

2025/2026 Business Plan and Budget – Review of Fees and Charges

Tuesday, 15 April 2025
City Finance and Governance
Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

Program Contact:
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Public

Approving Officer:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Council endorsement on the proposed Fees and Charges schedule for 2025/26. The proposed fees and charges schedule is used as the basis for developing the draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget for public consultation.

Fees and charges are a core source of revenue for the City of Adelaide, with approximately \$88 million budgeted for the 2025/26 financial year. Section 188 of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* (the Act) provides the legal framework by which Council sets fees and charges through by-laws or under delegation, with some statutory charges set by the State.

The proposed Fees and Charges schedule reflects feedback from workshops with Council, combined with Administration's assessment of Council's current internal and external operating environment, and Council's adopted financial principle "Fees and charges reflect the cost of services provided".

The attachments detail each individual fee and the proposed rate for 2025/26, with noteworthy changes highlighted in the body of the report.

The report and associated links also demonstrate recently conducted benchmarking that indicates that Council's fees are generally lower or competitive with other capital cities and metropolitan councils.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 22 April 2025 for consideration

THAT THE CITY FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Adopts the schedule of fees and charges set by Council for the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget as included in Attachment A to Item 7.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee held on 15 April 2025.
2. Notes the schedule of fees and charges set by Council under delegation for the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget as included in Attachment B to Item 7.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee held on 15 April 2025.
3. Adopts the schedule of fees and charges set by Council for the Adelaide Economic Development Agency for the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget as included in Attachment C to Item 7.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee held on 15 April 2025.
4. Notes the schedule of General fees and charges set by Statute included in Attachment D to Item 7.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee held on 15 April 2025. These fees will be updated in June/July 2025 once gazetted by State Government.
5. Notes the schedule of Commercial Business fees and charges set by Council under delegation for the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget as included in Attachment E to Item 7.2 on the Agenda for the meeting of the City Finance and Governance Committee held on 15 April 2025.
6. Notes the base level increase of 3% being applied to most fees and charges reflecting the most recent 2025/26 CPI forecast from the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES).

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation The deliverables, objectives and associated budget set out in the draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget document are directly aligned to the delivery of Year 2 of the 2024-2028 City of Adelaide Strategic Plan
Policy	The draft 2025/26 budget for fees and charges has been developed in line with appropriate policies and guidelines.
Consultation	The draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget endorsed for public consultation factors in the proposed fees and charges.
Resource	Not as a result of this report.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Statutory Fees and charges determined by an Act of Parliament or by Local Government Regulations will not be gazetted until after adoption of Council set fees. It is proposed to adopt those fees set by Council now, with statutory fees to be added to the Fees and Charges Schedule available for public inspection once gazetted. This is anticipated to be in late June 2025 consistent with previous years.
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report.
24/25 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Proposed 25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report.
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report.
24/25 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report.
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report.
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report.

DISCUSSION

Background

1. Section 188 of the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* (the Act) provides the legal framework for Council setting fees:
 - 1.1. Fees and charges are determined by resolution of Council either as a direct resolution or through bylaw or via delegation.
 - 1.2. Council is unable to fix or vary fees or charges prescribed under other Acts.
 - 1.3. For the use of facilities, services or works requests a Council need not fix fees or charges by reference to the cost of the Council.
 - 1.4. Council is required to keep the list of fees and charges on public display and provide updates where fees and charges are varied during the year.
2. Fees and charges are reviewed each year, in conjunction with the development of the Business Plan and Budget.
3. As an organisation and service provider, Council is not immune to the rising costs of services and inflation, therefore, as a minimum, it is necessary to increase fees and charges by CPI to align with increased expenses.
4. Council uses revenue generated from fees and charges to fund a wide range of community services. It is a critical source of funding, along with revenue from residential and commercial rates.
5. The proposed fees and charges schedule is factored into the draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget developed for public consultation, which outlines the services and outcomes Council will deliver for the community in the following year.

