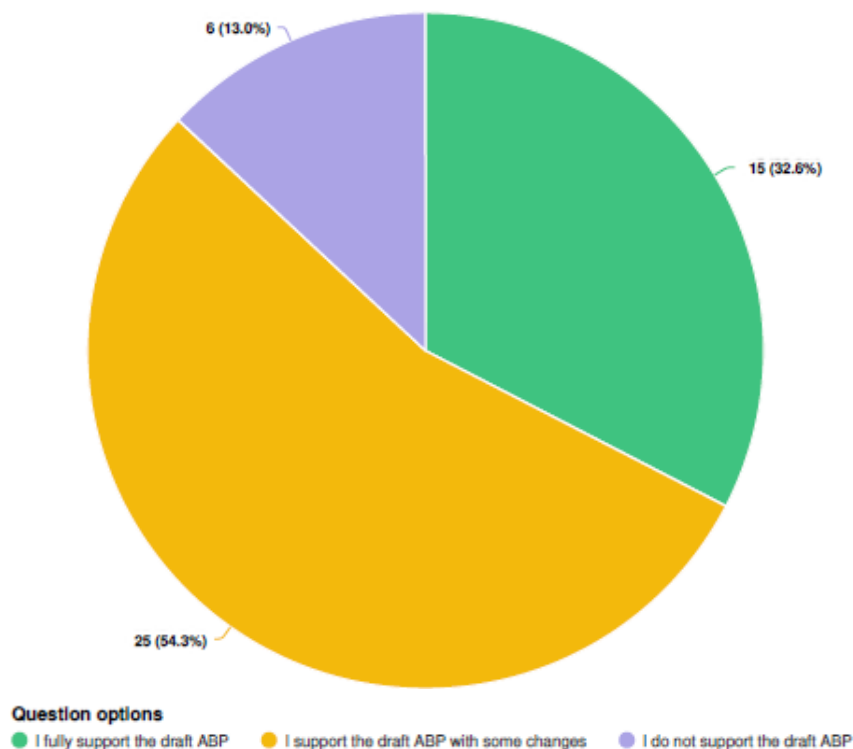
Respondents were asked if they had read the Draft ABP. This was a mandatory question with 46 respondents. All 46 responded answered that they had read the Draft ABP.

4.2 LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

Respondents were asked to what extent they supported the Draft ABP. This was a mandatory question with 46 respondents. Responses are presented below:

- 54% (n=25) supported the Draft ABP with some changes
- 33% (n=15) said they fully supported the Draft ABP.
- 13% (n=6) did not support the Draft ABP

Chart 3 *Respondents Level of Support for the Draft ABP*



Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer. All 46 respondents chose to provide comments, and these have been broken down below by level of support selected.

Key themes of comments from respondents who fully support the Draft ABP:

- Support for Sustainable Site Planning at Johnston Memorial Park, Balhannah (14)
- Woorabinda Reserve – keen to see fixing of trail at end of Branch Rd

Key themes of comments from respondents who support the Draft ABP with some changes:

- Requests for funding support for Houghton Hub development (14)
- Reinstate TDU funding / Effects of removal of TDU support on Hills economy and community (2)
- Increase budget for Community Emissions Reduction, Township planning framework and housing strategy (2)
- Delays / deferral of essential works is not cost savings / don't support deferred playground renewals (2)
- Draft ABP and LTFP are responsible financial approaches to managing the challenges faced by AHC.
- Support for Housing Strategy / increased budget for Housing Strategy
- Ensuring funding to all areas within AHC
- Public Toilet Norton Summit – upgrade toilet facility not just septic system
- More funding for bike track maintenance

Key themes of comments from respondents who do not support the Draft ABP:

- Concerns regarding cost deficit and continued borrowings (2)
- Reduce budgets for capital and operational works (2)
- Not enough spending in Paracombe, Inglewood and Houghton (2)
- Reduce costs by reducing staff levels
- Delays / deferral of essential works is not cost savings
- Effects of rate increase on residents
- Financial information lacking / uncertainty about cost projections / estimates
- Not enough spending on sport and recreation facilities

4.3 LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THE ABP HIGHLIGHTS

Respondents were asked to select their level of support for 14 'highlights' that were listed on page 12 of the Draft ABP 2025-26 showcasing our focus for 2025-26. The highlights ranged from business-as-usual focuses to new capital initiatives. Respondents had the option to select their preferred level of support for each item from a scale of very supportive to very unsupportive.

Presented in Chart 4 is the ratings provided by the 41 respondents who chose to complete this question.

Highlights with highest level of support:

- Collaboration with Adelaide Hills Tourism to promote and support tourism across our region
- Advocating for key economic development issues in the region with other levels of government
- Increasing community connection through forums

Highlights with most neutral responses:

- Pursuing our adopted pathway to achieving corporate carbon neutral emissions
- Continuing implementation of actions from Our Watch's "Prevention Toolkit for Local Government"

Highlights with lower levels of support:

- Expanding the Fabrik Arts + Heritage Hub operations following its redevelopment
- Implementing technology upgrades to the Customer Relationship Management system to enhance the customer experience through easier online services and improved communication and response times

Chart 4 Level of support for ABP highlights



4.4 FEEDBACK ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES

Respondents were asked if they would like to provide feedback on a specific project or initiative featured in the Draft ABP. Below is a summary of responses from respondents who chose to complete this question.

Sustainable Site Planning at Johnston Memorial Oval (4)

- Support for study that will allow planning for a community facility that meets current standards, increase community participation, benefit whole community for years to come.

Drainage and irrigation of oval

- Lack of funding for Stirling and Gumeracha upgrades included in 2025-26

Housing Strategy

- Increase budget for Housing Strategy

Fabrik Operations

- Allocate staff time to develop alternative income models including grant writing, sponsorship and donor relationship. This could allow for reduction in prices to attend workshops to make more accessible.

Woodside Recreation Grounds amenity lighting

- Required to increase community use and safety

4.5 ANY OTHER FEEDBACK ABOUT THE DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

Respondents were asked if they wanted to provide any other feedback on the Draft ABP. 19 respondents chose to provide comments.

Key themes of comments:

- Requests for funding support for Houghton Hub development (14)
- More information about capital projects
- Reduce project management costs
- Ensuring equitable funding across all areas

4.6 LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Respondents were asked if they wanted to provide feedback on the Draft LTFP. 8 respondents selected to provide feedback as presented below:

- 50% (n=4) supported the Draft LTFP with some changes
- 50% (n=4) did not support the Draft LTFP

Respondents were asked to tell us more about their answer. All 8 respondents chose to provide comments, and these have been summarised below:

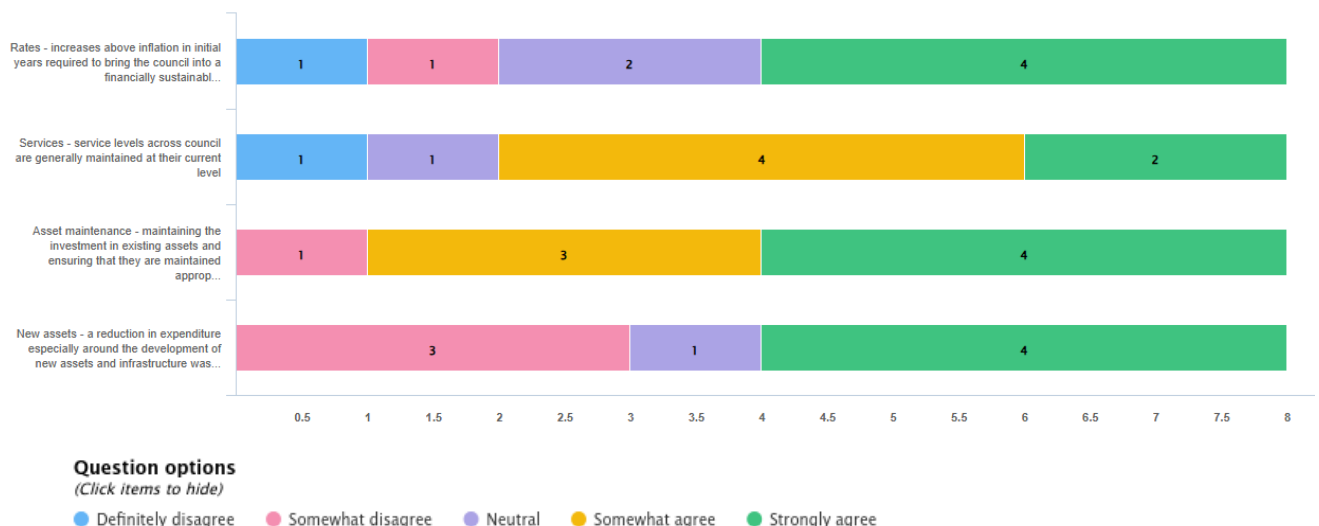
- Concerns about accuracy of asset renewal costs, capital estimates, operating deficit, continued borrowing (5)
- Don't support rate increase due to lawyer fees, accounting entries and reduced staff
- Extra pressure on households / effect of rate increases on households
- Priority should be on delivering essential services not new initiatives
- More funding for bike riding facilities and ongoing maintenance

4.7 LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH STRATEGIES PROPOSED WITHIN THE DRAFT LTFP

Respondents were asked to select their level of agreement with four strategies proposed on page 9 of the Draft LTFP and what they meant for the community. Respondents had the option to select their preferred level of agreement for each item from a scale of definitely agree to definitely disagree.

Presented in Chart 5 is the ratings provided by the 8 respondents who chose to complete this question.

Chart 5 *Level of agreement with LTFP strategies*

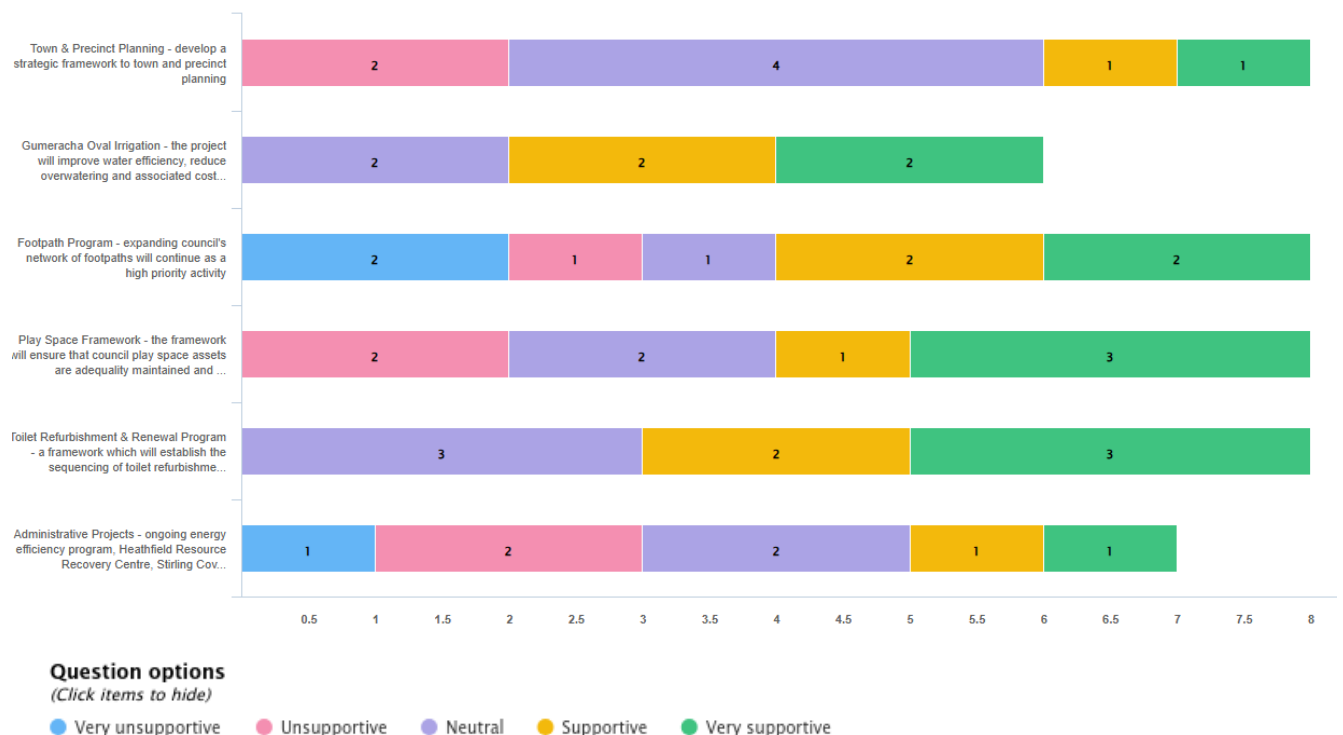


4.8 LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR LTFP CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

Respondents were asked to select their level of support for 6 long term capital investment initiatives listed on page 10 of the Draft LTFP. Respondents had the option to select their preferred level of support for each item from a scale of very supportive to very unsupportive.

Presented in Chart 6 is the ratings provided by the eight respondents who chose to complete this question.

Chart 6 Level of support for LTFP capital investments



4.9 ANY OTHER FEEDBACK ABOUT THE DRAFT LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Respondents were asked if they wanted to provide any other feedback on the Draft LTFP. Four respondents chose to provide comments.

Themes of comments:

- LTFP needs to be redone
- I can only see rates I pay being spent in communities that I have no involvement in
- I don't know enough about some of the projects to comment
- I'll provide comments separately

5 EMAIL AND WRITTEN FEEDBACK

There were five emails, and ten letters received during the engagement period.

Some letters were received directly by the South Australia Tourism Commission and then forwarded to Adelaide Hills Council to be included as part of our community engagement findings.

Three emails were received from an Elected Members with two of these emails forwarding feedback received during conversations with residents. One email received was a duplication of a letter also received.

Feedback themes received and issues raised via email and letters, included:

- Support for continued funding of the Santos Tour Down Under (9)
- More funding for footpath, trails and active travel improvements and specific footpath requests (4)
- More funding for sporting facilities – specifically Gumeracha Oval irrigation (3)
- Support for construction of Uraidla Play Space
- More funding for play space renewals / creation of Play Space Framework
- Encourage / partner on community bulk solar and battery buy
- Funding for Evelyn Halliday Reserve planning with residents
- More focus on road quality and design
- Council role in advocating for health service provision
- Support for strategic review of council properties
- Creation of a signage strategy
- More information on council debt forecasting and finances
- Street sweeping improvements to align with leave dropping timelines
- Budget to support study to enable an implementation plan for Lenswood vision
- Provide funds for the implementation of the Tree Strategy
- Provide funds for Amy Gillett stage 5, for investigating and scoping
- Funding for Station Rd, Woodside improvements
- Support for Main Street Town Planning
- Provide a contingency 2-3 years out in the LTFP for projects such as the Houghton Community Hub should it be successful in obtaining other grants
- Requests for new and/or replacement trees and weed maintenance
- Ideas for cost savings e.g. reduced Elected Members, reduced library hours, lease of council land for commercial signage, subletting council properties.

All emails and letters are provided in full in Appendix C.

6 FEEDBACK PRESENTATIONS

An opportunity was promoted for members of the community to present feedback at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 10 June 2025, 6:30 - 7:30pm at the Stirling Council Chamber. There were two deputations, and one public presentation received at Council Meetings during the engagement period.

Ordinary Council Meeting – 27 May 2025

1. South Australian Tourism Commission – requesting council financial support for Santos Tour Down Under
 - History of the Santos Tour Down Under and Adelaide Hills Council
 - Economic benefits of the event for AHC including retail and short-term accommodation
 - Community investment in the event shown through enthusiasm to dress up individual towns and community interaction with the event
2. Lobethal Community Association – requesting council financial support for Santos Tour Down Under
 - Support for economic benefits the Santos Tour Down Under brings to the Town of Lobethal
 - Number of spectators that choose to stay in town during the event supporting short term accommodation growth
 - Lobethal's investment in growth of activities and events surrounding the race that attract amateur riders to the region

Ordinary Council Meeting – 10 June 2025

3. Stirling Hotel – requesting council financial support for Santos Tour Down Under
 - Economic benefits of the event for Stirling businesses and the wider to the Adelaide Hills region
 - 2025 event enthusiastically supported by Stirling businesses. Community and businesses proud to be part of growth of women's event.
 - Adelaide Hills region is linked to the Santos Tour Town under on a world scale / platform
 - Stirling is a community in recovery – Woolworths fire, reduction in foot traffic. Councils support during this time has assisted in supporting and growing businesses. Santos Tour Down Under is one of most effective vehicles to bring people back into our area not just for the event but on an ongoing basis
 - Link between the Santos Tour Town Under and Council's strategic goals

Deputation and presentation slides and / or notes are provided in Appendix C.

7 ENGAGEMENT DROP-IN SESSIONS

Three community engagement drop-in sessions were offered during the engagement period:

- Stirling Coventry Library – 10am to 3pm, Monday 2 June 2025
 - No community members in attendance.
- Woodside Library – 11am to 4pm, Wednesday 4 June 2025
 - Attended by one community member who raised feedback regarding council implementing an improved print/photocopier payment system, and consideration for lifting the expenditure on cleaning of council premises.
- Gumeracha Library – 12noon to 4pm, Tuesday 10 June 2025
 - Cancelled due to staff illness. Community members could leave their contact details to discuss their feedback via phone call.

