

# Councillor Freeman - QoN - Capital City Celebration of National Events

Tuesday, 28 October 2025  
Council

**Council Member**  
Councillor Eleanor Freeman

Public

**Contact Officer:**  
Michael Sedgman, Chief Executive  
Officer

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

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

'As the Capital City, the City of Adelaide is looked to for recognition and promotion of relevant national events. This is particularly important when national events align to aspirations documented within Council's adopted strategies – such as the Integrated Transport Strategy's target to triple the number of people cycling to the city by 2030.

National Ride2Work Day was held on 15 October 2025 and celebrated across Australia. However, for the first time since 2014, the City of Adelaide did not celebrate the event due to budget constraints.

Can the Administration advise:

1. What national events does the City of Adelaide currently commit to?
2. How are national events identified, prioritised and funded within the City of Adelaide's broader program of events?
3. What proportion of the 2025/26 budget is allocated to the celebration of national events?
4. What consideration of national events will be included for prioritisation in the 2026-27 Annual Business Plan and Budget process?

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## REPLY

1. In 2025/26 the City of Adelaide has committed to supporting the following national events either through Strategic Project funding allocations as part of the annual Business Plan and Budget (BP&B) process, or funding being included in specific operational budgets. These events are:
  - 1.1. Australia Day – Strategic project funding for a partnership with the Australia Day Council of South Australia to deliver community events in the city.
  - 1.2. ANZAC Day Service - March and related activities – funding included in the operational budget.
  - 1.3. NAIDOC Week Celebrations – funding included in the operational budget.
  - 1.4. Adelaide's New Years Eve Celebrations – funding included in the operational budget.
2. In response to part two of the Question on Notice:
  - 2.1 The events noted in parts 1.1 to 1.4 of this response are considered by Council for funding as part of the annual BP&B process. Support for these specific events has been determined by Council decision (Australia Day and New Years Eve) or as a specific action within Council's endorsed Stretch

Reconciliation Plans (NAIDOC Week) or to support the state's largest commemorative activities (ANZAC Day).

- 2.2 As noted in the [Civic Recognition and Protocol Policy](#), civic recognition can take the form of a number of events or acknowledgements, including Lighting of the Adelaide Town Hall.

2.2.1 Requests to light up the Adelaide Town Hall must meet at least one of six different criteria. One of the criteria is "Significant public events, celebrations or occasions that are of state, national or international significance". All requests are directed to the Lord Mayor for consideration and decision.

2.2.2 Previous occasions or events of national significance have included National Police Remembrance Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Volunteers Week and support for the Matildas campaign in the FIFA Women's World Cup.

3. The 2025/26 Annual BP&B includes funding for the four national events outlined in points 1.1 to 1.4 above as follows:

3.1 Australia Day event - \$100,000

3.2 ANZAC Day Service - \$57,000

3.3 NAIDOC Week events - \$54,000

3.4 Adelaide's New Years Eve Celebrations - \$585,000

3.5 The total budget for these events is \$796,000 being 0.33% of the 2025/26 total operating expenditure of \$240.428 million.

4. Funding for national events is considered by Council Members as part of their deliberations during the annual BP&B process. In addition to the events noted in points 1.1. to 1.4., Council Members have the opportunity to propose funding be allocated for specific activities that may be linked to national events. It is Council's decision whether funding will be allocated.

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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