The 2025/26 Approach

6. Throughout the development of the draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget, Council's financial position and trends have been outlined to Council Members in a series of reports and workshops.
7. The principle adopted within the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) states 'Fees and charges reflect the cost of services provided'.
8. At the 11 March 2025 Special City Finance and Governance Committee Meeting, Council was presented with the financial assumptions for the draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget which stated that "revenue increases are linked to CPI (Rates and Fees and Charges)".
9. Fees and charges proposed for 2025/26 reflect feedback from Members during workshops, combined with Administration's assessment of the current internal and external operating environment facing Council.
10. The most recent reports received from the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies (SACES) forecast CPI for 2025/26 at 3%. The baseline proposal of a 3% increase to fees and charges considers this CPI forecast, and opportunities to benchmark certain fees and charges against similar councils.
11. Variances against the base 3% CPI increase exist for certain fees that required specific treatment, as outlined in the attachments.
12. The AEDA schedule of fees and charges was considered and endorsed by the AEDA Board.
13. New fees and charges reviewed include:
 - 13.1. A change to 2025/26 Parklet fees to simplify the model and introduce quarterly invoicing. This fee is recommended to be applied from 2025/26 on and not applied retrospectively.
 - 13.2. Daily charge for major and minor road closures instead of a one-off fee. This fee is now charged for all road closure applications, not just commercial applications, but continues the exemption for Not-for-profits and Charities.
 - 13.3. Inclusion of Park Lands lease fees into the schedule for Council endorsement, noting Park Lands lease fees are currently set by the Park Lands Lease and Licence policy. This schedule inclusion enables fees to be annually indexed and provides consistency with other fees and charges.
 - 13.4. Introduction of an application fee for Private Laneway Parking arrangements, once off fee.
 - 13.5. Introduction of an annual permit fee, ladder usage.
 - 13.6. Introduction of Recovery of Animal Welfare League fees.

- 13.7. Introduction of fees for City Archives sales of digital maps and reports, cost recovery.
- 13.8. Introduction of Commercial watercraft fees on the River Torrens.
- 13.9. Introduction of a River Torrens permit licence fee.
- 13.10. Introduction of a new fee for Council documents, rates and rating information.
- 13.11. Introduction of a new fee for education institutions for Court, Green and Piste usage to align with current fees currently being charged to the Community.
- 13.12. Change to Rundle Mall Zone B sizing and associated fee schedule.
- 13.13. Introduction of Rundle Mall fee for decals and roaming fees to the schedule.
- 14. Each attachment highlights:
 - 14.1. Proposed 2025/26 fees along with 3 years of historical data, including the fee value change and percentage.
 - 14.2. Existing fees increased in excess of indexation either to meet the costs of providing the associated service or to bring fees charged in line with benchmarked rates.
 - 14.3. New fees added in line with appropriate legislation changes and delegations.
 - 14.4. Deleted fees are represented with a strikethrough.
- 15. **Attachment A** includes proposed fees and charges set by Council for the draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget.
- 16. **Attachment B** includes proposed fees and charges set under delegation for the draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget.
- 17. **Attachment C** includes proposed fees and charges set by Council for Adelaide Economic Development Agency for the draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget.
- 18. **Attachment D** includes General fees and charges set by statute. These fees will be updated in June/July 2025 once gazetted by State Government.
- 19. **Attachment E** includes the list of fees and charges for Commercial Businesses set under delegation for the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget.
- 20. Included in Attachment E is the disclosure of the maximum daily rate for Council's off-street parking operations. This is aligned with the legislative requirement under section 188(3) whereby Council may provide for maximum and minimum fee charges.

Next Steps

- 21. The draft 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget is due to go out for public consultation in late April early / May 2025 following Council endorsement.
- 22. Any feedback received during public consultation will be considered by Council prior to the adoption of the 2025/26 Business Plan and Budget.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – General fees and charges set by Council

Attachment B – Fees and charges set under delegation by Council

Attachment C – Fees and charges set by Council for the Adelaide Economic Development Agency

Attachment D – General fees and charges set by Statute

Attachment E – Commercial Businesses fees and charges set Under Delegation

- END OF REPORT