8 PHONE CALLS

Two phone conversations were had with residents regarding their feedback on the Draft ABP and LTFP.

Resident 1:

- Gumeracha Oval – nothing in the budget for improvement to irrigation. Project started 2 years ago, shed and bore completed but now rest of works have pushed back
- Bitumen Randel Terrace is not needed
- Footpath on John Fisher Street would be of more use
- Playground and Federation Park is limited, compared to Bushland Park. Bushland Park is better for little kids but not well known.

Resident 2:

- Feedback on ABP and irrigation at Gumeracha Oval.

9 COUNCIL RESPONSES TO COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

A proportion of community feedback included requests for specific works and queries. We will provide a response to these queries alongside summarised comments in Appendix B which address various topics that were raised via the online form, letters, presentations and emails, prior to public release of Community Engagement Outcomes Report on 1 July 2025.

10 CONCLUSION

A total of 62 people participated in providing feedback on our Draft ABP and LTFP.

Of the 46 participants who completed the online feedback form, 54% (n=54) of respondents supported the Draft ABP with some changes. 33% (n=15) of respondent fully supported the Draft ABP. 13% (n=6) of respondents did not support the Draft ABP at all.

Of the 8 respondents that specifically completed feedback on the Draft LTFP, 4 supported the Draft LTFP with some changes and 4 did not support the Draft LTFP at all.

Throughout feedback received across different mediums, there were three main themes of responses shown below:

1. Houghton Hub Development (15) - Requests for council to allocate funding support for the completion of Houghton Hub development.
2. Santos Tour Down Under (14) - Requests for council to reinstate the funding support for the 2026 Santos Tour Down Under due to the economic benefit it brings to the Adelaide Hills and community support for the event.
3. Support for Johnston Memorial Park (14) - Support for funding provision for Sustainable Site Plan for the Johnston Memorial Park.

Other themes of feedback that were received through community engagement included:

- Lack of funding for sporting upgrades, specifically Gumeracha Oval irrigation (7) - complaints / questions about lack of funding for sport infrastructure upgrades and specifically mentioning delayed funding for Gumeracha Oval irrigation upgrades.
- What's happening in my area? (5) - Concerns / complaints from residents that there are not capital works scheduled for their suburb.
- Review project management / capital spending (5) – Comments around reducing / reconsidering project management and capital spending, focus on essential services.
- Concerns about accuracy of cost estimates (5) - Concerns about cost estimates and projects estimates due to pervious issues with financial forecasting, increasing capital costs and concerns about increased borrowings.
- More spending on footpaths / active travel infrastructure (5) - Requests for more spending on footpaths and active travel infrastructure. Includes requests for footpath as specific locations.

Feedback and proposed actions will be reviewed and considered at the Special Council Meeting on 17 June 2025. Subsequently the final Draft ABP and LTFP with changes, will be presented in the Council Report for adopting the *Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget* at the 24 June 2025 Council Meeting.

This report will be shared with the wider community and anyone who participated in the consultation via councils Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub platform.

APPENDIX A – INFORMATION PROVIDED AND FEEDBACK FORM

Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub – Draft Business Plan 2026-25 and Budget

Home / Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget

Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget



We would like to share with our community our draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 (ABP) and draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40 (LTFP). Both of these important council documents are currently open for community feedback. Do they cover what is important to you? Are we focusing on the right areas?

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. Our LTFP integrates the financial implications of all council's plans and helps us to ensure long-term financial stability and resilience.

Our Focus

Council's focus for 2025-26 is on supporting and strengthening our community, environment and region by developing a responsible budget which recognises our unique limitations and is geared towards delivering essential services, practical resource management, and sustainability.

Some of our highlights for 2025/26 include:

- Pursuing our adopted pathway to achieving net zero corporate carbon emissions
- Trialing alternative kerbside waste collection models to divert more waste from landfill
- Progressing towards financial sustainability through considered planning
- Developing a revised Biodiversity Strategy to conserve native vegetation and habitat on Council land, and protect ecological values along natural waterways
- Developing a Stormwater Management Plan
- Continuing to implement actions from the Our Watch's "Prevention Toolkit for Local Government"
- Expanding the Fabrik Arts + Heritage Hub operations following its redevelopment
- Undertaking a strategic review of all Council owned properties including Council administration accommodation
- Increasing community connections through forums
- Collaborating with Adelaide Hills Tourism to promote and support tourism operators and businesses across our region
- Advocating for key economic development issues in the region with other levels of government
- Commencing the development of a housing strategy that meets community needs and balances character, growth, affordability, and the natural environment
- Increasing resilience and reliability of the Community Wastewater Management System service
- Implementing technology upgrades to the Customer Relationship Management system to enhance the customer experience through easier online services and improved communication and response times



Lifecycle

- Council Report**
Draft 2025-26 ABP and LTFP endorsed by Council at the Meeting on 14 May 2025, ready for community consultation.
- Engagement Open**
We are seeking feedback on our draft ABP 2025-26 and LTFP 2026-40 from Wednesday 21 May to 5pm Wednesday 11 June 2025.
- Under Review**
Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.
- Final Council Report**
Final ABP and LTFP including the engagement outcomes report, presented to Council for endorsement.

Document Library

- [Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 \(3.86 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2040 \(2.16 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Draft Capital Works Program 2025-26 \(635 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Poster Draft ABP and LTFP \(1.15 MB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Hardcopy Feedback Form ABP and LTFP \(313 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)
- [Factsheet Draft ABP and LTFP \(145 KB\) \(pdf\)](#)

Cost saving strategies:

Council has proposed a range of savings within the 2025-26 ABP and LTFP with the aim of addressing and improving the Council's financial stability. These proposed savings include:

- Delays to playground and public toilet facilities upgrade program
- Reduction in new footpath program and review of footpath priority process
- Delays to trail upgrades program, with focus on maintaining existing trails
- Removal of major event support including Santos Tour Down Under
- Limiting new initiatives linked to priorities within our Strategic Plan - Your Place Your Space

We want to hear from you

We'd like to hear your feedback on both draft documents that are available for viewing under the Document Library.

How can I provide feedback?

Once you have viewed the documents, you can provide your feedback in one of the following ways:

- Completing the online feedback form below
- Sending an email to engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
- Posting your feedback to 63 Mount Barker Road Stirling SA 5152
- Giving us a call on 8408 0400
- Collecting a hardcopy feedback form from any Council Service Centre or Library at Stirling, Gumeracha or Woodside during [opening hours](#).
- Presenting at the public Council Meeting being held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 10 June 2025.

Community engagement closes at 5pm on Wednesday 11 June 2025.

What happens with feedback?

Your feedback on our draft Plans is appreciated, and all feedback received during the engagement period will be considered, prior to the plans being finalised.

Accessibility

If you need assistance to complete the feedback tools or need an alternative format, please email engage@ahc.sa.gov.au or call 8408 0400.

Further information

You can ask us a question by email engage@ahc.sa.gov.au or by using the Questions tab below.

Feedback Form - Draft ABP and LTFP

Feedback Form - Draft ABP and LTFP

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback on our draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40.

0% answered

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required

 Postcard Draft ABP and LTFP (557 KB) (pdf)

Engagement Drop-in Opportunities

 Stirling Library Drop-In
02 June 2025

 Woodside Library Drop-in
04 June 2025

 Gumeracha Library Drop-in
10 June 2025

FAQs

 What's an Annual Business Plan in a snapshot?

 What's a Long-Term Financial Plan in a snapshot?

 Why do we have a business plan and budget?

 Where can I see a hard copies of the Consultation Documents?

 What can you expect at the public Council meeting on Tuesday 10 June?

 How did Council develop this year's Draft Annual Business Plan?

 What is the proposed rate increase?

 Is council removing funding support for the Santos Tour Down Under?

 What is happening with the FOGO weekly bin collection rollout?

 Will public toilet facilities and playgrounds still be safe to access while upgrades are delayed?

Online Feedback Form

Feedback Form - Draft ABP and LTFP

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback on our draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40.

0% answered

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required

Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26

1. Have you read the draft ABP 2025-26? *

- ☐ Yes, I have read the document
- ☐ No, I haven't

2. To what extent do you support the draft ABP 2025-26? *

- ☐ I fully support the draft ABP
- ☐ I support the draft ABP with some changes
- ☐ I do not support the draft ABP

3. Can you tell us more about your answer

Our focus for 2025/26

Page 12 of the draft ABP explains our focus for 2025/26 and lists some highlight initiatives.

4. Please rate your level of support for the following ABP highlights (optional).

Pursuing our adopted pathway to achieving net zero corporate carbon emissions

- ☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Trialing alternative kerbside waste collection models to divert more waste from landfill

- ☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Progressing towards financial sustainability through considered planning

- ☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Developing a revised Biodiversity Strategy to conserve native vegetation and habitat on council land, and protect ecological values along natural waterways

- ☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Developing a Stormwater Management Plan

- ☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Continuing to implement actions from the Our Watch's "Prevention Toolkit for Local Government"

- ☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Expanding the Fabrik Arts + Heritage Hub operations following its redevelopment

- ☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Undertaking a strategic review of all council owned properties including council administration accommodation

☐ Very supportive
 ☐ Supportive
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Unsupportive
 ☐ Very unsupportive

Increasing community connections through forums

☐ Very supportive
 ☐ Supportive
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Unsupportive
 ☐ Very unsupportive

Collaborating with Adelaide Hills Tourism to promote and support tourism across our region

☐ Very supportive
 ☐ Supportive
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Unsupportive
 ☐ Very unsupportive

Advocating for key economic development issues in the region with other levels of government

☐ Very supportive
 ☐ Supportive
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Unsupportive
 ☐ Very unsupportive

Commencing the development of a housing strategy that meets community needs and balances character, growth, affordability, and the natural environment

☐ Very supportive
 ☐ Supportive
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Unsupportive
 ☐ Very unsupportive

Increasing resilience and reliability of the Community Wastewater Management System service

☐ Very supportive
 ☐ Supportive
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Unsupportive
 ☐ Very unsupportive

Implementing technology upgrades to the Customer Relationship Management system to enhance the customer experience through easier online services and improved communication and response times

☐ Very supportive
 ☐ Supportive
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Unsupportive
 ☐ Very unsupportive

You can choose to skip this question

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Cost saving strategies

Council has proposed a range of savings within the 2025-26 ABP and LTFF with the aim of addressing and improving the Council's financial stability. These proposed savings include:

- Delays to playground and public toilet facilities upgrade program
- Reduction in new footpath program and review of footpath priority process
- Delays to trail upgrades program, with focus on maintaining existing trails
- Removal of major event support including Santos Tour Down Under
- Limiting new initiatives linked to priorities within our Strategic Plan - Your Place Your Space

5. Would you like to provide any feedback about our cost saving measures?

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Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 projects and initiatives

6. Would you like to provide feedback on a specific project or initiative featured in the draft ABP? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

7. Name of the initiative or project

Maximum 255 characters

0/255

8. Your feedback

9. Would you like to provide feedback on another project or initiative?

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. Is there any other feedback or comments you would like to provide about the draft ABP?

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Draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40

11. Would you like to provide feedback on the draft LTFP 2026-40? *

☒ Yes

☐ No

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12. Have you read the draft LTFP 2026-40? *

- ☐ Yes, I have read the document
- ☐ No, I haven't

13. To what extent do you support the draft LTFP 2026-40?

- ☐ I full support the draft LTFP 2026-40
- ☐ I support the draft LTFP 2026-40 with some changes
- ☐ I don't support the draft LTFP 2026-40

14. Can you tell us more about your answer

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What this means for the community

On page 9 of the draft LTFP, you will find a range of proposed strategies to set us on a path to a more financially sustainable organisation.

15. Please rate your level of agreement with the following strategies proposed within the draft LTFP (optional).

Rates - increases above inflation in initial years required to bring the council into a financially sustainable position

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Somewhat agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat disagree ☐ Definitely disagree

Services - service levels across council are generally maintained at their current level

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Somewhat agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat disagree ☐ Definitely disagree

Asset maintenance - maintaining the investment in existing assets and ensuring that they are maintained appropriately, whilst reducing expenditure on building new assets

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Somewhat agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat disagree ☐ Definitely disagree

New assets - a reduction in expenditure especially around the development of new assets and infrastructure was required to avoid higher rate increases

- ☐ Strongly agree ☐ Somewhat agree ☐ Neutral ☐ Somewhat disagree ☐ Definitely disagree

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Long Term Capital Investments

On page 10 of the draft LTFP, you will find a list of proposed investments for building new or upgrading existing assets of almost \$10M over the first five years of the plan.

16. Please rate your level of support for the following LTFP capital investments (optional).

Town & Precinct Planning - develop a strategic framework to town and precinct planning

☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Gumeracha Oval Irrigation - the project will improve water efficiency, reduce overwatering and associated costs, and adopt best practise in irrigation management

☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Footpath Program - expanding council's network of footpaths will continue as a high priority activity

☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Play Space Framework - the framework will ensure that council play space assets are adequality maintained and appropriately serviced for community use

☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Toilet Refurbishment & Renewal Program - a framework which will establish the sequencing of toilet refurbishment and renewal

☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

Administrative Projects - ongoing energy efficiency program, Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre, Stirling Coventry Library cladding and other strategic projects

☐ Very supportive ☐ Supportive ☐ Neutral ☐ Unsupportive ☐ Very unsupportive

17. Is there any other feedback or comments you would like to provide about the draft LTFP?

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About you

18. What is your connection to the Adelaide Hills? *

- ☐ Resident
- ☐ Business owner
- ☐ Visitor
- ☐ AHC Staff member
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Employee / worker

19. Your name *

Maximum 255 characters 0/255

20. Your email *

21. Your suburb, township or locality *

22. Your age range

- ☐ 18 or under
- ☐ 19 to 24
- ☐ 25 to 34
- ☐ 35 to 44
- ☐ 45 to 54
- ☐ 55 to 64
- ☐ 65 to 74
- ☐ 75 or above

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APPENDIX B – FEEDBACK AND COUNCILS’ RESPONSES SUMMARY

The following summary includes key engagement feedback themes received across all forms of engagement along with responses from Council administration.

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
15	Houghton Hub Development Requests for Council to allocate funding support for the completion of Houghton Hub development. “As an active member of the Houghton, Inglewood, Hermitage and Paracombe area it was disappointing to see that there is no ongoing support of the Houghton Hub Development at the Houghton Oval. After conditional funding spanning the following three years was agreed to in Late 2023 by a special Council meeting of the elected members, nothing has appeared in the following budgets including the 25/26 draft. There has been no engagement from council staff about the development since this conditional approval. While Houghton, Inglewood, Hermitage and Paracombe is an outlying area of the Adelaide Hills Council, the Houghton Hub Development when finished could prove to be an important asset for the AHC to utilise to engage and support the local community. I hope the AHC reconsiders supporting the development in the important final stages of this important community project.”	The Houghton Hub development is located on private land. Council received a formal request from Houghton, Inglewood and Hermitage Memorial Park Inc (the Group) for a \$325,000 (ex GST) funding contribution for the Houghton Hub project at its 6 November 2023 meeting. This funding contribution from Council was contingent on the group receiving funding from the Office for Recreation Sport & Racing (ORSR). Funding was not received from the ORSR, and therefore the Council contribution was not progressed. In November 2023, Council paid a \$40,000 (ex GST) contribution towards the project that had been previously committed.

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
	“I live on the edge of the AHC area and more funding should be provided to the Houghton Oval to finish the Houghton Hub, I cant see anything in the budget that is being spent in my area.” “As a local resident living on Chapman rd, Inglewood, There seems to be a lack of AHC involvement in our community. I think more support should be provide to the Houghton Hub Development. Has the AHC provided any support to this project???? The HH will provide a focal point in our community to e help people come together.”	At the Council Meeting on 30 June 2025, Council resolved for Administration to work with interested parties to investigate funding options for the completion of Houghton Community Hub and provide a report back to Council by 26 August 2025. This investigation will canvas: • The scope of works completed to date and the source of those funds. • The scope of works to finalise the project and proposed source of these funds • How funds from external sources can be guaranteed. • A recommendation or options for Council funding (if any). • The community benefit arising from the project.
14	Santos Tour Down Under Requests for Council to reinstate the funding support for the 2026 Santos Tour Down Under due to the economic benefit it brings to the Adelaide Hills and community support for the event. “We feel the Tour brings significant economic benefit to the Adelaide Hills, boosting visitation during a traditionally quieter time of year. Each January, we	At the Special Council Meeting held on 17 June 2025, Council supported the motion to allocate funding of \$80,000 for works associated with the 2026 Santos Tour Down Under in the 2025-26 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
	welcome visitors from across Australia and abroad who broaden their stay in Adelaide to explore the Adelaide Hills’ food, wine, and natural beauty. Events like the TDU drive direct spending at cellar doors, restaurants, and local accommodation—critical to the sustainability of regional businesses like ours.” “Beyond the economic and promotional benefits, the event also strengthens community pride and brings people together. The buzz and energy it creates is felt across the Hills, with locals and businesses uniting to offer a warm welcome to visitors and riders alike.” “The Tour Down Under is a cornerstone of South Australia's major events calendar, injecting significant funds into the state's economy. Reports indicate the 2024 event alone generated an estimated \$87.2 million in economic impact for South Australia.”	The budget has now been incorporated into the final 2025-26 Annual Business Plan and Budget that was endorsed on 30 June 2025.
14	Support for Johnston Memorial Park Support for funding provision for Sustainable Site Plan for the Johnston Memorial Park. “The Councils Strategic Initiative has my full support, in particular the investment in the Sustainable Site Planning funding for the Johnston Memorial Park in Balhannah, this facility requires upgrading and will greatly benefit the local community.” “I support this - particularly the Sustainable development at Johnstone Memorial Park where me and my family use this site year round.”	We are happy to hear that residents are supportive of this sustainable site plan being undertaken.

