



A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING MAYOR AND CEO

Over the past year, our community has faced significant challenges — from the impact of ongoing drought conditions on our primary producers to the broader pressures of rising living costs. These challenges have been deeply felt across our region, and while our community is both resilient and resourceful, it is important to acknowledge the weight of these times.

Council remains committed to supporting our residents by delivering the essential services you rely on, without adding to the burdens you face. With this in mind, we present the 2025–2026 Annual Business Plan, Budget, and Long-Term Financial Plan. These documents outline our priorities for the year ahead and into the future, guided by our responsibility to serve the community while maintaining long-term financial sustainability. The 2025/2026 budget includes a 3.0% general rate revenue increase for existing ratepayers, along with revenue from new developments.

The Annual Business Plan reflects our shared values and aspirations. It balances the rising cost of providing services and infrastructure with efforts to find efficiencies, streamline operations, and minimise rate increases.

As Roseworthy grows rapidly and development continues in Freeling and Kapunda, we face increasing infrastructure demands. Council is planning responsibly for these needs while recognising the opportunity for regional investment and growth. Our commitment to sound financial management remains strong, but never at the expense of community expectations. We recognise how much our residents and businesses rely on Council to help shape a thriving, resilient, and inclusive region.

To support this, Council has worked to minimise rate impacts despite significant valuation increases in sectors like primary production and residential land. To mitigate these effects, a rate cap of 10% has been applied from 2024/2025 to 2025/2026.

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2025-2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET SUMMARY



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In the coming year, Council will continue to deliver responsive, community-aligned services and programs, guided by our long-term vision. Together, we will face challenges and build a stronger, more connected future.

We extend our sincere thanks to our community, dedicated staff, and Councillors for your ongoing support, input, and collaboration in shaping this Plan.

Michael Phillips-Ryder
Acting Mayor

Richard Dodson
Chief Executive Officer

Thank you

We thank Council staff for their extensive work in preparing the budget and for assisting Councillors in their deliberations prior to adopting this fair Budget and Annual Business Plan, which will enable Council's services and programs to be delivered in the coming financial year.

2025/2026 HIGHLIGHTS

Light Regional Council's Strategic Plan 2024-2028 details the strategic priorities that sustain Council's vision over the next four years. To achieve the vision 5 long term goals have been identified: Leadership, Transport, Community, Sustainability and Economy. Each long-term goal is underpinned by goals and focus areas. A full list can be found in the Annual Business Plan and Budget 2025/2026 on Council's website www.light.sa.gov.au

Priorities for the year ahead include:



Increase in general rate revenue of approx. 3%



\$2.91m of unsealed road re-sheeting



Bunyip 2 water re-use project associated with the Roseworthy development completed



Infrastructure Capital Works Program - \$11.5m (details ABP Appendix C)



A small budget surplus of \$0.141m



Implement 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan



Rate Relief Strategy for General Rates payable increase greater than 10%



1,200 km of road grading



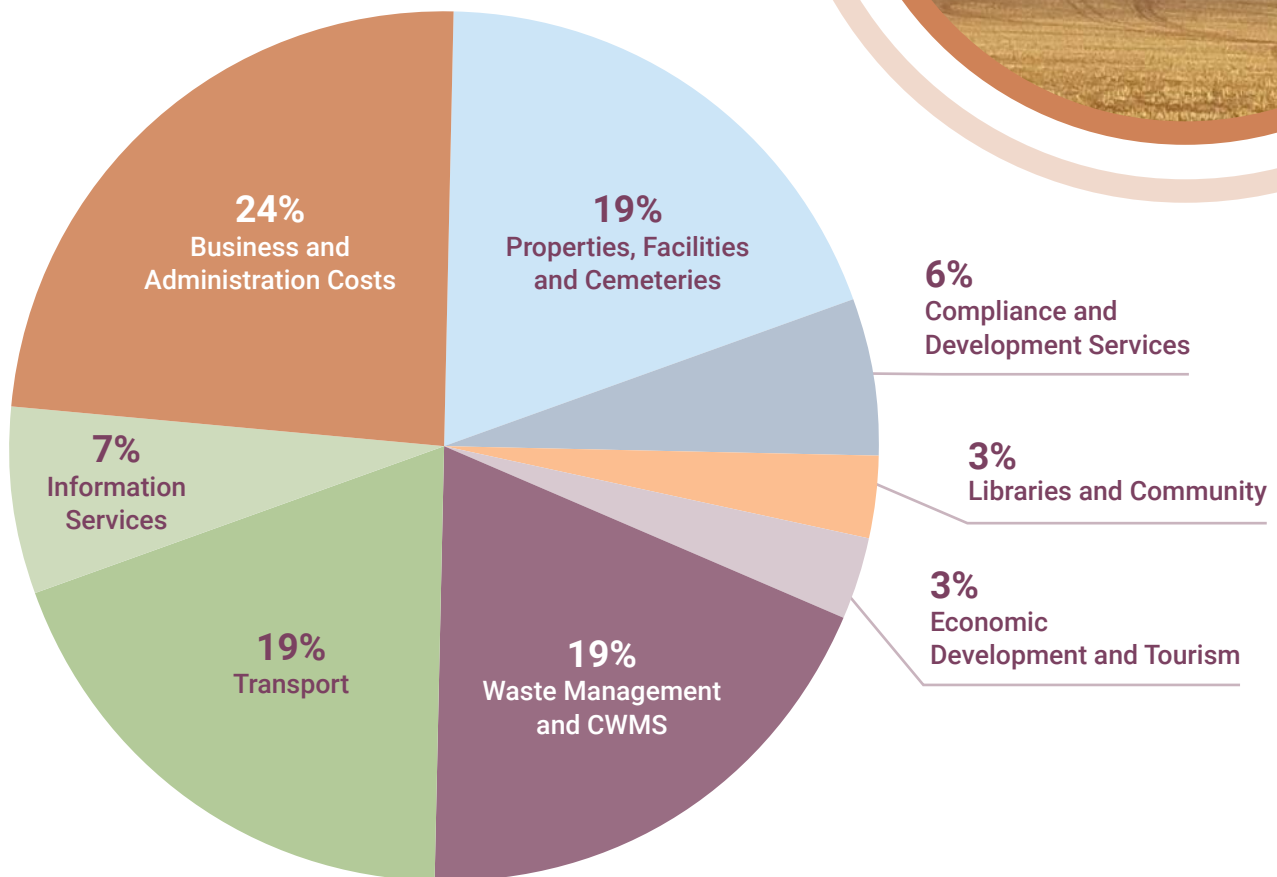
Action plan to address community satisfaction survey



