

# Councillor Davis - QoN - City of Adelaide Greening Strategy

Tuesday, 10 March 2026  
**Council**

**Council Member**  
Councillor Henry Davis

Public

**Contact Officer:**  
Tom McCreedy, Director City Infrastructure

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Councillor Henry Davis will ask the following Question on Notice:**

1. What is the cost to deliver the proposed Greening Strategy per year?
2. Has this project been included in the Council's Long Term Financial Plan?
3. What is the council's current prudential borrowing limit for each year over the next 10 years
4. When will the council reach 95% of its prudential borrowing limit?

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## REPLY

1. On 17 February 2026 the 'Public Realm Greening Program – 5 Year Tree Planting Overview' was presented to the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee. The following information was outlined in the report:
  - 1.1. To date, the City of Adelaide has committed \$8,084,582 for the Program with \$3,297,582 spent in the 2024/25 financial year and \$4,787,000 allocated in the 2025/26 financial year.
  - 1.2. It is anticipated that an annual figure of approximately \$4,000,000 is required for the program to deliver 200 trees per year beyond the 2025/26 financial year.
2. The actual cost going forward will depend on various factors including intended scope, irrigation requirements, latent conditions and third-party services implications. The Administration believes that an average cost of around \$20,000 is possible when there is a mix of trees being planted with minimal works, such as in central medians without underground cells, and trees planted in locations requiring more significant work, such as in roads with underground cells.
3. It is more expensive to plant trees in roads with underground cells so these costs will need to be managed closely as more trees are planted only in roads with underground cells. Designs are being refined to provide a variety of options when trees are being planted in roads.
4. The resolution of Council on 24 February 2026, requested Administration prepare a revised 5-Year Green Infrastructure Plan which will involve the preparation of a detailed cost estimate to 2035 including water sensitive urban design (WSUD) interventions and operational costs/savings associated with ongoing maintenance.
5. This cost estimate will be presented to Council at the May 2026 meeting of the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee.

6. There is an allocation of \$3.932 million in 2025/26 for the Greening Program within Council’s adopted 2025/26 to 2034/25 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP).
7. Within the LTFP, there is an assumed forward commitment for New and Upgrade Projects of \$23.178 million, which is subject to a Business Case approved by Council.
8. The following table represents Council’s prudential borrowing limit as per the adopted LTFP:

| \$'m | 25-26 | 26-27 | 27-28 | 28-29 | 29-30 | 30-31 | 31-32 | 32-33 | 33-34 | 34-35 |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|      | 152.9 | 186.2 | 190.9 | 195.6 | 200.5 | 205.5 | 210.7 | 215.9 | 221.3 | 226.9 |

9. At a CEO briefing held on 21 February 2026, a list of potential new capital projects was presented to Council Members which allocated the assumed forward commitment across 2026/27 to 2029/30 financial years. This scenario resulted in Council forecasting to reach 95% of its prudential borrowing limit in 2032/33. This was on the assumption that all other parameters within the adopted LTFP remain unchanged.
10. The current adopted LTFP forecasts borrowings to reach 80% of the prudential borrowing limit in 2032/33.

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| 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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