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
7	Lack of funding for sporting upgrades, specifically Gumeracha Oval irrigation Complaints / questions about lack of funding for sport infrastructure upgrades and specifically mentioning delayed funding for Gumeracha Oval irrigation upgrades. “the Gumeracha Oval Irrigation proposal also needs to consider irrigation of Gumeracha’s Federation Park, as it is currently the one volunteer who donates their time to ensure the entirety of Gumeracha’s open space precinct is adequately watered.” “I understand this project was initially proposed approximately five to six years ago, with the installation of a new bore in 2024. I also understand there is an agreement between the AHC and the Gumeracha Sporting Club, whereby volunteers are responsible for oval maintenance. Currently, depending on weather conditions, the oval is watered manually with sprinkler systems that require regular displacement, often involving 3-4 visits within a 24-hour period from late October to April, including occasional daytime watering. While this method serves its purpose, it is inefficient in water use and places a significant burden on one or two dedicated volunteers. It is unreasonable to expect this arrangement to continue indefinitely.”	Council understand that the existing watering is reliant on volunteers, and this may not always be available or sustainable in the long term. Upgrades to the irrigation facilities at Gumeracha and Stirling Ovals are currently scheduled to occur during the 2027/28 financial year in the Long Term Financial Plan. This is however subject to the Council considering all projects and available funding for that financial year at that time.
5	What’s happening in my area? Concerns / complaints from residents that there are not capital works scheduled for their suburb. “Doesn’t affect me as Council are doing none of the above in my area already.” “I cant see anything in the budget that is being spent in my area.”	Council has a very large network of assets, and it considers the condition and performance of these assets on an on-going basis. Assets are renewed or upgraded at the most cost-effective intervention time. This will result in some areas not requiring capital investment, indicating that assets in

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
		the area are in better condition than similar types of assets in other localities. In subsequent years a particular area may get funding and other areas will not.
5	Review project management / capital spending Comments around reducing / reconsidering project management and capital spending, focus on essential services. “Your cost saving measures are mis-directed. You should be focused on reducing project management costs and System implementation costs.” “your project management costs should be assessed. \$1m is way over the top.”	Project management costs have been reviewed through 2023/24 and 2024/25 and are significantly lower than in previous years.
5	Concerns about accuracy of cost estimates Concerns about cost estimates and projects estimates due to previous issues with financial forecasting, increasing capital costs and concerns about increased borrowings. “Some residents would like to see the extent of council debt and forecasts of it. While the tables are comprehensive, could a table be included to show total debt (maybe broken down into short and long term debt repaid and new debt taken on .” “LTFP aligns with ESCOSA review outcomes. It is sound plan to follow and achieve long term financial sustainability. I do worry though that the asset renewal costs might not be as accurate as required given your very sad depreciation black hole	There are significant critical projects that are being funded in 2025/26 which lead to an increase in debt. These are unavoidable and cannot be delayed further. The Long Term Financial Plan is focused on reducing the level of debt in the medium term. Please refer to page 22 of the ABP wherein this detail is captured.

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
	found last year after the budget was approved. Are you absolutely sure that your AMPs are based on realistic renewal values and not just indexed estimates.”	
5	More spending on footpaths / active travel infrastructure Requests for more spending on footpaths and active travel infrastructure. “I think increased emphasis on these sections of Council’s operations is warranted, particularly in the Northern Adelaide Hills, where all the above are vital due to the (often untapped) walkable nature of our townships, the strong presence of many young families in the area and the distances people must drive to access services. I envisage that with the new frameworks and strategies proposed in the LTFP, that these areas of Council’s assets will be improved further in coming years.” “I also think that more work needs to occur in relation to improving Council’s trails network – this is something that goes above and beyond ‘Footpaths’, and more relates to trails that may run between towns (e.g. the Amy Gillett Rail Trail), or within Council owned sites (e.g. Lobethal Bushland Park) or dual use Fire Trails/Road Reserves etc. Improving Council’s trail network would open additional recreational opportunities for locals and tourists alike.” “We are disappointed to see limited funding allocated toward community footpaths. There was significant local engagement in the AHC Bike Strategy consultation, including many voices calling for safer, more walkable and rideable townships—especially between Uraidla and Summertown. To date, we have not received any feedback or updates on the outcomes of that consultation. Investing	Each year Council receives many more requests for footpath renewal than it can reasonably fund. Council is reviewing its Footpath Priority Process that will establish key criteria for determining the approval and implementation schedule for new and upgraded footpaths, to ensure that data driven decision making occurs. Requests for footpath works will be assessed against this criteria. Council will then review its on-going investment in footpaths from 26/27 onwards.

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
	in connected footpaths and active transport infrastructure would be a welcome signal that community voices have been heard.” Includes requests for footpath as specific locations including: • A footpath on John Fisher Street, Gumeracha • New path from the Crest Inverbrackie to Woodside. • New Path on Onkaparinga Valley Road, Charleston from Stansbury Road to Post Office etc. • Sealing of footpath South Para Road from Scott Street to No.1798, the Kersbrook Hill Winery/Cellar Door. • Sealed footpath within Evelyn Halliday Reserve, Stirling	
4	Administration costs Suggestions for staff reductions, legal fee reductions, less spending on conferences and professional development. “I do not see any initiatives to reduce costs by cutting staffing levels, but simply by delaying capital expenditure.” “Dont support over 6% increase in rates due to lawyers fees and accounting entries, and reduced staff.”	The budget for legal fees is significantly reduced compared to 2024/25. There has been a decrease in funding of new and upgraded capital projects, this is not the same as delaying capital works. Scheduled renewal capital expenditure is fully funded in the budget. Staff levels are consistent year on year.
4	Rate increase Support for rate increase if funds are used wisely / used to achieve financial sustainability.	The increase in rates above CPI is to enable Council to be financially sustainable while maintaining the current service level.

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
	“The draft ABP seems to align well to the draft LTFP and the ESCOSA review outcomes. The future rate increases are reasonable given projected surpluses in a few years. It appears the draft ABP and LTFP are responsible financial approaches to managing the challenges faced by AHC. However, please remain alert to potential hidden or hard to see risks, especially given high asset management burden and costs.”	
3	Deferral is not cost saving - commentary about deferral of essential works not resulting in a cost savings. “Cost savings of reducing work scopes or delays is not savings it's deferral. Try reducing administrative and bureaucracy. Let people get the jobs done.”	Council has a digital transformation program, the aim of which is to: 1. Improve the data used to make decisions; and 2. Improve the efficiency of Council operations. The combination of these will result in more targeted interventions, at a more appropriate time, delivered in a more efficient manner.
3	Rate increase effects concerns about effects of rate increase on households. “As recently reported in local newspapers, rates are set to increase at around 6.5% which is close to double the CPI. Where am I supposed to find the extra money to pay for this?”	Affordability of rates is a concern for Council. The rate increase has been kept to a minimum with future increases being staged. The budget for legal fees is significantly reduced compared to 2024/25.

Volume of feedback	Summarised Feedback including example comments (full list of comments can be viewed in Appendix C)	Council Response
	“Dont support over 6% increase in rates due to lawyers fees and accounting entries, and reduced staff. If you do increase 6% this year that will be added to each year, putting significant pressure on households”	

APPENDIX C – ONLINE SURVEY FORM VERBATIM COMMENTS

Can you tell us more about your answer (level of support for draft ABP 2025-26)

1. I do not see any initiatives to reduce costs by cutting staffing levels, but simply by delaying capital expenditure.
2. Your major initiatives - such as your plan to adopt "net zero" - is clearly going to be costly, at a time when you are also trying to supposedly reduce costs.
3. As recently reported in local newspapers, rates are set to increase at around 6.5% which is close to double the CPI. Where am I supposed to find the extra money to pay for this?
4. Your "cost saving" measures seem to be simply cuts to core services such as waste collection.

Cost savings of reducing work scopes or delays is not savings it's deferral. Try reducing administrative and bureaucracy. Let people get the jobs done.

What will the removal of the Santos TDU funding impact on \$\$ coming into the hills?

The draft ABP seems to align well to the draft LTFP and the ESCOSA review outcomes. The future rate increases are reasonable given projected surpluses in a few years. It appears the draft ABP and LTFP are responsible financial approaches to managing the challenges faced by AHC. However, please remain alert to potential hidden or hard to see risks, especially given high asset management burden and costs. Please also look after your staff, many are overworked and culture has been evidently poor. This is reflected also in the Chamber. Can we also have better Elected Member attendance at council meetings. The record on this is truly embarrassing. If an elected member cannot meet their commitment to the community due to work, they should resign and let someone else take their place.

Operating at a deficit and continuing to borrow more will put Council in a challenging position in years to come when the costs of living only increases. The amount of money that is allocated to some capital and operating projects and programs seems significant for a 'sustainable budget'. I appreciate AHC covers a vast area, which brings more challenges, however a budget repair model is needed to keep rates at a reasonable level for the future. I support the proposed rate increase % in 25/26. However, I think more can be done to review budgets across the board and aim towards a surplus budget in 25/26.

Details are scant for the capital expenditure programme on new or upgraded assets. Council does not spend any money on Sport and Sporting facilities. This is evidenced by the spend of 0.4% (\$60k) of Council money out of the total capital expenditure on existing assets. Ovals and pitches are crying out for draining and irrigation to occur, but the council refuses to address these. Again we see the postponement of Stirling and I can assure you there are many more to follow. Gumeracha is also not included in 2025-26. However the council is quite happy to spend nearly \$1m on Project Management and \$475k on an ERP, something that will not benefit the community at all. No endeavour to ask the State Government for Grants to assist the council have been included. Your long term capital plan is questionable and no doubt will change over time. Another sad year for Sport in the Adelaide Hills. When will the council support Sport and Sporting Facilities?

I am very keen to see the fixing of the trail at the end of Branch Rd into Woorabinda Reserve. This path has been used by thousands of people over the years and is an integral part of Woorabinda Reserve, serving locals and visiting walkers.
The steps down towards the creek are great, thank you, we just would like the path completed into Branch Rd.

Kind Regards

The funds allocated to an Adelaide Hills subzone code amendment (\$15,000) and Town and precinct planning strategic framework (\$30,000) should be redirected and added to the budget for the Housing Strategy (currently \$25,000). Given the poor state of the Council's finances, its stagnating growth in the rate base and lack of housing options for residents (young, elderly, aged care and affordable options), a more considered and appropriately resourced Housing Strategy should be a first priority. This must include reviewing how Council can facilitate increased housing in appropriate locations that are well served by infrastructure, and provide increased cost recovery.

As an active member of the Houghton, Inglewood, Hermitage and Paracombe area it was disappointing to see that there is no ongoing support of the Houghton Hub Development at the Houghton Oval. After conditional funding spanning the following three years was agreed to in Late 2023 by a special Council meeting of the elected members, nothing has appeared in the following budgets including the 25/26 draft. There has been no engagement from council staff about the development since this conditional approval.

While Houghton, Inglewood, Hermitage and Paracombe is an outlying area of the Adelaide Hills Council, the Houghton Hub Development when finished could prove to be an important asset for the AHC to utilise to engage and support the local community. I hope the AHC reconsiders supporting the development in the important final stages of this important community project.

I dont support not continuing program of upgrading playgrounds at Gumeracha, and then Woodside. Instead of looking to lawyers, solve problems internally with open concersation, and look to providing for our community.

I support the Houghton Hub development in the northern area and think more support should be provided in this area of the council.

I live on the edge of the AHC area and more funding should be provided to the Houghton Oval to finish the Houghton Hub, I cant see anything in the budget that is being spent in my area.

As a local resident living on Chapman rd, Inglewood, There seems to be a lack of AHC involvement in our community. I think more support should be provide to the Houghton Hub Development. Has the AHC provided any support to this project???? The HH will provide a focal point in our community to e help people come together.

Being a resident of Houghton for the past 24yrs I struggle with identifying any areas that the council have spent resident funding in our area. One of the local community expenditures that need supporting is the Houghton Oval community centre. I would like to see council expenditure allocated to this project to enable completion for community use.

Having lived in Houghton for 23 years I cant recall the AHC spending any money in our area during this time. I would like to see the Houghton Hub community development supported by the council.

Plausible but consistent supply of funding to all areas of the AHC areas which includes capital works.

I have lived in Houghton for over 38 years and have seen very minimal funds allocated to our local area(s). It is time our council rates are directed back into our local area.

There isn't any money being directed into the areas of Paracombe, Inglewood and Houghton, even though the council rates are increasing.

I currently live in Forreston and formerly Inglewood. I still interact with the Houghton community and my business still works out of Paracombe. I have read the 25/26 business plan and cant see where the Forreston or Houghton communities are receiving any support from the AHC. The Houghton Community is trying to build a Hub that the AHC should be supporting.

I have lived in the hermitages area my entire life (85 years) and had may ag business. Over the years i havent seen a lot of investment from a number of different councils as things change. We still live on a dirt road!! The Houghton is doing great work and the Adelaide Hills Council should be helping the community build this important project that will make the area stronger.

As a business owner in the Houghton, Inglewood area I understand the importance of a strong community. After reading the Draft ABP i cant see any investment in my local community that will build a stronger community.

The Houghton Hub is trying to complete an important project that the AHC should be assisting with, This project will be a game changer for our local community.

I encourage the AHC to reconsider their ABP and provide support to the Houghton Hub.

I am providing significant financial and personal support to build the community centre at the Houghton oval. The AHC needs to step up and match what I am contributing to build the Houghton Hub.

We appear to have strong support at local and state government levels but it does/t translate to genuine financial support.

We are in the final stages of this project and need the AHC to join with us to bring this project home. I am prepared to match dollar for dollar through my companies what the AHC is prepared to invest to finalise this project.

Please feel free to reach out to me on [REDACTED] to discuss this further.



It appears there has been no consideration for any money to be spent in the Inglewood, Paracombe, Houghton area. As all property owners in this area pay rates and taxes it would be preferable for some monies in the 2025-26 budget to be allocated to our community development. Our needs are no different to those who live in the more established areas such as Stirling and Mt Barker. Given the relative high rates imposed on all regional council property owners it seems unjust a very high percentage of monies collected by Council are used to finance projects in areas of high population density. What do these people need that is more important than my needs? What I request is for Council to allocate money to assist in the successful completion of the community centre being built at the Houghton oval. This project is significant for the area as it will positively affect many people, not only those who live in Inglewood, Paracombe, and Houghton but also those who live beyond this region. Apart from rubbish collection and some road maintenance from time to time we don't get much for our rates. Maybe for the Houghton oval community centre Council can make an exception.

I am heavily involved with the AHC and the broader hills community.

As the BlazeAid Co-ordinator SA, I have been working in the hills since the Sampson Flat fires.

I see where money gets spent and where money needs to be spent.

The AHC has done some great work in building resilience with the AHCABAN program and the work Miranda Hampton is doing with the Community Support Hubs.

The Houghton Hub will be a significant part of this network and the AHC need to prioritise the completion of this project with haste ready for the next fire season!!!

As a local business owner that operates predominantly outside of the Adelaide Hills council area, I see firsthand what is happening in other council areas. My business works mainly on capital infrastructure, so I take note of what's happening and being developed across all regions. In the 10 years I have lived in the Inglewood area, Very little appears to have been invested im my local community. The main area of investment appears to be at the Houghton Oval and recently I have been made aware that this is not even an Adelaide Hills Council Asset.

I provide help to the management committee where I can in maintaining some of their equipment, but they appear to be in need of financial assistance to complete the impressive Community Building they currently have underway.

After reviewing the last few years business plans, I can see that the project was listed as a priority, but this hasn't flowed through to any financial commitments in the AHC budgets??

If the Business plan is in DRAFT, a commitment to the Houghton Oval building should be reconsidered before it is finalised.

BFE 3 - Public Toilet Refresh and New Septic System - Norton Summit.

The Toilet facilities at Norton Summit are the only public toilets between Magill and Lenswood on the Lobethal Road. The toilets are used considerably by many persons travelling through the area, members of the Norton Summit-Ashton CFS, persons that attend activities at the local Church and Museum. It is also used daily by an ever-increasing number of cyclists all year round.

Whilst the upgrade to the Septic System is welcomed, plans to upgrade the Toilet facilities were commenced 2 years ago by AHC and deferred last financial year. The existing toilets are in adequate particularly for females and also have no disability access. During major events including ANZAC Day Dawn Service and more so the Tour Down Under and the lead up weeks, the toilets are clearly inadequate to meet the demand of large numbers of visitors and cyclists to Norton Summit. It would make more economic sense as some design work has already been commission by AHC 2 years ago, to carry out the Toilet Facilities upgrade and Septic System upgrade simultaneously.

