

Councillor Freeman - MoN - Road and Path Closure Notification Review

Tuesday, 10 March 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Eleanor Freeman

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating Officer

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Eleanor Freeman will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'That Council:

Notes that road and footpath closures within the City of Adelaide are required to support maintenance, capital works, utility upgrades, emergency works and events, and that these activities can impact residents, businesses, workers and visitors.

1. Notes that closures are not centrally recorded within a single, publicly accessible Council repository, many works undertaken by utilities and other third parties may not require Council approval, limiting early visibility of planned or unplanned closures and understanding of cumulative network impacts.
2. Requests the Administration to undertake a review of current notification and communication practices for road and path closures across Council, utilities, third parties and event organisers, and identify opportunities to:
 - Improve public access to clear, timely and consolidated information;
 - Explore innovative tools or platforms (e.g. mapping, real-time data, subscription service) to support journey-planning; and
 - Strengthen engagement and information-sharing protocols with utilities and third parties and across Council.
3. Requests that a report be presented to Council by August 2026 outlining findings, recommended improvements, and implementation options and timeframes for the 26/27 financial year.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. Administration's response to the Question on Notice regarding 'Notification of Planned Works and Unplanned Disruptions,' provided at the Council meeting held on 10 February 2026 gives background and context for this response [\[link 1\]](#).
2. For third-party works requiring a permit:
 - 2.1. The permit applicant is responsible for stakeholder engagement, including letter drops to impacted properties, in accordance with the City Works permit application assessment process and conditions.
 - 2.2. The communication and notification requirements placed on permit applicants seeks to balance effective stakeholder notification whilst not creating unnecessary burden on applicants.

- 2.3. Council taking a more active role in the notification process would require additional resources and potentially create confusion in the community regarding which party is responsible for the works.
3. For utility works which don't require a permit:
 - 3.1. Administration regularly engages with providers to encourage notification and proactive communication
 - 3.2. Council's powers are limited in the ability to direct or enforce action by utility providers, and it is noted that on many occasions, utility works are related to urgent/immediate responses which limit the ability for timely communications.
4. There are complexities in producing a high quality map experience for users due to the size and scale of impacts in the City (events, parking control changes, works from various parties) and the short turnaround time for many permit approvals.
5. The Administration is developing the Community Engagement Toolkit (Toolkit) to support the recently endorsed Community Engagement Charter and Community Engagement Policy.
6. The objective of the Community Engagement Toolkit is to provide a consistent, practical and fit-for-purpose framework that enables Project Managers and teams across the City of Adelaide to:
 - 6.1. Plan, deliver and report community engagement effectively
 - 6.2. Align engagement practice with Council's Community Engagement Charter and Policy
 - 6.3. Meet relevant legislative requirements and organisational governance expectations
 - 6.4. Strengthen transparency, accountability and trust with the community
 - 6.5. Improve internal capability, quality and consistency of engagement practice across projects.
7. Should Council resolve to support the proposed motion, a report will be prepared outlining the resourcing required to deliver online enhancements and how the Toolkit can be applied to support Administration's community engagement activities relating to the notification of closures, including (but not limited to):
 - 7.1.1. Recommended communication channels
 - 7.1.2. Consistency of messaging
 - 7.1.3. Timeframes for community notification
 - 7.1.4. Stakeholder identification and mapping
 - 7.1.5. Guidance on managing unplanned disruptions versus planned works.

Should the motion be carried, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not applicable
External consultant advice	Not applicable
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	A review would not impact existing projects but implementing its findings may impact projects going forward.
Budget reallocation	A review would not impact the current budget but implementing its findings may have significant resourcing impacts going forward.
Capital investment	A review would not impact the current budget but implementing its findings may have significant resourcing impacts going forward.
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	It is anticipated the report would at least involve a total of a week of time spread across Corporate Services, City Infrastructure and City Shaping portfolios.
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 5.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT -