

## Councillor Freeman - QoN - Youth Advisory Committee

Tuesday, 26 May 2026  
Council

**Council Member**  
Councillor Eleanor Freeman

Public

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

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Councillor Eleanor Freeman will ask the following Question on Notice:**

'The City of Adelaide has a comparatively younger residential population than Greater Adelaide, with almost half of residents (47.1%) aged between 18-34 years old, compared with just 22.8% across Greater Adelaide, as recorded at the 2021 census.

Has the City of Adelaide ever facilitated a Youth Advisory Committee, or equivalent engagement mechanism, focused on amplifying the perspectives of younger residents, workers and visitors in Council decision-making?

If so, what form did this take, when did it operate and what recommendations were delivered?'

## REPLY

1. The City of Adelaide has previously undertaken a range of initiatives aimed at engaging younger residents, students and visitors.
2. Council endorsed the Youth Strategy and Action Plan (2010–2014) on 8 February 2010. Developed in consultation with young people, the Strategy included 54 actions focused on increasing engagement opportunities, projects, events and initiatives that would attract and support young people within the city.
3. In addition to the Youth Strategy and Action Plan, the City of Adelaide facilitated a Youth Council initiative in 2015 as part of the Council's 175-year celebrations. The initiative provided an opportunity for young people to contribute perspectives and ideas relevant to civic participation, community outcomes and the future direction of the city.
4. While the Youth Council was considered a valuable engagement initiative, it was established as a project-specific activity rather than an ongoing or permanent advisory mechanism. As such, the City of Adelaide has not maintained a standing Youth Council or equivalent formal youth advisory body on a continuous basis.
5. While a formal Youth Council is not currently in place, the City of Adelaide continues to engage with younger members of the community through a range of contemporary engagement approaches. This currently includes collaboration with the Art Gallery of South Australia's Neo Ambassadors (a volunteer committee of young people aged 13 to 17) and event participants which have been an important mechanism for obtaining youth perspectives.
6. The Neo Ambassadors have recently contributed feedback and input into the development of Council strategic work including the Cultural Policy, Teen Collections and spaces within the library, and most recently, the Draft Community Wellbeing Strategy. The Neo Ambassadors have been integral in helping to ensure that the views and aspirations of younger people are reflected in future planning and service delivery.

7. From a broader community engagement perspective, the City of Adelaide does not currently have a standalone or formalised engagement mechanism specifically dedicated to young people. Rather, Council seeks to ensure that its community engagement practices are accessible, inclusive and designed to encourage participation from all demographic groups, including younger residents, workers and visitors.
8. Where appropriate, individual engagement projects may incorporate a specific youth focus or targeted engagement activities to ensure younger perspectives are captured. These approaches are considered on a project-by-project basis depending on the subject matter, community impact and intended outcomes of the engagement process.
9. The Office of the Lord Mayor also made available the use of our civic rooms for meetings of the South Australian Youth Forum in 2023 and 2024.
10. During the period in 2025 when Australia was bidding to host the COP in Adelaide in November this year, it was envisaged that the City of Adelaide would coordinate and host a Youth Town Hall COP for young people between the ages of 13 and 17.
11. Notwithstanding the disappointment of not being awarded hosting rights for this year's COP, discussions are progressing about organising a Youth Climate Change Forum involving local schools in the City of Adelaide. It is envisaged that the Forum would be coordinated in partnership with and run by young people who go to school in our local area.
12. Subject to a successful event, other similar Forums could be developed which focus on topics which are of interest to young people in the 13 to 17 age bracket. Informal discussions about these events are being progressed with the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.
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## Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Noon - QoN - Festival Tower / Walker Corporation Rates Contribution

Tuesday, 26 May 2026  
Council

### Council Member

Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor  
Carmel Noon

Public

### Contact Officer:

Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating  
Officer

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Carmel Noon will ask the following Question on Notice:**

1. Is the land and/or building known as Festival Tower / One Festival Tower / Walker Tower currently assessed as rateable land by the City of Adelaide?
2. If not, what is the legal basis for any exemption, including whether the land is treated as Crown land or otherwise exempt under section 147 of the Local Government Act 1999?
3. If yes, for each relevant property or component, can Administration provide:
  - o the financial year from which payments commenced;
  - o whether payments are made directly to Council, via the State Government, or by another mechanism; and
  - o whether the amount is equivalent to what would otherwise be payable if the property were fully rateable commercial land?
4. If a "local government rate equivalent" is payable to the State rather than Council, does the City of Adelaide receive any portion of that payment?

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## REPLY

1. The land and building known as Festival Tower is assessed as rateable by the City of Adelaide. Under Section 147(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999* ("the Act"), all land within the area of council is rateable, except for land exempted under Section 147(2).
  - 1.1. Pursuant to Section 147(1), the City of Adelaide currently rates all areas associated with the Festival Tower except:
    - 1.1.1. Eight floors occupied by Flinders University,
    - 1.1.2. One hundred secure carparking spaces designated for Parliament House, and
    - 1.1.3. Three hundred carparking spaces designated for Festival Theatre parking.

2. Section 147(2) of the Act provides the legal basis for councils to exempt rates under specific circumstances.
  - 2.1. The floors occupied by Flinders University are exempted through Section 147(2)(c) of the Act - *land (not including domestic or residential premises) occupied by a university established by statute is not rateable.*
  - 2.2. The 100 carparks designated to Parliament House were exempted through Section 147(2)(b) – *“land held or used by the Crown... for a public purpose”.*
  - 2.3. The 300 Festival Theatre carparks were exempted through Section 147(2)(h) – *“land that is exempt... by virtue of another Act” (Festival Theatre Act (1964)).*
3. All rates have been paid direct by Walker Corporation to Council in 2024/25 and 2025/26. The year in which each property assessment became rateable, and payments received are listed below. Rates were assessed the same as other rateable commercial (non-residential) properties across the City.

<b>Occupier</b>	<b>Level / Floor</b>	<b>Rateable Year</b>
Wilson Parking (Carpark)	King William Road	2021-22
East End Cellars	Ground Shop 1	2024-25
Vacant	Ground Shop 2	2024-25
Pickle in the City	Ground Shop 3	2024-25
Westpac/Bank SA Level	Level 8	2024-25
Westpac/Bank SA Level	Level 9	2024-25
Westpac/Bank SA Level	Level 10	2024-25
Westpac/Bank SA Level	Level 11	2024-25
Westpac/Bank SA Level	Level 12	2024-25
Sparke Helmore Lawyers	Level 13	2024-25
Commonwealth Government	Level 13	2024-25
Allianz	Level 15	2024-25
Allianz	Level 16	2024-25
Mott MacDonald	Level 17	2024-25
Origin Energy	Level 18	2024-25
Origin Energy	Level 19	2024-25
Vacant	Level 20	2024-25
Vacant	Level 21	2024-25
China Construction Bank Level	Level 22	2024-25
Deloitte	Level 22	2024-25
Walker Corporation	Level 22	2024-25
Deloitte	Level 23	2024-25
Deloitte	Level 24	2024-25
Deloitte	Level 25	2024-25
Commonwealth Government	Level 26	2024-25
Commonwealth Government	Level 27	2024-25
Naming Rights - Bank SA	Sign	2024-25
Naming Rights - Deloitte Station	Sign	2024-25
Naming Rights - Westpac Station	Sign	2024-25

4. No “rate equivalent” has been paid to the State Government for any of the rated properties.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.
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