We are located in Houghton, and I cannot see any benefit occurring in our immediate facility apart from some water works at the Houghton Square. Whilst I am in favor of promoting wellbeing including sports and the arts I cannot support the offerings that are presented to what I consider to be favoured areas of the Council District.

I'll provide more information by email

I support the Draft ABP and in particular support councils inclusion of the \$25,000 commitment to the Sustainable Site Planning at the Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. this will be of great benefit to the community.

I fully support the Councils Strategic initiatives and especially the \$25,000 investment into the Johnson Memorial Park Sustainable Site Planning. The community would benefit greatly going into the future

I fully support the Councils investment into the planning of proposed redevelopment of the Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. As a long term member of 2 sporting clubs that use this facility i'm excited to see the benefit of a much needed redevelopment of this area for current & future users of this great community space.

The Councils Strategic Initiative has my full support, in particular the investment in the Sustainable Site Planning funding for the Johnston Memorial Park in Balhannah, this facility requires upgrading and will greatly benefit the local community.

I support this - particularly the Sustainable development at Johnstone Memorial Park where me and my family use this site year round.

This is a great initiative and investment in the community. Of particular interest is the \$25K investment for the Balhannah Oval and Memorial Park which is in need of funding

The Councils Strategic Initiatives is a great initiative, especially the \$25,000 investment into the Sustainable Site Planning at the Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. The ever-growing community deserve the investment for planning and investment into this heavily used facility. This to better accommodate today's expected standards and better represent our region.

"I wholeheartedly endorse the Council's Strategic Initiatives and am particularly pleased with the \$25,000 investment in Sustainable Site Planning at Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. This initiative will provide lasting benefits to our close-knit community."

My support lies with the Councils strategic planning and strongly welcomes the 25k investment into the sustainable site planning at the Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. Being a local resident myself, this will greatly benefit the community and be a great thing to happen. Thank you

I fully support the Council's Strategic Initiatives and especially welcome the \$25,000 investment into the Sustainable Site Planning at the Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. My daughter is very keen to play football but isn't comfortable with the current facilities and doesn't want to have to join Mt Barker or Hahndorf.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to provide feedback on the draft ABP 2025-26 and LTFP, as requested.

In short, the draft ABP 2025-26 and LTFP are fiscally irresponsible and unsustainable.

I find it extremely concerning that:

1. Debt has gone from \$14.8 million in June 2022 to a forecast \$43.8 million in June 2027.
2. Operating cashflow has deteriorated markedly from \$12.9 million in FY2022 to \$5.422 million in FY2024.

To avoid the forecast calamitous situation, the fiscally prudent approach is to reduce expenditure (preferably) and increase revenue (if required).

I acknowledge that the Council has taken some very tepid measures to reduce some minor expenses. However, far more needs to be done.

For example, the pursuit of the following initiatives is highly questionable at a time when significant expense reduction is required:

1. Trialling alternative kerbside waste collection models - \$380k
2. Development and implementation of a community energy reduction program incorporating energy and transport - \$120k
3. Digital Transformation Program - \$475k
4. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at the Heathfield Depot project - \$550k

Eliminating these questionable expenses would instantly reduce the deficit by \$1.525 million.

Similarly, it is claimed in the Adelaide Advertiser (8 June 2025) that AHC spent \$50k on lawyers to resolve an investigation into alleged breaches of behaviour standards by one of the Councillors.

Really?! If this expenditure was secretly incurred, as is alleged, why are we ratepayers paying for this? And as the departed Councillor has said "The council could have dealt with the complaints internally by mediation...". Why was this not done?

Why is AHC borrowing so much money at all anyway? Businesses borrow money to buy assets that earn income to then repay the debt. Councils are not in the business of doing business, which means all debt has to eventually be paid by ratepayers anyway. Is the current Council really carefully reviewing all spending to make sure it is essential? The above figures hardly suggest this.

Just increasing debt sharply is the easy way out – it just defers the problem to the future. You are elected to make difficult decisions on our behalf, which means cutting unnecessary expenditure and increasing revenue where necessary.

Furthermore, the lack of transparency in the ABP 2025-26 does not really facilitate informed feedback in any case. What has been presented is a single forecast Income Statement with high level revenue and expense items. No explanatory notes, or detail on the high level revenue and expense items. Neither a cashflow statement nor a balance sheet have been provided. It is difficult to meaningfully review and comment on the financials of the proposed ABP as a result.

Similarly, the LTFP apparently shows a smooth and rapid return to an operating surplus and then a rapid paydown of debt over the next decade or so. How can these forecasts be believed when according to the Adelaide Advertiser, in September 2024, the AHC "revealed a surprise \$4.863 million operating deficit for 2023-24 instead of an expected \$559,000 surplus"! The AHC cannot seem to forecast 12 months out, let alone 15 years.

I am unsure what the economic assumptions are behind the modelling, but South Australia and the nation generally currently enjoy very low unemployment and recent robust economic growth. It cannot be presumed this will continue indefinitely, given the cyclicity of the economy and uncertain international political and economic environment.

In short, the LTFP appears “priced to perfection”, which is hardly a prudent approach. Given AHC’s forecasting track record, what is more likely is that the financials will continue to surprise to the downside, and debt will be even higher than the almost \$44 million in FY2027. Even moreso if unemployment starts to rise, or growth falls materially. In any case, the mathematics of debt will start its inevitable spiral of increasing interest costs, worsening the deficit and begetting more debt, and so on.

Council, do more now to avoid this:

1. Review planned operating expenditures far more thoroughly to ensure an operating surplus in FY2026
2. Sharply reduce capex in order to avoid any further increases in debt

Please do the difficult right, not the easy wrong.

It would be great to have more in the budget for bike track maintenance. \$30k would be a great start for Woodside but there are also other facilities - Mylor and Balhannah that could do with maintenance and upgrades. As bike riding is becoming more and more popular it is such a positive outlet for people to have in the community to help them build connection and positive mental health outlets.

I'm proud to support the Council's Strategic Initiatives, particularly the \$25,000 commitment to sustainable site planning at Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. This investment will have a lasting, positive impact on our tight-knit community, both now and into the future.

I fully support the draft ABP 2025-26. I especially welcome the \$25K investment in the sustainable site planning at Johnston Memorial Park, Balhannah and believe this will benefit our community as a whole now and well into the future.

I support the Council's Strategic Initiatives and welcome the \$25,000 investment into the Sustainable Site Planning at the Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. The local community will greatly benefit from this investment for many years to come.

I support Council's Strategic Initiatives and welcome the \$25,000 investment in Sustainable Site Planning at Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah. This funding will provide long-term benefits for our community.

I would like to see funding for the Tour Down Under reinstated.

I am really disappointed that my Council is in such financial disarray, particularly with the steady rates growth you have experienced since COVID as house values continue to rise. Community Emissions Reduction, Township planning framework and housing strategy budgets are so low they won't deliver a good result. \$10K for a community emissions reduction grant program is not worth the effort of administering or applying. I suggest increase to \$30K minimum or shelf for a year. Similarly I'd suggest shelving the housing strategy for a year, and instead adequately fund the township strategy framework project so a quality consultant can be engaged.

Would you like to provide any feedback about our cost saving measures?

1. Where are the reductions to staffing?
2. Where are the reductions in non-essential matters like your the 'multicultural action plan' and 'refugee welcome zones' and 'declaring a climate emergency' that I have heard of in the past?
3. What proposed savings will you make in entertainment and conferencing budgets?
4. Why are you not reducing the number of inspectors, compliance officers etc against benchmarks for other councils?

You are not savings, it deferral. Try streamlining works by being in better control to stop variations blow out and bureaucracy.

Ok
Your cost saving measures are mis-directed. You should be focused on reducing project management costs and System implementation costs. You should be assessing the legal obligations you have for the assets you own and divert money away from expenditure that has no benefit to the community.
No thanks
A focus on cost saving will leave Council chasing its tail but never catching. It needs to find a way to increase economic development.
Only support above if you cut budget to lawyers, and implement initiatives to support staff. Please explain simply why you need such cost saving measures when you are increasing rates and borrowings so much.
Don't support TDU
I live on the edge of the AHC area and more funding should be provided to the Houghton Oval to finish the Houghton Hub, I cant see anything in the budget that is being spent in my area. A lot of local support is helping our community but AHC only appears to pick up my rubbish.
Don't support tour down under. Bike should be in the hills. Danger will Robinson!!!! Ok with the rest,
Support most
Agree with first 4. Shouldn't you be supporting things like the Houghton Hub???
All important but if there's no money.
Happy to save here if the savings are spent in the right place.
You need to do what you need to do, But you need to get behind the Houghton hub!!!
Doesn't affect me as Council are doing none of the above in my area already.
You have limited funds but do your best.
Happy for AHC to manage their cash flow/works program. Rate payers shouldn't by subsidising a bike race.
Should the Toilet Facility upgrade at Norton Summit again be delayed, that a clear binding commitment is made for 2026/27 AHC Budget to address this long overdue project, to bring them up to a modern acceptable standard.
I believe in identifying some of the more costly projects, ie playgrounds & footpaths is a step in the right direction. Am also of the opinion that we should nurture existing structure, i e trails
Playground facilities - funds to now go to the installation of shade on existing playgrounds. Minor delay acceptable but program to commence in 2026/27. We should expand the provision of sealed footpaths in the townships - over 40% of population is over 50 years. Support delays to trails program on the condition that existing trails are safe Do not support removal of TDU assistance- Major tourism event should be supported Supported provided there is some flexibility to be involved in projects that come in from left field
No
A very tepid start - not enough. Far more opex needs to be cut.
I would like to see funding for the Tour Down Under reinstated. Playspaces is another priority. Comfortable with the reduction in footpath spending
Support withdrawing TDU funding. The event is such a cost impost for councils and perhaps its time all councils push back. The event will likely still have multiple stages through the hills due to the topography... I'm sure the organisers will find a plan b for funding.

Would you like to provide feedback on a specific project or initiative featured in the Draft ABP?

Name of initiative or project	Your feedback
Drainage and Irrigation to ovals	Why is there no Stirling or Gumeracha upgrades included in 2025-26? Stirling has already been postponed.
Previously noted on Housing Strategy	See previous
BFE 3 - Public Toilet Refresh and Septic System - Norton Summit	My understand is that AHC plans to only replace the Septic System at present. I am unsure what is meant by refresh, as a complete upgrade to the Toilet Facilities are required to meeting increasing community requirements (increased amenities for females and those with disabilities) of such facilities rather than just a "refresh" as was scoped in 2023-24.
I'll provide advice separately	
Sustainable Site Planning at the Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah	This support will be welcomed in a community that can then plan for a community facility that meets current standards
Sustainable Site Planning - Johnston Memorial Park, Balhannah	This is a key funding requirement for a site that, with considered improvement, could provide a significant increase in community participation and benefit
Sustainable Site Planning at the Johnson Memorial Park in Balhannah	My family uses this site year round - it needs improvement.
Sustainable Site Planning @ Johnston Memorial Park	I believe this is money well spent & will benefit the whole community for many years to come.
Fabrik operations	I absolutely support Fabrik and acknowledge it needs operational funding. But perhaps staff need time and space to develop alternative income models including grant writing, sponsorships and donor relationships. Something just isn't sustainable about Fabrik... the cost of many of the workshops are prohibitively expensive for most and this disappoints me as it is a Council funded venue and program. The barrier to entry for the programming and workshops are high and niche.
I'll provide separately	
Amenity lighting – Woodside Recreation Ground	Required to increase community use and safety

Is there any other feedback or comments you would like to provide about the draft ABP?

No

- I doubt the comment on insurance increased costs. This was a problem 3-4 years ago, but not now. You should reassess the insurance policies and determine if they are appropriate.
- Inflation happens every year - deal with it.
- your project management costs should be assessed. \$1m is way over the top.
- you should reassess your building maintenance to determine if there are any savings.
- I don't know why you can't see your Aged Care home care business. This makes an operating loss of \$57k, but will also provide some additional cash to pay down the loans you have.

No

As an active member of the Houghton, Inglewood, Hermitage and Paracombe area it was disappointing to see that there is no ongoing support of the Houghton Hub Development at the Houghton Oval. After conditional funding spanning the following three years was agreed to in Late 2023 by a special Council meeting of the elected members, nothing has appeared in the following budgets including the 25/26 draft. There has been no engagement from council staff about the development since this conditional approval.

While Houghton, Inglewood, Hermitage and Paracombe is an outlying area of the Adelaide Hills Council, the Houghton Hub Development when finished could prove to be an important asset for the AHC to utilise to engage and support the local community. I hope the AHC reconsiders supporting the development in the important final stages of this important community project.

I support the Houghton Hub development in the northern area and think more support should be provided in this area of the council.

I live on the edge of the AHC area and more funding should be provided to the Houghton Oval to finish the Houghton Hub, I cant see anything in the budget that is being spent in my area.

As a local resident living on Chapman rd, Inglewood, There seems to be a lack of AHC involvement in our community. I think more support should be provided to the Houghton Hub Development. Has the AHC provided any support to this project???? The HH will provide a focal point in our community to help people come together.

Plausible but consistent supply of funding to all areas of the AHC areas which includes capital works.

I strongly encourage the AHC to financial support the Houghton Hub building project.

It would be great to have funding directed into the Paracombe, Houghton and Inglewood community, particularly towards the Houghton community Hub as it would be a great central location for events and can also be an area for a bushfire refuge.

Give Houghton Hub financial support!!

I have lived in the hermitages area my entire life (85 years) and had may ag business. Over the years i havent seen a lot of investment from a number of different councils as things change.
We still live on a dirt road!!
The Houghton is doing great work and the Adelaide Hills Council should be helping the community build this important project that will make the area stronger.

As a business owner in the Houghton, Inglewood area I understand the importance of a strong community. After reading the Draft ABP i cant see any investment in my local community that will build a stronger community.

The Houghton Hub is trying to complete an important project that the AHC should be assisting with, This project will be a game changer for our local community.

I encourage the AHC to reconsider their ABP and provide support to the Houghton Hub.

The Houghton Hub urgently need financial assistance to complete their project. I help with local fundraising, AHC should do their bit.

I am providing significant financial and personal support to build the community centre at the Houghton oval. The AHC needs to step up and match what I am contributing to build the Houghton Hub.

We appear to have strong support at local and state government levels but it does/t translate to genuine financial support.

We are in the final stages of this project and need the AHC to join with us to bring this project home.

I am prepared to match dollar for dollar through my companies what the AHC is prepared to invest to finalise this project.

Please feel free to reach out to me on [REDACTED] to discuss this further.

Don't forget region Adelaide Hills residents (Inglewood, Paracombe, Houghton)

I am heavily involved with the AHC and the broader hills community. As the BlazeAid Co-ordinator SA, I have been working in the hills since the Sampson Flat fires. I see where money gets spent and where money needs to be spent. The AHC has done some great work in building resilience with the AHCABAN program and the work Miranda Hampton is doing with the Community Support Hubs. The Houghton Hub will be a significant part of this network and the AHC need to prioritise the completion of this project with haste ready for the next fire season!!!

As a local business owner that operates predominantly outside of the Adelaide Hills council area, I see firsthand what is happening in other council areas. My business works mainly on capital infrastructure, so I take note of what's happening and being developed across all regions. In the 10 years I have lived in the Inglewood area, Very little appears to have been invested in my local community. The main area of investment appears to be at the Houghton Oval and recently I have been made aware that this is not even an Adelaide Hills Council Asset. I provide help to the management committee where I can in maintaining some of their equipment, but they appear to be in need of financial assistance to complete the impressive Community Building they currently have underway. After reviewing the last few years business plans, I can see that the project was listed as a priority, but this hasn't flowed through to any financial commitments in the AHC budgets?? If the Business plan is in DRAFT, a commitment to the Houghton Oval building should be reconsidered before it is finalised. AHC is forecasting a significant cash surplus over the next 15 years, investing in projects that build stronger communities now would be a smart decision. Support Houghton!

Details of projects are vague without details.

My name is [REDACTED] and I write this as a representative of the Houghton, Inglewood & Hermitage Memorial Park Inc., operating as the "Houghton Hub". We are a not-for-profit organisation, incorporated under the Associations Incorporations Act of 1985 and we are an entity owned by the community. The community we represent is Houghton, Inglewood, Upper & Lower Hermitage, Paracombe & Millbrook. This is enshrined in our constitution. The area lies adjacent to the north eastern boundary of the City of Tea Tree Gully. The district is devoid of suitable facilities and the community must either travel down the hill to the suburbs, comprised of the City of TTG, or venture to Gumeracha or Kersbrook to utilise more updated and practical buildings. There is nothing closer. The afore mentioned district does comprise of a Pub (Inglewood Inn), Golf Club (Highercombe) Paracombe Recreational Grounds, bakery, hair salon and 2 post offices, but nothing that would or could support the locals in their recreational pursuits. The history of the district is best described in the 1974 book "From Settlement to City" written by Ian Auhl, as commissioned by then TTG Council. This highlights the long and strong connection of the communities. The reason we are communicating is to gain financial support from the AHC for our new community hub building. We cite the fast growth of our local Houghton Raiders Football Club, who have over the last three years, grown from 2 seniors men sided to fielding three senior men's sides, one senior women's

side and nine junior sides comprising of both girls' and boys' teams for the 2025 season. We are also of the believe that both the SACA & SANFL will limit the number of teams that may be fielded by their affiliated clubs and this will further add to the number of aspiring people wishing to play those codes at Houghton.

What are the benefits for the AHC:

This is a community owned facility and as such there will be no on-going costs in the nature of maintenance and or depreciation to the council. This is an application for a one of cost for a contribution to our capital expenditure.

The building provides a cost-effective solution representing good value compared to similar constructions being undertaken.

We have a Project:

Why: -

To develop an active vibrant community, encompassing quality lifestyle and organisational sustainability. To encourage community connection and increase opportunities to foster community resilience.

How: -

By building and promoting a strong diverse organisation delivering modern and quality services / programs to the community inclusive of and fit-for-purpose active recreational facilities that meet the current and future needs of our community.

Delivery: -

Houghton Multi-use Community Hub

The Houghton Multi-Use Community Hub is Stage 2 of a two storey multi-use community centre and unisex sports facility of solid construction overlooking Houghton oval. The development is part of a master plan that the board / management committee has been following for the past 15 years with many aspects of the plan already completed. The construction will be undertaken in two stages.

- Stage 1 - Lower level Unisex changeroom facility and 300/200 Lux lighting upgrade, with much of this having been completed.
- Stage 2 - Upper level Multi use community Hub with a 200-seating function facility overlooking the playing surface.

Our area lacks a suitable local facility that offers ability to undertake indoor activities. This includes both physical activities and engagement activities to support the expanding teams and offerings at the Houghton, Inglewood & Hermitage Memorial Park Inc. The construction of the community facility is the next step required to allow our organisation to expand the reach and usage of the facility. While the Sampson Flat bushfires re-affirmed that the sense of community was alive and strong, it highlighted the lack of community space for large community gatherings and infrastructure to enable support and aid during and after emergency situations.

Indoor community space

Our current facility is totally outdated and much too small for the growing sporting and community clubs, it is only two 40-year-old double garages lined with uninsulated particle board. Extension of the facility is not possible due to its location. A newly constructed, fit for purpose facility will not require significant maintenance for many years, it will provide a comfortable environment for people to engage in both social and recreational activities. The board / management committee will be able to expand their offering of indoor physical activities and events to current and new user groups.

The proposed facility is an architecturally designed fit for purpose building, designed in conjunction with a unisex multi-use change room facility as a previous stage. This facility will enable the continued expansion of the committee's/community's recreational offerings, in particular junior AFL teams and the senior women's team that was launched in 2024. Houghton

District Football Club is expecting to expand teams in all age groups and categories, with particular focus on women's teams. This facility will also provide the community space for other user groups for recreational and social activities and events. The building provides a cost-effective solution representing good value compared to similar constructions. Its positioning on the site and proximity to the change room facilities enables an efficient integration between the two assets while creating an advantageous position overlooking the playing surface.

These facilities will provide us the opportunity to offer programs for all age groups, which is currently not available in the community. This will not only maintain current participation but greatly increase participation levels within the community's new facility. We will be able to extend the range of programs and attract other user groups. The Houghton Districts Football Club will have access to the space for bad weather indoor training activities, which they currently don't have available. The new facility will improve the quality of participation for current users as it will be a fit for purpose facility.

Following user groups have been pursued, but not limited to them alone:

- Houghton Districts Football Club, who promote senior and junior football programs in both male/female and girls/boys.
- Country Women's Association (CWA), Men's Kitchen, Retirees group meetings.
- Table tennis (All age groups), Darts, Indoor bowls
- Cricket, working in conjunction with Paracombe
- Yoga, Calisthenics, Gymnastics, Dance groups (All age groups)
- Social Club, Pony Club, Mothers Groups, Fire Responders Training & Networking
- Teens - self-defence groups, Blue light disco, Youth groups, ie Scouts/Guides
- Adelaide Hills Council for their outreach and community programs.

Currently community members need to travel significant distance to participate in these activities with little or no access to public transport.

Brief History of Houghton, Inglewood & Hermitage Memorial Park Inc.

In the late 40s and early 50s the community elected to develop an oval.

- 1951 - The sum paid was 1300 POUNDS (\$ 2600). Seven hundred pounds of this money was raised by every property in the area subscribing five pounds (\$10).
 - 1953 - Earthworks were completed to level the playing field and roadways at a cost of 1200 pounds (\$2400)
 - 1958 - Considerable drainage work was carried out and at the 1961 A.G.M. it is noted that "The Memorial Oval is clear of debt "
 - 2005 - The opening of the Soldiers Memorial Walk and Remembrance Wall by The Hon Alexander Downer M.P., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Federal Member for Mayo on Anzac Day 2005 was the completion of stage 2, of an 8 stage, 10-year program outlined in our 2003 Master Plan.
 - 2009 - Earthworks to the value of \$100,000 saw the open drain on the eastern boundary go underground. This part of the project is yet to be completed with drainage work to be done on the Northern end of the oval.
 - 2022 - a 300/200 Lux lighting upgrade was delivered on the Houghton Oval.
 - 2023 - after extensive consultation and planning, Stage 1 of the Multi Use Houghton Hub and Unisex Changerooms began with construction starting on the Unisex Changerooms.
- NONE OF THE PROJECTS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF MANY LOCAL BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS

The following design standards from the ORSR's "RECREATION & SPORT FACILITY DESIGN GUIDE" have been considered and addressed in the design of the Houghton Hub.

Fit for purpose

The Houghton Hub has been designed following consultation with key stakeholder including

SANFL, SACA, local sporting groups and community input. The Final design will deliver a state-of-the-art facility that will enable all user groups to better provide for their individual needs enabling increased participation at all levels. Multi and Shared Use Houghton Hub is a community facility that will be utilised by a diverse range of user groups. While the Adelaide Football League is a significant user of the site, many other smaller recreational activities will be co-hosted in the facility. Club memorabilia will be located in appropriate neutral locations to enable areas within multi-purpose spaces to remain welcoming to all user groups.

Future-Proofed

The design of the facility has considered the future requirements of the local community. The facility has considered the potential future aging population with a Lift being structurally designed into the facility as a future installation as and when required. The facility has been designed to enable an expansion of the indoor space to the north of the facility.

Practical and Affordable for the long-term

The Proposed Houghton Hub will deliver a value for money facility compared to other recent nearby developments of a similar scale. The facility is designed to enable income generating activities outside of Recreation and Sport utilization time slots, enabling the long-term maintenance of the facility to be secure.

Flexible and Functional Space

The Houghton Hub has been designed with two separate activity spaces to enable concurrent use by multiple user groups. This functionality will enable better utilisation and assist in providing accessibility for a diverse range of users.

Universal design and environmentally sustainable design principles

Our Architects have applied universal design principles to the building, products and environments to make them accessible to everyone, regardless of age, disability, background or any other factors.

Landscape

Landscaped and outdoor spaces provide interaction, physical expression, relaxation, contemplation, connection with nature. Connection between indoor spaces and outdoor spaces will enrich the visitor experience and provide the Houghton Multi-Use Community Hub with a sense of a public realm that is not confined by the constraints of built form.

Acoustics

Acoustic performance is important in facilitating multi-use spaces with appropriate separation between spaces that are hosting a diverse range of activities. Acoustics are equally important in creating a friendly and welcoming ambience within spaces while also promoting flexibility. The design includes developing acoustic absorption into the built fabric to facilitate noisy activities such as group work, without impinging on other users. Significant engineering consultation has ensured residents in the surrounds will not be significantly impacted.

Lighting

Access to good daylight is essential for a sense of wellbeing, with ESD advantages through reduction in energy consumption providing that windows are properly shaded. Natural daylighting needs to be supported by artificial lighting, which will be zoned and dimmable to facilitate changes in use and mood within spaces. The ability to achieve brownout or blackout has also been considered.

Health and safety

The engagement of a professional firm has ensured the Houghton Hub meets relevant codes and standards such as the Work Health and Safety Act and Regulations (2012). Risk identification and management will play a critical part of the project delivery process. A risk register will be progressively updated, managed and ultimately closed out through regular risk management reviews.

Environmental sustainability

The Architect has ensured the Houghton Hub is a well-designed building underpinned by environmental sustainability which will reduce running costs and minimise life cycle costs. Minimising energy and water consumption has also been a design aspect of the building.

Community forums:

These were held in 2010 discussing the Master plan and displaying the proposed plans for a new community centre in which community feedback was sought and reviewed. Discussions were held with known and potential users of the Oval and the new community centre to identify ongoing support. Support has been high particularly with those organisations that had been considering using the Oval in the past but were unable to due to the inadequacies of the current facilities. In 2018 updated plans were created and discussed at community meetings at the Highercombe golf club and circulated online. Annual Community Consultation was undertaken at the yearly Spring Fair with Development drawings and site plans on display for community feedback and to gather volunteer support for the construction of the facility. Meetings and consultation with Houghton District Football Club, Paracombe Cricket club, CWA Houghton Branch, Regional Development Australia, AHC and Hills Soccer association Debriefing ORSR, SANFL, SACA re planned design to meet SANFL/SACA requirements.

Costs associated with the project (Stage 1 & 2 including light towers) so far: \$1,025,965.00

Total Anticipated Project Cost \$2,750,000 (similar commercial projects come in at \$7 million plus)

Contributions:

Federal Government \$600,000

State Government \$475,000

In Kind Trades & materials \$571,565

Cash at Bank \$493,000 (includes values of Government grants not yet allocated)

Additional Funding Sought:

Seeking from Adelaide Hills Council \$440,000

Should you wish / require additional information we are available at your convenience.

We look forward to your kind consideration in this years budget towards assisting us with our endeavours.

On behalf of the Houghton, Inglewood and Hermitage Memorial Park Inc. Board.

Nil

Can you tell us more about your answer (level of support for draft LTFP 2026-40)

LTFP aligns with ESCOSA review outcomes. It is sound plan to follow and achieve long term financial sustainability. I do worry though that the asset renewal costs might not be as accurate as required given your very sad depreciation black hole found last year after the budget was approved. Are you absolutely sure that your AMPs are based on realistic renewal values and not just indexed estimates.

The assumptions are not valid. I can guarantee this will not be achieved. It is always interesting to see that "don't worry, things will improve" for items such as this. A few key lines - finance costs and the expenditure on assets seem totally unrealistic.

Dont support over 6% increase in rates due to lawyers fees and accounting entries, and reduced staff. If you do increase 6% this year that will be added to each year, putting significant pressure on households. I suggest we delay new projects until we understand and manage our finances , so we are not continuing to increase borrowings

Unrealistic projections that will not be delivered.

I'll provide separately

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to provide feedback on the draft ABP 2025-26 and LTFP, as requested.

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I find it extremely concerning that:

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To avoid the forecast calamitous situation, the fiscally prudent approach is to reduce expenditure (preferably) and increase revenue (if required).

I acknowledge that the Council has taken some very tepid measures to reduce some minor expenses. However, far more needs to be done.

For example, the pursuit of the following initiatives is highly questionable at a time when significant expense reduction is required:

1. Trialling alternative kerbside waste collection models - \$380k
2. Development and implementation of a community energy reduction program incorporating energy and transport - \$120k
3. Digital Transformation Program - \$475k
4. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at the Heathfield Depot project - \$550k

Eliminating these questionable expenses would instantly reduce the deficit by \$1.525 million.

Similarly, it is claimed in the Adelaide Advertiser (8 June 2025) that AHC spent \$50k on lawyers to resolve an investigation into alleged breaches of behaviour standards by one of the Councillors.

Really?! If this expenditure was secretly incurred, as is alleged, why are we ratepayers paying for this? And as the departed Councillor has said "The council could have dealt with the complaints internally by mediation...". Why was this not done?

Why is AHC borrowing so much money at all anyway? Businesses borrow money to buy assets that earn income to then repay the debt. Councils are not in the business of doing business, which means all debt has to eventually be paid by ratepayers anyway. Is the current Council really carefully reviewing all spending to make sure it is essential? The above figures hardly suggest this. Just increasing debt sharply is the easy way out – it just defers the problem to the future. You are elected to make difficult decisions on our behalf, which means cutting unnecessary expenditure and increasing revenue where necessary.

Furthermore, the lack of transparency in the ABP 2025-26 does not really facilitate informed feedback in any case. What has been presented is a single forecast Income Statement with high level revenue and expense items. No explanatory notes, or detail on the high level revenue and expense items. Neither a cashflow statement nor a balance sheet have been provided. It is difficult to meaningfully review and comment on the financials of the proposed ABP as a result. Similarly, the LTFP apparently shows a smooth and rapid return to an operating surplus and then a rapid paydown of debt over the next decade or so. How can these forecasts be believed when according to the Adelaide Advertiser, in September 2024, the AHC "revealed a surprise \$4.863 million operating deficit for 2023-24 instead of an expected \$559,000 surplus"! The AHC cannot seem to forecast 12 months out, let alone 15 years.

I am unsure what the economic assumptions are behind the modelling, but South Australia and the nation generally currently enjoy very low unemployment and recent robust economic growth. It cannot be presumed this will continue indefinitely, given the cyclical nature of the economy and uncertain international political and economic environment.

In short, the LTFP appears “priced to perfection”, which is hardly a prudent approach.

Given AHC’s forecasting track record, what is more likely is that the financials will continue to surprise to the downside, and debt will be even higher than the almost \$44 million in FY2027.

Even more so if unemployment starts to rise, or growth falls materially. In any case, the mathematics of debt will start its inevitable spiral of increasing interest costs, worsening the deficit and begetting more debt, and so on.

Council, do more now to avoid this:

1. Review planned operating expenditures far more thoroughly to ensure an operating surplus in FY2026

2. Sharply reduce capex in order to avoid any further increases in debt

Please do the difficult right, not the easy wrong.

More planning in budget for bike riding facilities and ongoing maintenance and community support.

I would love to see a stronger commitment to reducing borrowings.

There is a note about generational impacts - but no consideration of rate smoothing or other strategies.

Is there any other feedback or comments you would like to provide about the draft LTFP?

No, needs to be redone. You should look to complete a few scenarios.

I can only see the rates that I pay being used to support communities that I have no involvement in.

I'll provide separately

I don't know enough about some of the above projects to comment.

APPENDIX D – EMAILS AND WRITTEN FEEDBACK

Email Feedback 1

I make these submissions as part of the consultation on the ABPlan on behalf of Kersbrook residents, in particular, [REDACTED]

They met with Ashton Hurn MP and me and raised a number of matters some of which council has a responsibility.

1. Replace street trees in Glover Street - trees were removed when footpath sealed but not replaced.
2. Sealing of footpath South Para Road from Scott Street to No.1798, the Kersbrook Hill Winery/Cellar Door.
3. Weed(blackberry) maintenance on South Para Road to the Hardware store.
4. New Tree Planting on South Para Road to compliment trees already planted to form an avenue near Kersbrook Hill Wines



Malcolm Herrmann
Councillor - Valleys Ward
0429 890 245
mherrmann@ahc.sa.gov.au
ahc.sa.gov.au

Email Feedback 2

Dear Ms Lyons

It has come to my attention that there is no allocated expenditure within the 2025-26 budget for the long-anticipated underground watering system at Gumeracha Oval. As secretary of Gumeracha Football Club, I find this concerning.

I understand this project was initially proposed approximately five to six years ago, with the installation of a new bore in 2024. I also understand there is an agreement between the AHC and the Gumeracha Sporting Club, whereby volunteers are responsible for oval maintenance. Currently, depending on weather conditions, the oval is watered manually with sprinkler systems that require regular displacement, often involving 3-4 visits within a 24-hour period from late October to April, including occasional daytime watering. While this method serves its purpose, it is inefficient in water use and places a significant burden on one or two dedicated volunteers. It is unreasonable to expect this arrangement to continue indefinitely.

As a successful sporting club, we take great pride in maintaining our grounds and facilities. Over the years, we have made significant efforts to improve our infrastructure through sponsorship, government grants and in-kind support, including recent upgrades to the lighting and goal posts to meet community football standards. We seek the support of the council to follow through with the original intentions of this project with the installation of an underground watering system to reduce both water usage and the load on our volunteers.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



Secretary | Gumeracha Football Club

M: [REDACTED] E: [REDACTED] W: gumerachafc.com.au

Email Feedback 3

I have completed the survey in which I indicated that I would provide additional material.
So here it is.

1. I have already submitted an email dated 10 Jun 2025 regarding a submission on behalf of residents of Kersbrook lead by Paul and Taryn James re new trees Glover Street, new Footpath South Para Road, Weed maintenance South Para Road and new tree planting South Para Road
2. The following should be considered with either or both the ABP and LTFP
3. TDU -reinstate funding for the staging of the TDU, provided AHC receives adequate starts and finishes - not necessarily in Stirling -ABP and LTFP
4. FOOTPATHS- include a figure (\$200k) in both the ABP and LTFP to continue a new footpath program based on priorities in the Footpath Strategy - (the last one I have seen is about 2014). This would be a modest step to provide access for over 40% of residents.
5. FOOTPATHS- During the debate on the Halliday Reserve, a presenter claimed that Wright Road is used by residents for recreation and commuting. This being the case a sealed footpath would enhance the experience. ABP
6. MANAGEMENT PLANS - Halliday Reserve - the resolution authorises the CEO to consult and prepare a plan for the total area. Suggest \$25k- be provided in ABP;
7. LENSWOOD AND ENVIRONS - Refer to the deputation which submitted a comprehensive vision for the Lenswood area. In ABP, provide \$25k- for a study to enable an Implementation Plan to be drafted. In LTFP 2-3-4 years out or longer, provide funds for the implementation of the Plan.
8. TREES - Provide funds for the implementation of the Tree Strategy- (I have already submitted Torrens Valley Road, from Warren to Winton Roads (Replacement) and Warren Road near Rathjen Road(Replacement) Birdwood
9. AMY GILLET stage 5 - The Barossa Council has included \$100k in its draft 25/26 budget for investigation/ construction of its portion from Mount Pleasant to Randall Road(Boundary).Provide funds in the ABP, for investigating and scoping for AHC's share from Birdwood to Randall Road. Subsequent provision 2-3-4years out for construction in LTFP . If AHC has a plan, it would be in a position to apply for grants with confidence.
10. Note there is likely to be saving on Amy Gillett stage 4 ABP
11. SPECIAL PROJECTS - Provide a contingency 2-3 years out in the LTFP for projects such as the Houghton Community Hub should it be successful in obtaining other grants- Council did approve \$360k which was saved when the HCC could not get other grant moneys. This would be operating expenditure (non Council owned)
12. GRANTS/ ROADS- AHC receives grants for Special Local roads, Roads to Recovery etc. Is there sufficient provision in LTFP for both expenditure/income for these grants. I note that \$6.139m has been included
13. STIRLING MARKET - include provision of \$18k for Income/Expenditure (add to CD grants) in ABP and LTFP
14. GUMERACHA OVAL/FEDERATION Park water system. AHC has installed a bore at the Oval to assist in the water supply for the Oval. This was identified in the 2018 study. This project should be done in 25/26 AB Plan. At present volunteers water the oval with sprinklers Stong support from the Gumeracha Football Club, Gumeracha Cricket Club, Gumeracha Sports Association. Volunteers may not be available in future to hand water the oval. Defer Federation Park and place in LTFP 4-5 years out

Mr [REDACTED]

Email Feedback 4

1. LTFP - Some residents would like to see the extent of council debt and forecasts of it. While the tables are comprehensive, could a table be included to show total debt (maybe broken down into short and long term debt repaid and new debt taken on .
2. ABP - Improve management of street sweeping to ensure that sweeping is done at the appropriate times of leaf drop etc. This may well require additional sweeps (funds) to prevent leaves from blocking side entry pit and culverts. Some streets are swept bi-annually and others 8 weekly. In addition, is there a better and more environmental friendly way of disposing of waste. It is understood that it currently is taken to land fill.
3. ABP and LTFP - funding required to implement cl resolution 12.1 12 May to meet outgoings such as ESL, Water, general maintenance for Station Road Woodside - additional funding \$12k

Mr [REDACTED]

Email Feedback 5

Dear Mayor

As a local business based in the Adelaide Hills, the Lobethal Bakery wish to express our deep concern and disappointment over the decision to move stages of the Tour Down Under away from our region.

As a small, community-driven business, we have seen firsthand the incredible impact the Tour has had on local trade, tourism, and community spirit. Each year, the event draws thousands of visitors to the Hills, energizing our towns and providing a vital economic boost during what is often a quiet time of year. For businesses like ours—alongside cafes, wineries, accommodation providers, and local artisans—the Tour Down Under is not just a sporting event; it is an institution.

Beyond the economic benefits, the event has become a cherished tradition for families across the region. It provides an opportunity to showcase the natural beauty and hospitality of the Adelaide Hills to a national and international audience. Moving it elsewhere would be a significant loss, not only in terms of revenue but also in regional pride and community engagement.

We urge the government to reconsider this decision and ensure that future editions of the Tour continue to include the Adelaide Hills. Doing so affirms a commitment to supporting regional communities and ensuring the event's benefits are shared widely across South Australia.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and share our experiences as a local business. Taking thank you for taking the time to consider this.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this.

Warm regards,

[Redacted signature]
[Redacted name]

Letter Feedback 1



Golding Wines Pty Ltd
52 Western Branch Road, Lobethal
South Australia 5241
c/- Box 700, Lobethal,
South Australia 5241
Tel: +61 8 189 4500

Tuesday 27th May 2025.

To Whom It May Concern,

As a leading wine tourism and hospitality business in the Adelaide Hills, Golding Wines strongly supports the ongoing inclusion of our region in the Santos Tour Down Under for 2026 and beyond.

We feel the Tour brings significant economic benefit to the Adelaide Hills, boosting visitation during a traditionally quieter time of year. Each January, we welcome visitors from across Australia and abroad who broaden their stay in Adelaide to explore the Adelaide Hills' food, wine, and natural beauty. Events like the TDU drive direct spending at cellar doors, restaurants, and local accommodation—critical to the sustainability of regional businesses like ours.

The global television broadcast of the race also provides invaluable exposure. Images of the Adelaide Hills—rolling vineyards, historic towns, and scenic routes—are beamed into homes around the world, showcasing the best of our region and inspiring future travel. This kind of visibility has a lasting impact on brand awareness and tourism growth.

Beyond the economic and promotional benefits, the event also strengthens community pride and brings people together. The buzz and energy it creates is felt across the Hills, with locals and businesses uniting to offer a warm welcome to visitors and riders alike.

In previous years locations in the Adelaide Hills, including our own venue, have proven their capacity to deliver world-class event experiences to visitors during the TDU. We urge decision-makers to keep our region front and centre in the Tour Down Under, where it continues to deliver value not just for cycling, but for regional tourism and the state as a whole.

Sincerely,



Co-founders, Golding Wines

Letter Feedback 2

To Adelaide Hills Councillors,

I write on behalf of the Adelaide Hills Cycling Club, requesting that you continue your involvement with the Tour Down Under.

Each year the event attracts thousands of cyclists from interstate and overseas to our state and more particularly to the Adelaide Hills regions. Leading up to the event we receive a considerable number of enquiries for our own events and dozens of individuals seeking advice as to the best places to ride in the Adelaide Hills.

We accommodate as many as we possibly can with many of our members volunteering to escort these guests on rides throughout the Hills regions. As well as giving these riders a first hand view of the region it has an economic impact on the local cafes, bakeries and accommodation as we know a significant number of these people stay in the Hills. I think the real benefit we see is many of the riders come back with their families for holidays and where do they go - the Hills regions. We know this because they register for our events. Just last month we had three guest riders who had joined us as a result of the TDU. I believe the Hills regions has a distinct advantage over most of the other regions, firstly because it is so close to Adelaide and secondly it has everything - food, wine, accommodation and of course excellent riding.

I should note I am an official at the TDU and have noted the same with some of my fellow officials, they love the place and come back.

On a personal level, I am fortunate to travel a lot overseas often cycling or trekking. Currently I am in Japan, only a few days ago I met a couple that had been to the TDU, stayed in Oakbank and loved the Balhannah Bakery. They are coming to Adelaide in September with two other couples. That's value added.

I look forward to many more years of involvement with the TDU in the Adelaide Hills.

Kindest Regards

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

Web: <http://www.adelaidehillsccl.org.au/>

Email: president@adelaidehillsccl.org.au



Letter Feedback 3



VINTELOPER
589 Cudlee Creek Rd
LOBETHAL SA 5241
AUSTRALIA
E. info@vinteloper.com.au

25th May 2025

The Chief Executive Officer and Elected Members of Adelaide Hills Council

Subject: The Critical Importance of Continued Budgetary Support for the Santos Tour Down Under in the Adelaide Hills Region

Dear Chief Executive Officer and Elected Members,

I am writing to respectfully advocate for the continued and robust inclusion of the Santos Tour Down Under (TDU) within the Adelaide Hills Council's economic budget.

The consistent involvement of our picturesque and challenging region in this world-class event delivers undeniable and far-reaching economic, social, and promotional benefits that are vital for the sustained prosperity and vibrancy of the Adelaide Hills Council area.

The Tour Down Under is a cornerstone of South Australia's major events calendar, injecting significant funds into the state's economy. Reports indicate the 2024 event alone generated an estimated \$87.2 million in economic impact for South Australia. Vinteloper was one of the direct beneficiaries of this economic activity.

As a region that proudly and frequently hosts multiple key stages, the Adelaide Hills is a direct and **substantial** beneficiary of this economic activity. The influx of teams, support staff, media, and tens of thousands of domestic and international spectators translates directly into increased patronage for our local accommodation providers, cafes, restaurants, wineries, and retail businesses. This direct visitor spend during the event period provides a crucial boost to our local economy.

Beyond the immediate economic transactions, the TDU offers unparalleled promotional value. The Adelaide Hills' stunning landscapes, challenging climbs, and welcoming townships are broadcast to millions across approximately 190 territories worldwide. This extensive media coverage serves as a dynamic and invaluable marketing campaign, showcasing our region as a premier cycling and tourism destination. The long-term benefits of this exposure, attracting

visitors year-round and enhancing our regional brand, cannot be overstated and would be incredibly costly to replicate through traditional marketing channels.

The Adelaide Hills Council has previously acknowledged the significant "social and economic opportunity" presented by hosting TDU stages. This foresight has undoubtedly contributed to the region's positive reputation and economic resilience, particularly highlighted by the support the event brought to Adelaide Hills communities during challenging times, such as the recovery period after the bushfires.

The continued investment by the Adelaide Hills Council in the Tour Down Under is not merely a expenditure; it is a strategic investment in our region's economic future, its tourism appeal, and its community wellbeing.

The returns, both tangible in visitor spending and intangible in global promotion and community pride, are manifold and critical for the ongoing development of the Adelaide Hills.

We urge you to consider these significant benefits and continue to allocate the necessary resources within the Council's budget to ensure the Adelaide Hills remains a prominent and celebrated partner in the Santos Tour Down Under.

This commitment is essential for leveraging the event's full potential for our businesses, residents, and the broader regional economy.

Sincerely,



Founder and CEO

VINTELOPER

Letter Feedback 4

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Testimonial – Support for Santos Tour Down Under

Dear [REDACTED],

As the owner of Grünthal Brew in the Adelaide Hills, I'm writing to express my strong support for continued Council involvement in the Santos Tour Down Under.

Each year, Grünthal Brew is proud to be included in the official TDU event program. We host a full busload of visitors as part of the Adelaide Hills experience—welcoming them to taste our locally made beer, gin, wine, and cheese. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase the best of our region to interstate and international guests.

In addition to this, the race period brings a noticeable increase in visitation from cyclists and spectators touring the Hills. We see a clear uplift in trade as riders stop in to relax, recharge, and enjoy the atmosphere. It's one of our busiest times of year and provides a valuable boost during what can otherwise be a quieter post-Christmas period.

The Santos Tour Down Under is a vital event for our tourism economy and our community pride. We wholeheartedly support it and implore the Council to continue its involvement and backing.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Founder

Grünthal Brew & eBEER

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

W: www.grunthal.com.au www.ebeer.co

A: 827 Mt Barker Rd Verdun · SA · 5245

Letter Feedback 5

the stirling hotel

The Stirling Hotel
52 Mount Barker Road
Stirling SA 5152

Monday 26th May 2025

To the Adelaide Hills Council,

Re: Support for Hosting the Santos Tour Down Under with Financial support from the local Council.

I am writing on behalf of The Stirling Hotel to express our strong support for the continuation and expansion of Stirling's involvement in the Santos Tour Down Under. This internationally recognised cycling event has a significant positive impact on our business and the wider Adelaide Hills community — particularly in terms of tourism, media exposure, and economic benefit.

Each year that Stirling is chosen to host a stage — for both the men's and women's races — we experience what is consistently our most financially successful day of the calendar year. The influx of visitors, both local and international, generates not only direct economic benefits through increased trade, but also creates an important flow-on effect for the entire Hills region.

From a tourism perspective, the event showcases the natural beauty, unique culture, and premium food and wine experiences of the Adelaide Hills to a global audience. Many of these visitors return to the region outside the race period, having discovered Stirling and surrounds through the Tour. The long-term benefits of this exposure are invaluable and continue to grow with each successful hosting.

Media and marketing reach is another critical component. The international broadcast of the event, extensive social media coverage, and national media attention provides Stirling — and by extension, The Stirling Hotel — with brand visibility that would otherwise be unattainable for a business of our scale. The imagery and storytelling that emerge from Stirling's picturesque setting reinforce the Adelaide Hills as a premier destination in South Australia.

The Tour Down Under is more than just a sporting event — it is a platform that supports regional growth, encourages tourism, promotes community engagement, and strengthens the local economy. We strongly advocate for Stirling to remain a host location for future stages and, if possible, to further grow our involvement in both the men's and women's races.

We sincerely thank the Council for its ongoing support and partnership in ensuring the Adelaide Hills is well represented in this major event, and we look forward to continuing to work together to maximise the benefits for our region.

Warm regards,



Operations Manager,
The Stirling Hotel

Letter Feedback 6

As a local business based in the Adelaide Hills, the Lobethal Bakery wish to express our deep concern and disappointment over the decision to move stages of the Tour Down Under away from our region.

As a small, community-driven business, we have seen firsthand the incredible impact the Tour has had on local trade, tourism, and community spirit. Each year, the event draws thousands of visitors to the Hills, energizing our towns and providing a vital economic boost during what is often a quiet time of year. For businesses like ours—alongside cafes, wineries, accommodation providers, and local artisans—the Tour Down Under is not just a sporting event; it is an institution.

Beyond the economic benefits, the event has become a cherished tradition for families across the region. It provides an opportunity to showcase the natural beauty and hospitality of the Adelaide Hills to a national and international audience. Moving it elsewhere would be a significant loss, not only in terms of revenue but also in regional pride and community engagement.

We urge the government to reconsider this decision and ensure that future editions of the Tour continue to include the Adelaide Hills. Doing so affirms a commitment to supporting regional communities and ensuring the event's benefits are shared widely across South Australia.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and share our experiences as a local business.

Letter Feedback 7

To the Mayor and Councillors of the Adelaide Hills Council,

On behalf of the Lobethal Community Association, I write in support of continued funding for the Tour Down Under (TDU) as part of the Council's 2026 budget considerations. We understand and acknowledge the financial pressures facing all levels of government, particularly local councils, who operate on a limited revenue base and are navigating the lingering impacts of inflation on service delivery and infrastructure maintenance.

However, we believe the value of the Tour Down Under—particularly to our region—is considerable and worth preserving, even in a reduced form. As one of the largest annual international sporting events in South Australia, the TDU brings global visibility to the Adelaide Hills and directly contributes to the vitality of our local businesses, community pride, and tourism economy. For towns like Lobethal, the event generates much-needed foot traffic that sustains jobs, supports a growing accommodation sector, and introduces the region to thousands of potential return visitors.

The Association recognises Council's longstanding support for the Tour and the community benefit it has brought. While we appreciate that local government alone cannot—and should not—be expected to sustain the event's regional footprint, especially when the broader economic and promotional benefits clearly fall within the remit of the State Government, we believe Council remains obligated to play its part. Where additional resources are needed, we encourage Council to work constructively and transparently with the State Government to ensure the Tour continues to include the Hills.

This is because the TDU is a flagship event for South Australia, marketed globally and central to both the State's and thereby the Hills' tourism and events calendars. Its impact extends beyond cycling, driving international exposure, exportable identity, and regional economic activation. While the heavy lifting is best supported at the State level, local government still has a role to play in helping ensure the Tour's ongoing viability.

Hence if Council requires better resourcing to support their Tour contribution, it should be overt in that need and advocate assertively with the State Government for a fairer funding model—one that strikes the right balance of commitment across all levels of

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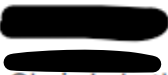
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government. What it must not do is act in a manner that suggests it may be playing politics with the event as this only creates uncertainty and erodes the council's standing in the community. Hence, the Lobethal Community Association respectfully asks Council to demonstrate support for the 2026 event in whatever form it deems feasible and show that commitment in its forward budget. Businesses and communities across the Hills must have confidence if they are to deliver their contributions effectively to guarantee the event's success and this act will provide that confidence.

The Lobethal Community Association—like other representative bodies, I am sure—remains ready to play its part for a successful TDU26 and will work constructively with Council, the Tour's organisers, and the State Government to secure a sustainable path forward that honours the Hills' proud place in this iconic event.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chair, Lobethal Community Association

Letter Feedback 8

Testimonial from Love Woodside

To the Elected Members and Leadership of the Adelaide Hills Council,

As a volunteer-based community group dedicated to promoting cultural and environmental heritage values and advocating for community benefit for our township, Love Woodside proudly supports the continued involvement of the Adelaide Hills Council in the Tour Down Under (TDU).

Love Woodside has played a key role in bringing the community together through our involvement with the Tour Down Under. We led the charge in decorating the town, inspiring many local residents to contribute ideas and help create the vibrant decorations. In 2022, Woodside was proud to be named *Best Dressed Town*, and the prize money from that achievement helped us establish our community garden—an enduring legacy of creativity, collaboration, and pride, and a community asset cherished by residents of Woodside and beyond.

