

Our Corporation

2025/26 Business Plan and Budget

Proposed Fees and Charges
Changes for 25/26

15 April 2025

Anthony Spatalis, Chief Operating Officer

Jo Podoliak, Director City Community

Introduction

Building a Business Plan and Budget

Date	Forum	Type	Theme	Topic	
3 Dec	Spec CFG	Workshop	Introduction	Introduction and process for building the 2025/26 BP&B – parameters and priorities (as per LTFP and Strategic Plan)	✓
10 Dec	CEO Briefing	Workshop	Budget	Current position (LTFP, precommitments, retimes) and Subsidiary budget allocations (also launch member bids)	✓
11 Feb	CEO Briefing	Workshop	Plan and Budget	The build of the 2025/26 BP&B – assumptions, set 25/26 priorities and revenue levers	✓
21 Feb	ARC	Presentation	Plan and Budget	The 2025/26 BP&B – priorities, parameters, assumptions and current position	✓
11 Mar	Spec CFG	Workshop	Budget	Operating Budget review – ESCOSA Findings, base budget, service changes, Strategic Projects allocation to strategies/plans and member ideas	✓
18 Mar	CFG	Workshop	Plan	Review of Strategic Projects and Subsidiary Draft BP&Bs (ACMA and AEDA)	✓
25 Mar	Spec CFG	Workshop	Plan	Review of Capital Projects	✓
1 Apr	Spec CFG	Workshop	Plan and Budget	Final review of budgets and projects (balanced budget)	✓
11 Apr	ARC	Presentation	Draft BP&B	Draft 2025/26 BP&B - update	✓
15 Apr	CFG	Workshop Workshop Report	Budget and Plan Budget Budget and Plan	AEDA 25/26 Budget Proposed Fees and Charges Changes for 25/26 Updated operating position	
22 Apr	Council	Report	Draft BP&B	Draft 2025/26 BP&B for community consultation purposes	
29 Apr – 20 May	N/A	Public	Consultation	Community Consultation (including presentation of Draft 2025/26 BP&B to Subsidiary boards)	
27 May	Council	Public	Consultation	Special hearing for public consultation	
10 Jun	Council	Report	Consultation	Receipt of submissions	
17 Jun 24 Jun	CFG Council	Report	Final BP&B	Final 2025/26 BP&B	

Fees and Charges

Financial Principles

There are two types of fees set by Council – by Council (or under delegation); Commercial under delegation plus those by statute (State Government);

Fees and charges set by council or under delegation are reviewed each year in the development of the BP&B. The review ensures that the fees:

- Are consistent with our Strategic Financial Parameters.
- Are consistent with directions articulated through our existing policies or plan.
- Reflect (or move progressively toward) the cost of the services delivered.
- Are comparable with market rates, where appropriate.
- Take into account the benefit derived by users of community facilities.

Financial Principle

- Approach to rates, fees and charges is fair and equitable.
- Fees and charges reflect cost of services provided.
- Consider new and different revenue streams and the approach to commercial businesses to reduce reliance on existing revenue sources.

Fees and Charges – Parklets

Context

- Council's parklet program launched during COVID-19 to support the hospitality industry, with 14 businesses currently activating areas of the city via this approach.
- On 10 December 2024 Council resolved to consider reviewing parklet fees in the 2025/26 budget process, requesting updated benchmarking information. Background information is provided at [Link 1](#).
- Parklet fees were introduced in **2023/24** using the following principles:
 - Council charge for the use of public space for commercial gain, on a per square metre basis.
 - Parklets occupy premium space and therefore attract a higher fee than footpath outdoor dining.
 - Collectively, the activation of parklets should not significantly decrease Council's overall revenue which funds core service delivery to all ratepayers.
 - Businesses unable to have footpath outdoor dining have reduced fees.
- The **2024/25** endorsed fee rates were:
 - A 'per square metre' rate, discounted if a business has no ability to have footpath outdoor dining.
 - For parklets occupying paid parking bays, businesses partially reimburse CoA for the loss of paid parking revenue (50%).

Fees and Charges – Parklets

Proposal for 2025/26

- Administration has considered feedback from Members, stakeholders, benchmarking data, and the collective impact of all parklets.
- A revised fee model is recommended for 2025/26. The proposed model:
 - Reduces Council’s permit revenue by an estimated \$50k
 - Delivers a consistent, simple approach, using one ‘per square metre’ rate
 - Removes considerations of paid parking revenue impacts on individual businesses
 - Provides substantial fee reductions for most businesses
 - Results in a maximum fee increase for any business of \$120 per annum.