Continuity of core council services (refer ABP pages 12 and 13)



HOW YOUR RATES ARE SPENT



2025/2026 CAPITAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Roads

Funds to be spent on the Infrastructure Capital Works Program, totalling \$9.2 million will include:

- \$3.3 million towards sealed road renewals including the upgrade of Kapunda Street with new kerb and gutter, footpaths and defined carparking near the RSL
- \$2.9 million for re-sheeting unsealed roads

Key additional road projects include:

- Ebenezer Road \$1.25million upgrade to a seal
- Branson Road upgrade to a seal between Jackman and Konke St
- Twartz Road resheeting

Recreation and Open Space

\$0.26m allocated to the expansion, upgrade and renewal of recreation and open space assets.

Community Wastewater Management Scheme

\$0.516m will be spent on the upgrade and renewal of Community Wastewater Management Schemes.

Stormwater

\$0.824m allocated for stormwater with key highlights including Dommenz Road and Clare Road.

Buildings and Structures

\$0.641m allocated for buildings and structures located to the expansion, upgrade and renewal of land and building assets. Key projects:

- 0.3m Kapunda Institute
- 0.22m for Kapunda Museum

YOUR RATES EXPLAINED

General Rates are a part of Council's revenue and funds the services, programs and initiatives provided to the community.

General Rates benefit the whole community. It is calculated by multiplying the rate in the dollar (set by Council) by the value of your property, as determined by the Valuer-General of South Australia (over which Council has no influence). Thus, the general rate you pay may alter if the value of your property changes. If you believe your property valuation is too high, you can apply to the Valuer-General to have it reviewed. The minimum general rate payable is \$995.

The general rate in the dollar is based on:

 Property Valuation $\times$  Rate in the Dollar = General Rates Payable
* properties on minimum rate.

Rate Rebate Application

To provide relief against what would otherwise amount to a substantial change in rates caused by rapid changes in property valuation, Council determined a rebate may be available upon application.

Approval of ratepayer applications are in accordance with the following conditions:

- Increase to General Rates payable is greater than 10% compared to General Rates payable in previous financial year, and rebate amount is \$10 or greater.
- Rebate approval is based on an application process (to be received within 25 days of the first rates notice).
- Rebate is unavailable for any property improvements (>\$50,000) property since the last valuation, any property purchased since the last valuation, any property where the land use has changed, and any property where the minimum rate applies.

For more information, go to: www.light.sa.gov.au/home/payment-and-rates/rates

Rate/\$ Proposals by Land Use Category (LUC)	2025	2026
Residential	0.003630	0.003430
Commercial Shop	0.005240	0.005400
Commercial Office	0.005240	0.005400
Commercial Other	0.007720	0.007950
Industrial Light	0.009275	0.009550
Industrial Other	0.009275	0.009550
Primary Production	0.002895	0.002736
Vacant Land	0.007500	0.007500
Other	0.003630	0.003430

Rates Payment Due Dates

5 September 2025, 5 December 2025, 6 March 2026, 5 June 2026

Please refer to your rates notice or council website for further details including payment options.

You can request to receive your notices electronically by registering for



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Other rate relief – Council has substantially reduced the rate in the \$ for some land use categories to provide additional assistance to ratepayers.

The Annual Refuse Collection and Recycling Charge* – This charge is set to cover the actual cost of the service. In 2025/2026 the annual refuse charges for the Township service is \$390 (3 bin), and for the Rural service is \$260 (2 bin). Since many properties located outside the townships cannot access Council's rubbish pick-up service, this is a separate charge, to ensure that only those using the service pay for it and are not subsidised by those for whom it is unavailable.

The Community Wastewater Management System Annual Service Charge* – The annual service charges for the Community Wastewater Management Schemes at Kapunda, Freeling, Greenock, Roseworthy, and Nuriootpa is \$650 per unit. Since many properties outside the townships do not have access to Council's wastewater removal systems, this is also applied as a separate charge. Part of the increase this year will be used to purchase carbon offsets for the methane generated during the wastewater treatment as part of the Council's greenhouse gas reduction strategy.

* These charges are based on services provided for individual properties.