The TDU is more than a world-class cycling race—it's a celebration of everything that makes the Adelaide Hills special. For Woodside, it brings our main street alive with colour, energy, and community spirit. It draws visitors from across the state, country, and globe, giving our local businesses a valuable boost and shining a spotlight on our region's incredible food, wine, landscapes and hospitality.

The race has become a cornerstone of our town's annual calendar. It inspires community pride and offers many opportunities to showcase local talent, creativity, and resilience. The economic benefits are real, but equally important are the social impacts—the sense of connection, excitement, and shared achievement that comes when our community pulls together. When the event passes through it seems to bring the whole town together in a vibrant celebration. When we have hosted a stage finish, the town has been absolutely bustling. Not just good for business, but a wonderful feeling to see our little part of the world included in such a major event.

By continuing to support the TDU, the Adelaide Hills Council is investing not only in tourism and economic growth, but in the heartbeat of our towns. We urge you to keep backing this iconic event and the vibrant communities that bring it to life each year.

With appreciation,

Love Woodside Committee

Letter Feedback 9

Letter from Imagine Uraidla

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Uraidla Playspace

We would like to express our appreciation for the funding committed to the Uraidla Playspace. This is a much-loved project locally, and we also want to acknowledge the excellent community consultation provided by the Council during the design and development process. It has built strong community trust and engagement.

Community Sustainability – Solar and Battery Bulk Buy

Imagine Uraidla's Climate Action and Renewable Energy Group strongly encourages Council to consider supporting a bulk buy program for solar and battery systems for residents. This could be white-labelled by Council with no financial cost, simply leveraging Council's trusted role to promote community take-up. This is a low-cost, high-impact action that would align with community appetite and Council climate commitments.

Footpaths and Active Transport

We are disappointed to see limited funding allocated toward community footpaths. There was significant local engagement in the AHC Bike Strategy consultation, including many voices calling for safer, more walkable and rideable townships—especially between Uraidla and Summertown. To date, we have not received any feedback or updates on the outcomes of that consultation. Investing in connected footpaths and active transport infrastructure would be a welcome signal that community voices have been heard.

Mainstreet and Township Planning

We applaud the Council for reserving funding for Mainstreet and Township planning. Strategic investment in the identity and vibrancy of our towns is essential to support local businesses, attract visitors, and enhance the daily experience of residents.

Thank you for your work and ongoing commitment to our region.

Kind regards,


on behalf of Imagine Uraidla

Letter Feedback 10



10 June 2025

Adelaide Hills Council 2025-2026 Annual Business Plan consultation

Please find below my submission for the draft AHC 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan, as well as the Long-Term Financial Plan, consultation. I also wish to acknowledge the helpful Council administration staff who responded quickly to my concern that the Draft AHC Capital Works Plan was not provided as part of the documentation on the AHC Engagement webpage. I note that this was overlooked during the 2024/2025 ABP consultation process as well, so I look forward to a more streamlined consultation in the 2026/2027 ABP consultation process!

Key Community Priorities

As a community advocate and leader within Gumeracha, I feel that of the services that Council provides, the list below are those of most interest to those within the area (in no particular order) –

- *Road quality/design*
- *Footpaths*
- *Playgrounds/play spaces/ovals*

I think increased emphasis on these sections of Council's operations is warranted, particularly in the Northern Adelaide Hills, where all the above are vital due to the (often untapped) walkable nature of our townships, the strong presence of many young families in the area and the distances people must drive to access services. I envisage that with the new frameworks and strategies proposed in the LTFP, that these areas of Council's assets will be improved further in coming years.

Access to Healthcare

As you would be aware, access to healthcare is a major issue within the Northern Adelaide Hills, however as a community leader, together with some other key locals, I have assisted the community to overcome some of these issues. Myself and others successfully lobbied for the establishment of the Nurse-Led Clinic at Gumeracha District Soldier's Memorial Hospital, which is going from strength to strength. Successful community lobbying that I led also saw the recent reintroduction of acute care beds within the Gumeracha District Soldier's Memorial Hospital, which allows locals to receive care closer to home, under the direct care of doctors employed by SA Health.

Lobbying continues to occur with the Federal Government for Gumeracha to be recognised as an area of increased healthcare need, through being in a higher rated 'Modified Monash Model' level, which correlates with incentives GP's are paid to practice in the area. At present, a GP receives higher rebates working in a more 'rural' location such as Mt Barker than they do in Gumeracha. This directly impacts the number of GP's willing to work in Gumeracha, and thus leads to an ongoing shortage of GP's in the area.

I think that it would be great if Adelaide Hills Council could play a greater role in ensuring adequate health care is delivered within the area, particularly for those in the Northern Adelaide Hills who have less services available to them. Whilst the 'Regional Public Health Plan 2022-27

k 10

for the Southern and Hills LGA' covers some aspects of public health in the Council area, at this stage, Council plays no formal role in advocating for its citizens to have adequate primary health care.

Public Consultation Policy

I note no specific funds have been set aside for a much needed review of the AHC Public Consultation Policy - <https://www.ahc.sa.gov.au/assets/downloads/council/council-policies/Public-Consultation-Policy-April-2020.pdf> -

This policy was last consulted on in 2019 and was due to be updated in January 2023 – therefore despite being one of Council's pinnacle policies, it is 2.5 years overdue for review! Whilst the SA Government is consulting on a Community Engagement Charter for Councils, it is unlikely to be introduced into practice in the next 12-18 months. Therefore, I urgently urge Council to develop a new draft Public Consultation Policy, and undertake community consultation on it within the coming months.

Examples of where this outdated Policy, directly impacts AHC residents and causes angst is as follows –

1. The Draft Capital Works Plan is not required to be consulted on/published as part of the ABP process presently. A revised AHC Policy could change this.
2. For Elector Representation Reviews, the legislation allows Council's Public Consultation Policy to provide additional guidance – one improvement would be for Council administration to be required to notify citizens who lodged representations about when they can present to the full Council, and
3. Ensuring that all documents submitted by citizens are provided in full to Elected Members – at present, AHC practice (as I found out during the Elector Representation Review) is to only provide a summary of submissions to Elected Members

Cost Savings

Whilst I am not one to advocate for "small Government", I do believe that there may be opportunities for AHC to try and realise additional income (to reduce debt and potentially reduce rate increases), as well as determine areas where cost savings could be made.

Further to my previous submission to the recent AHC Elector Representation Review, my proposal to reduce each proposed Council ward (from the 2026 election) by one Elected Member would save Council on 3 x Elected Member payments, allowances and associated costs each year. This would save AHC approximately \$70,000 per year, or a staggering \$1.05 million over the life of the Draft LTFP. This could either be used as a cost-saving, or if spent on capital works (based on costings in the 2025/2026 Capital Works Plan), would more than double the amount allocated to Sport & Recreation, or could pay for a variety of upgrades to Council assets such as toilets, footpaths, roads and playgrounds.

Given recent experience (e.g. 2022 AHC Valleys Ward election only 6 candidates for 5 vacancies, plus a downward statewide trend of only 1256 elected member nominations in 2022 compared to 1374 in 2018), I think it will be increasingly difficult for a small Council like AHC to continually attract 12 high quality Elected Members and a Mayor.

Other cost savings that as an external person I can identify include –

- Further reviewing the operating hours at Council's Libraries/Service Centres – *whilst the review 2-3 years ago refined opening times, usage patterns continue to change – there may be opportunity to refine hours that provide a cost saving, yet improve usability for locals e.g. generally in the middle of the day on weekdays (11am to 3pm) the libraries aren't as busy as they are first thing in the morning or after-school. At a site like Gumeracha, trialling some 3-6pm weekday opening hours on some days would reduce overall operational cost (3 hour versus 5 hour current opening hours), yet would potentially provide the community with new and more suitable operating hours.*
- Allowing sub-letting of Council properties (noting the proposed Strategic Review of all Council properties as well) – *there is constant commercial demand in the Northern Adelaide Hills for quality office space, as well as yards to store trucks and equipment. Council could utilise sections of the Torrens Valley Community Centre or Gumeracha Library, with some minor works, to be leased or used as office spaces rented out by the day etc. In addition, there may be opportunities to lease portions/buildings at the Gumeracha Depot to third-parties.*
- Using signage lease rights as an income stream – *Council owns a large amount of real estate, and there may be areas that are appropriate for commercial signage arrangements to be entered into to generate revenue. For example, this could include inside toilets (as is often the case at Shopping Centres), on bus shelters (as City of Tea Tree Gully does) or else on the street (e.g. a business pays Council a commercial rate for a sign directing people to a local business).*

Strategic Review of all Council properties

I think this proposed initiative is a good idea, and hope that the appropriate community consultation occurs in associated with the project. It may be pertinent to develop a mapping system for Council to share with citizens highlighting all the land and buildings Council currently owns. This would help start the conversation within the community about Council sites that are or aren't of benefit to the community.

Uraidla Play Space Upgrade

One of the biggest strategic initiatives proposed in the 2025-2026 AHC ABP is the \$220,000 Play Space Upgrade proposed for Uraidla. The current AHC Play Space policy (that was due for updating in March 2021) appears to classify a Play Space such as the one proposed for an upgrade as a 'local' play space. When little has been spent on Play Spaces in recent AHC budgets, it appears somewhat unusual that such a large amount of a (very limited) budget is being allocated to one 'local' site. This is despite a 'Regional' level play space (Federation Park) in Gumeracha having a very outdated play space, and a playground well over 15 years old. This is despite in my observations it being the most visited AHC Play Space after Steamroller Park in Stirling.

The attached AHC Fact Sheet details how Council decides on a play space upgrade, which I detail further below -

- *A play space is upgraded based on a number of criteria:*
 - *equipment reaching the end of its useful life (which is determined by an audit)*
 - *demographics of the area the strategic outcomes associated with the site, including analysis of the current supply of other play spaces & recreational opportunities in the area*

- *the value of the play space to the community*
- *a cost benefit analysis of play space replacement*

At present, there appears to be no transparency with this process, and it's unclear to me how the Uraidla play space usurps other sites that would also score highly on the above criteria.

Whilst I'm sure Uraidla is a very worthwhile candidate for a new play space, I would like to see these limited funds spread around the Council area more equitably. This could include a measure such as staging the proposed Uraidla playground redevelopment and providing a small upgrade to one of the outdated playgrounds in the northern AHC area (e.g. Federation Park, Cudlee Creek playground, Rotary Park Lobethal).

LTFP

In terms of the projects proposed in the LTFP, I support all the proposals detailed within the LTFP. However, I do believe those that I list below should be subject to further community consultation when more specific details are available. In addition, the Gumeracha Oval Irrigation proposal also needs to consider irrigation of Gumeracha's Federation Park, as it is currently the one volunteer who donates their time to ensure the entirety of Gumeracha's open space precinct is adequately watered.

- *Gumeracha Oval Irrigation*
- *Footpath Program Framework*
- *Play Space Framework*
- *Toilet refurbishment and Renewal Framework*

I also think that more work needs to occur in relation to improving Council's trails network – this is something that goes above and beyond 'Footpaths', and more relates to trails that may run between towns (e.g. the Amy Gillett Rail Trail), or within Council owned sites (e.g. Lobethal Bushland Park) or dual use Fire Trails/Road Reserves etc. Improving Council's trail network would open additional recreational opportunities for locals and tourists alike.

I note one other form of Framework/Strategy missing from the LTFP relates to signage. Council recently updated its corporate style and installed new signage at many Council owned sites - [New signage installed across the region • Adelaide Hills Council](#) – however there are two outstanding issues that remain outstanding – that is, signage within Main Street environments, and Township welcome signage. At present, there is little (if any) Council signage within any of the AHC Main Street environments. Most towns and suburban centres normally have wayfinding signs to assist visitors with directions/maps to key businesses and points of interest. In an area like AHC that has high tourism value, such could help promote local business further. In addition, whilst the existing entrance signs to each AHC township are attractive, they are minimal in nature. A 'Signage Strategy' or similar could provide guidance on future civic signage in relation to both design and location. This is something that is not apparent in the proposed "Town and Precinct Planning" investment within the LTFP (nor in the existing AHC Precinct Planning Framework and Guidelines).

Thank you for considering my feedback, and I appreciate the many competing priorities that Council must juggle. Please contact me should you wish to discuss any of the above further,

Yours Sincerely

APPENDIX E – IN-PERSON PRESENTATIONS

South Australia Tourism Commission Deputation presentation – 27 May 2025





A WORLD CLASS EVENT DELIVERING FOR THE ADELAIDE HILLS

DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP

- **STRONG COMMUNITY BENEFITS**
- **ECONOMIC RETURNS**
- **LOCAL, NATIONAL & GLOBAL EXPOSURE**



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

TOUR DOWN UNDER – DELIVERED IN COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
TOURISM COMMISSION**



LOCAL COUNCILS



**GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
(INCLUDING DIT)**



STRONG COMMUNITY BENEFITS

FROM THE COMMUNITY....

“Having won two Santos Best Dressed Town awards is massive for our community and has allowed us to champion some really exciting local initiatives.

The prize winnings have contributed significantly to our community.”

Imagine Uraidla



“We led the charge in decorating the town, inspiring many local residents to contribute ideas and help create the vibrant decorations. In 2022, Woodside was proud to be named Best Dressed Town, and the prize money from that achievement helped us establish our community garden – an enduring legacy of creativity, collaboration, and pride, and a community asset cherished by residents of Woodside and beyond.”

Love Woodside SA

STRONG COMMUNITY BENEFITS



Aged care residents showcase creativity to welcome the Tour Down Under



Clapham Church Women residents Julie Bentley and Pat Macdonald get ready for the Tour Down Under with the banner they helped make. (Supplied)



STRONG COMMUNITY BENEFITS



Santos Tour Down Under

7 January · 🌐

What a special moment! ❤️ Today, CCC Team visited the bushfire affected community of Woodside in the Adelaide Hills Council to show their support for the locals.



“Riding through the affected areas, the world is going to see how devastating the fires were. When we race around those areas, you take for granted the beauty of the gum trees, the koalas that all the Europeans are trying to spot.

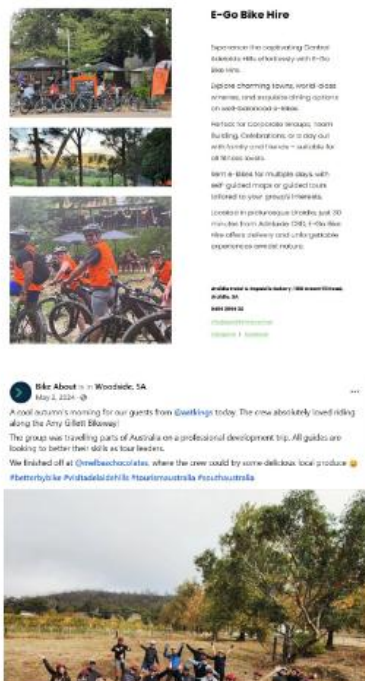
I think it's a good thing to bring the race through those affected areas. Go up there, buy your coffee and support the local businesses.”

Richie Porte,
Trek-Segafredo rider &
2017 Tour Down Under Winner



STRONG COMMUNITY BENEFITS

DELIVERING A CYCLING CULTURE BEYOND THE RACE



“I think the real benefit we see is many of the riders come back with their families for holidays and where do they go - the Hills regions.

We know this because they register for our events. Just last month we had three guest riders who had joined us as a result of the TDU.”

David Hammond,
Adelaide Hills Cycling Club

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

ECONOMIC RETURNS DELIVERED BY THE TDU

243,300 total attendance at races featuring the Adelaide Hills

\$3.3 million regional expenditure by visitors staying in the Adelaide Hills

21,500 visitors to Adelaide Hills

20,100 visitor nights in Adelaide Hills (0.9 nights on average)

66% of visitors chose to stay overnight when coming to the Adelaide Hills for the race



DELIVERING FOR LOCAL BUSINESS



"We got heaps of international guests throughout the week...this year especially has been hectic. We could barely walk by the end of the week. Especially with everyone riding past as well, lots of people stopped for coffee and breakfast because they had never seen our café before, and everyone said they will be back.

It's not only good for local business, but it also brings a nice morale...even decorating the store...everyone in Lobethal decorates the street. It is really nice.

I think the Tour Down Under positively impacts not only cafes, but news agencies, pubs, and all of the other businesses"

Cynthia Ball, Emma & Ivy (On the Record, 30 January 2023)



"Each year, Grünthal Brew is proud to be included in the official TDU event program. We host a full busload of visitors as part of the Adelaide Hills experience – welcoming them to taste our locally made beer, gin, wine, and cheese. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase the best of our region to interstate and international guests.

In addition to this, the race period brings a noticeable increase in visitation from cyclists and spectators touring the Hills. We see a clear uplift in trade as riders stop in to relax, recharge, and enjoy the atmosphere. It's one of our busiest times of year and provides a valuable boost during what can otherwise be a quieter post-Christmas period.

Sheree Sullivan, Founder, Grünthal Brew & Ebeer (May 2025)

DELIVERING FOR LOCAL BUSINESS



"Each year that Stirling is chosen to host a stage – for both the men's and women's races – we experience what is consistently our most financially successful day of the calendar year. The influx of visitors, both local and international, generates not only direct economic benefits through increased trade, but also creates an important flow on effect for the entire Hills region..."