2024/25 Fee Model		2025/26 Recommended Fee Model	
Parklet Fee	Fee Rate	Parklet Fee	Fee Rate
Parklet fee (no footpath dining)	\$160.60 per square metre, per annum	Parklet fee	\$165 per square metre, per annum
or			
Parklet (standard)	\$321.20 per square metre, per annum		
Loss of ticket machine revenue where applicable	Reimburse 50% of estimated revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fee higher than outdoor dining (\$51 per sqm per annum) ▪ Fee mirrors the lowest rate in 2024/25, increased by CPI 	
Projected Annual Revenue	\$89k	Projected Annual Revenue	\$38k

Fees and Charges – Parklets

2025/26 Fee Recommendation:

- Charged quarterly in arrears rather than annually
- Ability for permit period to be longer than 1 year (up to 3 years)
- Not retrospectively applied
- The impact of the model on businesses currently operating a parklet is shown below:

Question:

Are Members comfortable with the recommended parklet fee?

Parklet	Current Parklet Fee Structure	Parklet Size (m2)	Number of paid parking bays	2025/26 Annual Parklet Fee - Proposed Model	Fee Increase / (Decrease) from 2024/25
1	Parklet without access to footpath dining	27	-	\$4,455	\$119
2	Parklet without access to footpath dining	16.5	-	\$2,723	\$73
3	Parklet without access to footpath dining	12	-	\$1,980	\$53
4	Parklet without access to footpath dining	11	-	\$1,815	\$48
5	Parklet without access to footpath dining	11	-	\$1,815	\$48
6	Parklet without access to footpath dining	8	-	\$1,320	\$35
7	Parklet with access to footpath dining	31.7	-	\$5,227	(\$4,948)
8	Parklet with access to footpath dining	10	-	\$1,650	(\$1,562)
9	Parklet with access to footpath dining	8	-	\$1,320	(\$1,250)
10	Parklet in paid parking bays	26	2	\$4,290	(\$9,568)
11	Parklet in paid parking bays	25	1	\$4,125	(\$7,816)
12	Parklet in paid parking bays	24	3	\$3,960	(\$17,296)
13	Parklet in paid parking bays	12	1	\$1,980	(\$5,095)
14	Parklet in paid parking bays	6.7	1	\$1,109	(\$4,270)

Fees and Charges – Road Closures for Events

Context

- Currently the proposed fee to close a road for an event in 2025/26 is \$904 per application (inclusive of CPI increase on the 2024/25 fee).
- This fee is only applied to commercial organisations and is irrespective of the length of road closure.
- In line with a previous decision of Council, Not-for-profit (NFP), Charities and State Government events/organisations are exempt from the road closure event fee.
- The fee is the same, regardless of which road is closed and the length of time of the event – i.e. a one-day event on a quiet side-street pays the same fee as a multi-day event on a major road.

Recommendation

Fee Principles:

- It is not insignificant to close a public road and we place a value on that.
- Recognise the disruption caused (minor or major) to residents, businesses and city users when any road is closed.
- Recognise the importance and value of events on the city's vibrancy and economy.
- User-pay model with regard to the administration work involved in the closure of a road.

Fees and Charges – Road Closures for Events

2025/26 Fee Recommendation:

- Only for road closures exceeding 24 hours on 'major roads', the fee is charged per day, instead of per application.
 - Major roads are defined as roads with 8,000 or more traffic movements per day.
- The fee is charged for all road closures for events but continue the exemption for NFPs and Charities.
- If adopted, these changes to the fee is anticipated to increase revenue by \$40,000.

Question:

Are Members comfortable with the proposed approach for road closures for event fees?

Next Steps

Timeline and process

The proposed timelines seek to manage the process in an efficient and transparent manner. The next step in delivering the 25/26 BP&B is:

- Seek endorsement of the Draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget for community consultation

Date	Topic	
3 Dec	Introduction and process for building the 2025/26 BP&B – parameters and priorities (as per LTFP and Strat Plan)	✓
10 Dec	Current position (LTFP, precommitments, retimes) and Subsidiary budget allocations (also launch member bids)	✓
11 Feb	Building the 2025/26 BP&B – assumptions, set 25/26 priorities and revenue levers	✓
21 Feb	ARC - 2025/26 BP&B – priorities, parameters, assumptions and current position	✓
11 Mar	Operating Budget review – ESCOSA Findings, base budget, service changes, Strategic Projects allocation to strategies/plans and member ideas	✓
18 Mar	Review of Strategic Projects and Subsidiary Draft BP&Bs (ACMA and AEDA)	✓
25 Mar	Review of Capital Projects	✓
1 Apr	Final review of budgets and projects (balanced budget)	✓
11 Apr	ARC - Draft 2025/26 BP&B - update	✓
15 Apr	Workshop – Proposed Fees and Charges Changes for 25/26 Workshop – AEDA 25/26 Budget Report – Updated operating position	✓
22 Apr	Draft 2025/26 BP&B for community consultation purposes	
29 Apr – 20 May	Community Consultation (including presentation of Draft 2025/26 BP&B to Subsidiary boards)	
27 May	Special hearing for public consultation	
10 Jun	Receipt of submissions	
17 Jun 24 Jun	Final 2025/26 BP&B	