

Councillor Davis - QoN - Tree Martin Bird Droppings in Rundle Mall

Tuesday, 14 July 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Henry Davis

Public

Contact Officer:
Ilia Houridis, Director City Shaping

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Henry Davis will ask the following Question on Notice:

1. Is the Administration aware of the strong odour caused by the accumulation of Tree Martin bird droppings in parts of Rundle Mall?
2. Does the Administration consider it acceptable for South Australia's premier retail and shopping precinct to have areas that smell strongly of bird droppings?
3. Does the Administration consider the current mitigation measures for Tree Martin bird droppings to have been successful? If so, what objective criteria has been used to reach that conclusion?
4. Was the odour from Tree Martin bird droppings present during Gather Round 2026, and does the Administration expect the same issue to exist during Gather Round 2027 if no further action is taken?
5. If the Administration accepts that the current mitigation measures have not resolved the issue, what additional actions are proposed, and when are they expected to be implemented?

REPLY

1. The Administration first observed increased odour associated with Tree Martin roosting in Rundle Mall in early April 2026 following the season's first significant rain after an extended dry spell.
2. This was communicated to Council Members via E-news on 10 April 2026 ([Link 1](#)).
3. Gather Round 2026 was held in April 2026, during the peak Tree Martin roosting season, when the colony was actively roosting in Rundle Mall.
4. As part of its planned response for the 2025/26 roosting season and following arrival of the Tree Martins in December 2025, additional pressure cleaning has been undertaken in the affected areas.
5. In response to odour reports in April 2026, cleaning efforts increased further to include daytime deodorising and daily drain-cleaning to maintain amenity in Rundle Mall and surrounds.
6. No further complaints regarding odour have been received since April 2026.
7. Odour is influenced by variable factors such as rainfall, temperature and roost size at any given time.
8. A report on mitigation measures and proposed future actions is scheduled for the City Planning, Development and Business Affairs Committee on 4 August 2026, pending conclusion of the Tree Martin roosting period.

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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