

Nominations to Adelaide Festival Corporation Board

Tuesday, 10 March 2026
Council

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

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Public

Approving Officer:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek the nomination of three Council Members to be provided to the responsible Minister to select one council appointee to the Adelaide Festival Corporation Board (the Board).

The Board is established under the *Adelaide Festival Corporation Act 1998* to perform and exercise the functions and powers of the Adelaide Festival Corporation.

The *Adelaide Festival Corporation Act 1998* requires that Council submit a panel of three nominees for the selection of one appointee to the Board. In accordance with section 42(2)(a) of the *Legislation Interpretation Act 2021* (SA) the panel of nominees must include at least one woman and one man.

On 25 November 2025, at the request of the Adelaide Festival Corporation, Council nominated a panel of three Council Members, to be presented for consideration to the responsible Minister, with the understanding that a recommendation would be made to the Governor for the appointment of a Council Member to the Board, following the expiration of the term of appointment of Councillor Couros on 1 February 2026. The Council Members nominated were Councillor Couros, Councillor Freeman and Councillor Maher.

In February 2026, Administration received advice from the Adelaide Festival Corporation that no recommendation to the Governor will be made by the current Minister for Arts prior to the 2026 State Government Election. Accordingly, the Adelaide Festival Corporation have advised that a new decision of Council is required, and a new panel of three Council Members is to be presented for consideration by the incoming responsible Minister, with any recommendation for appointment to be made in due course. Accordingly, the position is now vacant, and all Council Members remain eligible for nomination.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes that the *Adelaide Festival Corporation Act 1998* requires City of Adelaide (1 appointee) representation on the Adelaide Festival Corporation Board.
2. Approves the nomination of three Council Members to be provided to the responsible Minister to select one council nominee to recommend to the Governor for appointment to the Adelaide Festival Corporation Board, in accordance with section 8(1)(a) of the *Adelaide Festival Corporation Act 1998*.
3. Notes that the method of nominating three Council Members will be undertaken in accordance with the Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures as follows:
 - 3.1. The Presiding Member of the Meeting will call for nominations, which must be accepted or declined by the Council Member who is the subject of the nomination.
 - 3.2. The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidates nominated for submission to the Board for consideration by the Minister.
 - 3.3. In the event of only three nominations to the office, the candidates will be announced by the Returning Officer as Council's nominees.

- 3.4. In the event of there being more nominations than required, an election by voting ballot of Council Members present will be undertaken.
 - 3.5. Upon completion of the ballot process, the Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer will announce the successful candidates nominated for submission to the Board for consideration by the Minister.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation This report aligns with the Strategic Plan objective of effective leadership and governance.
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	For participating members, preparation for and attendance at meetings.
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Members considering nominating for an appointment should note that, as Board Members, they will need to consider how to manage future conflicts of interest that arise from Council decisions relating to that body.
Opportunities	Appointments to outside bodies provide an opportunity for Council Members to contribute to discussion and decision making on a broad range of matters relevant to the City of Adelaide.
25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 26/27 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
25/26 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

1. The Adelaide Festival Corporation Board (the Board) is established under the *Adelaide Festival Corporation Act 1998* (AFC Act) to perform and exercise the functions and powers of the Adelaide Festival Corporation.
2. Pursuant to section 8(1)(a) of the AFC Act, Council is required to put forward three nominees for the responsible Minister to consider, for recommendation of one nominee to the Governor for appointment.
3. The panel of nominees must include at least one woman and one man, in accordance with section 42(2)(a) of the *Legislation Interpretation Act 2021* (SA).
4. Appointments are for a term not exceeding three years.
5. The Board is required to meet at least six times per year and meetings are generally held in the Adelaide Festival Office.
6. Sitting fees of \$590 per meeting are payable.
7. The Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures (Part 156) requires any Council Member appointed as a Council representative to an external organisation to report on their involvement in activities associated with that organisation.

Process for nomination

8. In accordance with section 51 (8) of the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) and the Code of Practice for Council Meeting Procedures (Ballot Process):
 - 8.1. The Presiding Member of the Meeting will call for nominations, which must be accepted or declined by the Council Member who is the subject of the nomination.
 - 8.2. The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidates nominated for submission to the Board for consideration by the Minister for the appointment of one.
 - 8.3. In the event of only three nominations to the office, the candidates will be announced by the Returning Officer as Council's nominees.
 - 8.4. In the event of there being more nominations than required, an election by voting ballot of Council Members present will be undertaken.
 - 8.5. If the votes for two or more candidates for the relevant position are equal, a revote by ballot between tied candidates will be undertaken.
 - 8.6. If the votes for two or more candidates for the position remain equal, lots must be drawn to determine which candidate or candidates will be excluded.
 - 8.7. The Chief Executive Officer as Returning Officer is authorised to declare the successful candidates nominated for submission to the Board for consideration by the Minister for the appointment of one.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

- END OF REPORT -