"The Tour Down Under is more than just a sporting event – it is a platform that supports regional growth, encourages tourism, promotes community engagement, and strengthens the local economy."

Cameron Frost, Operations Manager, The Stirling Hotel (May 2025)

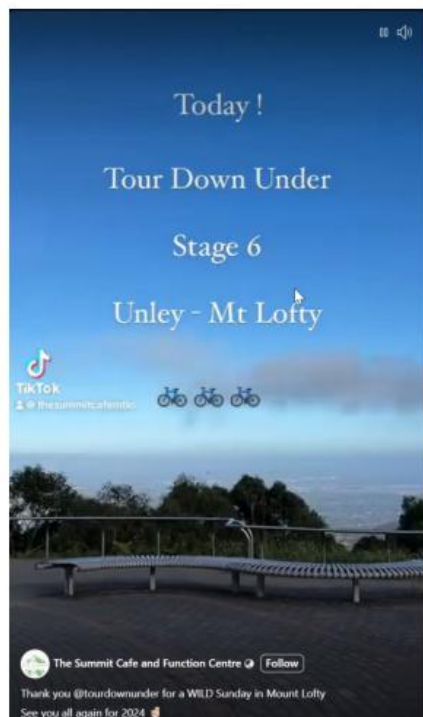


"The Tour Down Under is a cornerstone of South Australia's major events calendar, injecting significant funds into the state's economy. Reports indicate the 2024 event alone generated an estimated \$87.2 million in economic impact for South Australia. Vinteloper was one of the direct beneficiaries of this economic activity."

As a region that proudly and frequently hosts multiple key stages, the Adelaide Hills is a direct and substantial beneficiary of this economic activity. The influx of teams, support staff, media, and tens of thousands of domestic and international spectators translates directly into increased patronage for our local accommodation providers, cafes, restaurants, wineries, and retail businesses. This direct visitor spend during the event period provides a crucial boost to our local economy."

David Bowley, Founder & CEO, VINTELOPER (May 2025)

DELIVERING FOR LOCAL BUSINESS



“This year’s Tour Down Under has brought over 1,000 cyclists each day to [Mount Lofty] – the highest point in Adelaide.

The Adelaide Hills is proving to be a very popular location for both the men’s and women’s races, and we’re proud to provide South Australian snacks, coffees and sweets, and showcase local produce to our international guests”.

**Tony O'Donnell, Owner,
Summit Café Mount Lofty
January 2023**



“As a small, community-driven business, we have seen the incredible impact the Tour has had on local trade, tourism, and community spirit. Each year, the event draws thousands of visitors to the Hills, energising our towns and providing a vital economic boost during what is often a quiet time of year.

For businesses like ours – alongside cafes, wineries, accommodation providers, and local artisans – the Tour Down Under is not just a sporting event; it is an institution.

The Lobethal Bakery – May 2025



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

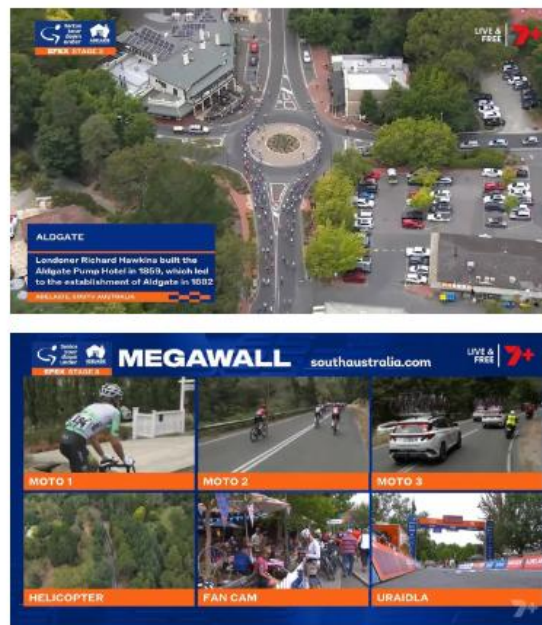
LOCAL, NATIONAL & GLOBAL EXPOSURE

226 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS
1.7MILLION IMPRESSIONS



ORGANIC & PAID REACH

11 HOURS OF ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL REGION ON BROADCAST



BROADCAST

932 MENTIONS OF ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL REGION



The Lights of Lobethal Welcomes the tourdownunder

What a joy to have the Tour Down Under pass through our town on its 25th anniversary! Our Christmas display is here to showcase the festive spirit Lobethal is known for.

Congratulations to all the riders and organisers on this incredible milestone—here's to an unforgettable day in the Hills!

USER GENERATED CONTENT

MORE THAN JUST A RACE

**A FREE,
INCLUSIVE
EVENT FOR ALL
AGES**

**DRIVING HILLS
BUSINESS
THROUGH TDU
& VISITOR
SPEND**

**DRIVING
VISITATION &
BED NIGHTS IN
JANUARY AND
YEAR ROUND**

**AWARD-
WINNING
TOWNS,
REINVENTING
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVES**

**PEDALLING
LOCAL PRIDE BY
BRINGING
COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER**

**PUTTING THE
ADELAIDE HILLS
ON THE GLOBAL
STAGE**

**DELIVERING A
YEAR-ROUND
CYCLING
CULTURE**

**A FOCUS ON
IMPROVING
LOCAL ROADS**

**EMPOWERING
LOCALS
THROUGH
VOLUNTEERING
OPPORTUNITIES**

**REIGNITING
COMMUNITY
SPIRIT IN
CELEBRATION
& RECOVERY**





THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Santos
TOUR DOWN UNDER

Stirling Hotel Deputation presentation notes – 10 June 2025

DEPUTATION TO ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL: SUPPORT FOR 2026 SANTOS TOUR DOWN UNDER

1. INTRODUCTION

Good evening Acting Mayor, Councilors, and members of the gallery.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the Director of the Stirling Hotel.

I'm here tonight on behalf of my business, our staff, and as member of the wider Stirling business community, many of whom are deeply invested in the future of the Tour Down Under in our region.

We are aware that the Adelaide Hills Council faces significant economic and budgetary pressures—just like all of us in business. We understand the need to prioritise and to make difficult funding decisions.

However, we respectfully ask that Council reconsider the decision to remove funding for the 2026 Tour Down Under.

We believe the case for continued investment—based on economic return, community engagement, and regional reputation—is strong and deserves careful reconsideration.

2. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE TDU

The Tour Down Under is Australia's premier cycling event and one of the most economically impactful events on the South Australian calendar.

- In 2025, the event attracted over 807,900 fans, generated \$98 million in total expenditure, and contributed \$62.5 million in value-added to the SA economy.

- It also supported the equivalent of 488 full-time jobs across tourism, hospitality, events, and retail sectors.

This is not theoretical economic benefit—it is direct, real-world stimulus for towns like Stirling. Over the years, the TDU has delivered an undeniable boost to accommodation, restaurants, cafés, bottle shops, service stations, and local attractions.

A regional investment of (as reported) \$80,000 to secure this level of economic activity and visibility is, in our view, not a cost—but a high-value investment with strong return.

3. THE ADELAIDE HILLS: A STRATEGIC STAGE

The Adelaide Hills are not just a scenic location; they are a strategic and iconic part of the Tour Down Under.

- In 2025, AHC proudly hosted three stages, including the start and finish of the Women's Stage 3 in Stirling on Sunday, 19 January.

This stage was enthusiastically supported by the business traders and was one of our busiest trading days of this year...!!

- The Hills offer world-class cycling terrain just 20 minutes from the CBD—something few global cities can replicate.

The proximity of challenging climbs, picturesque towns, and engaged communities has made our region synonymous with the event.

We certainly want the world to continue seeing this story every January on live broadcast and in international cycling media.

4. THE GROWTH OF WOMEN'S SPORT

TDU is also now a symbol of South Australia's leadership in supporting women's sport.

- Since 2020, fan attendance for the women's race has grown 271%.
- In 2025, more than 155,000 spectators attended the women's stages—a 12% increase from the previous year.

To limit support now, just as women's sport is thriving and gaining overdue attention, would be a step backward for visibility, participation, and tourism.

5. STIRLING: A COMMUNITY IN RECOVERY

The Stirling community has faced significant disruption since the Woolworths Centre fire in October 2023, which crippled foot traffic and affected more than 30% of Stirling Business Association members.

Council's \$20,000 funding agreement in the aftermath has been a fantastic support to many of our businesses. On behalf of the Stirling business community, we thank you sincerely for that support—it has funded marketing, events, and business promotions to rebuild momentum and hope.

But the work is far from done. Stirling is still rebuilding its visitor base and commercial confidence.

The TDU is one of the most effective vehicles we have to bring thousands of people back into our streets in one weekend—while also reaching hundreds of thousands more through media.

It is a catalyst for recovery, not just a celebration.

6. A BALANCED AND STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

We are extremely aware as to the tough funding choices a Council must make.

But we urge you to consider this:

- Of all the regional investments available, few deliver the same scale of tourism ROI as the TDU.
- The Tour brings economic activity, national exposure, local pride, and a powerful sense of place to our towns and businesses.
- It aligns with Council's long-term goals in tourism, local business support, community wellbeing, and event activation.

This funding support should not be seen as a liability

—it is a partnership opportunity.

Let's work together to ensure the Adelaide Hills remain on the global stage in January 2026.

7. IN CONCLUSION ...

The Stirling Hotel, along with many other local operators, is ready to play its part in supporting the 2026 TDU.

And on a personal note: over the years, I've met countless interstate visitors who chose to stay with us at Stirling specifically because of the Tour Down Under.

Many of these guests have since returned—bringing friends, family, and even corporate groups to enjoy the Adelaide Hills again.

This speaks volumes about the lasting, ripple effect of the TDU
—not just in January but throughout the year.

We urge the Council to reinstate its commitment to the Tour Down Under in 2026. It is one of the most effective levers we have to accelerate regional recovery, drive visitation, and showcase the very best of the Adelaide Hills to the world.

Thank you for your time, your past support, and your consideration tonight.

APPENDIX F - ADVERTISEMENTS, E-BLASTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Courier Newspaper Ad – 21 May 2025

Have your say **Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget**

We'd like to share our draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 (ABP) and draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40 (LTFP).

Both of these important council documents are currently open for community feedback.

Do they cover what is important to you?
Are we focusing on the right areas?

You can view both documents on our Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub and complete the online feedback form.



@ engage@ahc.sa.gov.au

✉ 63 Mount Barker Road, Stirling SA 5152

☎ 8408 0400

Printed copies of the consultation documents are also available at Council's service centres in Stirling, Woodside, Gumeracha and Norton Summit.

Feedback closes 5pm, Wednesday 11 June 2025.



8408 0400
ahc.sa.gov.au



Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub Email –



Dear AHC Engagement Subscriber and Local Resident,

It's now your opportunity to provide feedback on our Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget and to have your say on the Campbelltown City Council Boundary Change Proposal.

Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget

Our draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 (ABP) and draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40 (LTFP) are currently open for community feedback. We want to know if both important documents cover what is important to you? Are we focusing on the right areas?

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.

Our LTFP integrates the financial implications of all council's plans and helps us to ensure long-term financial stability and resilience.

You can provide your feedback by:

- Completing the [online feedback form](#)
- Sending an email to engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
- Posting your feedback to 63 Mount Barker Road Stirling SA 5152
- Giving us a call on 8408 0400
- Collecting a hardcopy feedback form from any Council Service Centre or Library at Stirling, Gumeracha or Woodside during opening hours.
- Presenting at the public Council Meeting being held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 10 June 2025.

The opportunity to provide your feedback closes Wednesday 11 June 2025.

Campbelltown City Council Boundary Change Proposal - it impacts you and your family

Are you aware of Campbelltown City Council's attempt to seize 738 properties in Rostrevor and Woodforde from Adelaide Hills Council? This proposal will impact all our residents, and we encourage you to have your say.

Why you should oppose this proposal:

- Protection of our Hills character and way of life - our foothills communities have a unique identity, distinct from suburban Campbelltown.
- Stronger together - instead of dividing communities, councils should work together on shared challenges.
- Financially damaging for all - the proposal would see a loss of 3.76% ratepaying residents increasing financial pressure on existing ratepayers.
- A dangerous precedent - this inquiry could set a precedent for other metro councils to encroach on other regional communities.
- The community have already said no - in two separate surveys the majority of respondents in the affected suburbs reject this proposal.

AHC Information Session

We invite you to join us for an information sharing session with our Acting Mayor, Councillors, and staff.

- When: 6.30-8PM Thursday 29 May. Presentation from 6.30-7.00pm however you can drop in anytime.
- Where: The Summit Community Centre, 4 Crescent Drive, Norton Summit
- More information: Call 8408 0400, email engage@ahc.sa.gov.au or visit [Adelaide Hills Engagement Hub](#).

The Boundary Change Inquiry has invited residents to share their views via one of the following ways:

- In-person forum: Wednesday 4 June 2025, 6:30pm-8:30pm University of South Australia, Magill Campus, Room D1-20, St Bernards Road, Magill
- Online forum: Thursday 5 June 2025, 12pm-1:30pm
- Completing the [online survey on the YourSAY website](#)
- Sending written feedback to:
 - Email: CampbelltownBoundaryReview@bdo.com.au
 - Postal address: BDO Advisory C/O Kyffin Thompson Level 7, 420 King William Street ADELAIDE SA 5001

We encourage you to have your say and support Adelaide Hills Council's objection to the proposal. The closing date for feedback submissions is 5pm Friday 20 June 2025.

Community Survey 2025 - talking about your place

Lastly, our Community Survey is open until Monday 9 June and we'd like to hear your feedback on what we're doing well, what could use improvement, what you love about living in the Hills and what ideas you have for the future.

Share your feedback now by completing our [online feedback form](#) and go into the draw to win one of three vouchers to Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary, Cleland Wildlife Park or Gorge Wildlife Park.

If you need assistance to participate in any of these engagements, or need them in an alternative format, please email engage@ahc.sa.gov.au or 8408 0400.

Have a great day

AHC Communications and Engagement Team

Campaign Manager Email – 22 May 2025



Dear community groups and sporting clubs now is your opportunity to provide feedback on our Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget and to have your say on the Campbelltown City Council Boundary Change Proposal.

Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget

Our draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and draft Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-40 are currently open for community feedback. We want to know if both important documents cover what is important to you? Are we focusing on the right areas?

Council's focus for 2025-26 is on supporting and strengthening our community, environment and region by developing a responsible budget which recognises our unique limitations and is geared towards delivering essential services, practical resource management, and sustainability.

You can provide your feedback by:

- Completing the [online feedback form](#)
- Sending an email to engage@ahc.sa.gov.au
- Posting your feedback to 63 Mount Barker Road Stirling SA 5152
- Giving us a call on 8408 0400
- Collecting a hardcopy feedback form from any Council Service Centre or Library at Stirling, Gumeracha or Woodside during opening hours.
- Presenting at the public Council Meeting being held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 10 June 2025.

The opportunity to provide your feedback closes Wednesday 11 June 2025.

Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26 and Budget

Have your say

Campbelltown City Council Boundary Change Proposal



Campbelltown City Council Boundary Change Proposal - it impacts you and your family

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- Stronger together - instead of dividing communities, councils should work together on shared challenges.
- Financially damaging for all - the proposal would see a loss of 3.76% ratepaying residents increasing financial pressure on existing ratepayers.
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 - Email: CampbelltownBoundaryReview@bdo.com.au
 - Postal address: BDO Advisory C/O Kyffin Thompson Level 7, 420 King William Street ADELAIDE SA 5001

We encourage you to have your say and support Adelaide Hills Council's objection to the proposal. The closing date for feedback submissions is 5pm Friday 20 June 2025.

Have a great day

AHC Communications and Engagement Team



Adelaide Hills Council
PO Box 44, Woodside SA 5244
(08) 8408 0400 | mail@ahc.sa.gov.au

[Unsubscribe](#)

AHC Facebook post – 28 May 2025



Adelaide Hills Council

May 28 at 12:30 PM · 🌐

Have your say. 🗳️ Our draft Annual Business Plan 2025–26 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026–40 are now open for community feedback.

Do these plans reflect what matters most to you? Are we focusing on the right priorities for our region's future?

Read the drafts and share your thoughts 🙌 <https://ow.ly/Tg7F50VYEYO>

📅 Feedback closes Wednesday 11 June.

#ABP2025

Have your say

**Draft Annual Business Plan
and Budget 2025-2026**



 Like

 Comment

 Share

AHC Facebook post – 4 June 2025



Adelaide Hills Council

June 4 at 6:30 PM · 🌐

Feedback closes next Wednesday. 🗨️ Our draft Annual Business Plan 2025–26 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026–40 are open for feedback.

Do these plans reflect what matters most to you? Are we focusing on the right priorities for our region's future?

Read the drafts and share your thoughts 👉 <https://ow.ly/eEfm50VYF2r>

📅 Feedback closes Wednesday 11 June.

#ABP2025

Have your say

**Draft Annual Business Plan
and Budget 2025-2026**





Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

 4

2 shares

 Like

 Comment

 Share

LinkedIn Post 1



Home About **Posts** Jobs People



Adelaide Hills Council
...

5,033 followers
1w •

Have your say.  Our draft Annual Business Plan 2025–26 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026–40 are now open for community feedback. ...more

Have your say

Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2025-2026





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