

CONFIDENTIAL

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Port Augusta
CITY COUNCIL

REPORT FOR:	Special Council		
MEETING DATE:	13 January 2026		
REPORT FROM:	Chief Executive Officer		
REPORT TITLE:	Safer Spaces Funding – Community Safety Program		
FILE NAME:	F25/654	RECORD NO:	AR26/1340

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1 Community

- 1.2 We are a resilient, inclusive, safe and vibrant community where people feel proud to live.
- 1.3 People of all ages, cultures, abilities and interests have access to services, facilities and experiences that support their health and wellbeing.

2 Economy

- 2.2 Our City is known as a destination of choice where people come to experience our lifestyle and environment.

4 Infrastructure

- 4.1 Our physical infrastructure meets our community needs.
- 4.2 We have safe, accessible and well-utilised CBD, public spaces and built environments that reflect the priorities of our community.
- 4.3 Our City develops and evolves in a planned way, improving the appearance and making efficient use of infrastructure.

5 Governance and Financial Sustainability

- 5.2 We have positive relationships with other levels of government and partners that deliver great outcomes for the community.

SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

This report is to enable Council to consider a funding offer of \$271,000 from the State Government towards the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program and to consider a matching contribution from Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

1. That Council advises Premier Peter Malinauskas that it accepts the State Governments contribution of \$271,000 towards the conduct of the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program and agrees to contribute \$271,000 towards the project.
2. That should it be required Council approves borrowing the sum of up to \$271,000 by way of Debenture Loan from the Local Government Finance Authority. The loan will be drawn later as determined, or from Council's existing debenture facility.

3. Gives authority to the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer to execute the Denture on Council's behalf.

BACKGROUND

The Council submitted a formal application for funding to support the Port Augusta and Davenport Community Safety and Wellbeing Alliance Partnership for the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program – Stage Two Implementation and Community Expansion. Attached are copies of the application and the supporting documentation. Unfortunately, this application was declined.

The Alliance is responsible for making decisions regarding the allocation of funds from the \$12 million investment, with initiatives required to align closely with the priority actions outlined in the Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. Furthermore, the National Indigenous Australians Agency has confirmed that infrastructure and capital works items are not eligible for funding.

Following this, the Council reached out to Premier Malinauskas, whose office indicated a willingness to fund the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. This funding would be contingent upon both parties contributing \$271,000 each, totalling \$543,000.

DISCUSSION

The Port Augusta community, along with its business sector, has consistently indicated that crime, perceptions of crime, and their impact on liveability are of utmost importance. These issues significantly affect residents' wellbeing and the economic growth and prosperity of the city.

Support from the community and local businesses for the Stage Two implementation of the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program is evident in the positive engagement and participation seen during Stage One. This support is further reflected in strategic documents such as the Port Augusta Infrastructure for Growth Strategy, which places liveability at the forefront of economic development initiatives.

The Council has demonstrated prudent financial management, resulting in a substantially improved financial position. It has acknowledged the importance of leveraging grant funding opportunities and has considered the option of loan funding where necessary to achieve key strategic objectives (refer to the attached documentation).

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

The Council is satisfied that, pursuant to Section 90(3)(j) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this agenda item is information the disclosure of which would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official (not being an employee of the council, or a person engaged by the council), and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest, and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest, and should be considered under confidentiality provisions.

In addition, the disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest. The public interest in public access to the meeting has been balanced against the public interest in the continued non-disclosure of the information. The benefit to the public at large resulting from withholding the information outweighs the benefit to it of disclosure of the information. The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the disclosure of information provided by a Minister on a confidential basis would have a negative impact on funding discussions.

Having considered this agenda item in confidence under Section 90(2) and (3)(j) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council, pursuant to Section 91(7) of that Act orders that report (AR26/1340), discussions and minutes be retained in confidence for a period of 12

months or until such time as the proposal receives final approval by the Council, and that this order be reviewed every 12 months.

RISK MANAGEMENT

1: Financial/Budget/Asset Management

Council originally requested that the full project amount of \$543,000 be provided by the State Government. The offer that has been received is for \$272,000 meaning that Council will need to source funding for the project on a 50:50 basis.

As this project was not included in the 2025/2026 Annual Budget, it will require a budget variation to be approved by Council. It is proposed that the Council contribution of 50% be funded via a Debenture Loan.

2: Legal/Policy

The *Budget Reporting and Amendment Policy* includes the following:

3.3 Approval of Variations outside the scope of the Budget

- 3.3.1 Council approval must be sought and obtained before commitments are made that would result in activity outside of the budget limits.

In considering a request for a revision to its budget Council will consider the impact the approval would have on the achievement of the targets for financial indicators established in Council's original budget. It will also consider the capacity to increase other revenue or reduce other expenditure (either of a corresponding operating or capital nature as appropriate) to offset the variation and the merit of so doing.

The *Council Funding Policy* includes the following:

3.3 Financial Assistance and Other Discretionary Grants

Council values the ongoing Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants that it receives through the SA Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC). Similarly Roads to Recovery Grants from the Commonwealth are an important funding source.

Council will continue to provide timely and accurate information requested by the LGGC to ensure that it receives its appropriate funding allocation as determined by the LGGC's methodology for allocating Financial Assistance Grants. Timely and accurate information will also be provided to the Funding Bodies in respect of all Grants received.

3.7 Borrowings

Council recognises that borrowings are not a funding source but are nevertheless likely to be required at times particularly as a result of decisions to add to or enhance Council's stock of assets. If Council sets revenue raising targets at levels that not only meet the full cost of existing services but also enable it to accumulate funds to finance net asset acquisition it could create significant inter-generational inequity between beneficiaries of Council's services. Council manages decisions about when to borrow and what type of borrowings to raise in accordance with its Treasury Management Policy.

The Council's *Treasury Management Policy* clause 3.2 states:

Council will establish and make extensive use of a (long-term variable interest rate borrowing facility/LGFA's Cash Advance Debenture facility) that requires interest payments only and that enables any amount of principal to be repaid or redrawn at call. The redraw facility will provide Council with access to liquidity when needed.

3: Environment/Planning

Not applicable.

4: Community

Extensive Public Consultation during Stage One of this project has ensured that state two is aligned with public concerns and expectations. The community will receive regular updates through media releases and social media publications. Further consultation will be undertaken as a part of this stage of the project, with the community being key stakeholders in this phase.

John Banks
09/01/2026

From: John Banks
Sent: Monday, 18 August 2025 2:04 PM
To: Pitcher, Sandy (DHS)
Cc: Alex Reid
Subject: Stage Two Safer Spaces - Grant Application - Port Augusta
Attachments: City of Port Augusta Safer Spaces Grant Application - Stage Two .pdf;
 Correspondence Letter CEO John banks to Eddie Hughes MP & Geoff Brock MP -
 Stage two - Port Augusta Safer Spaces.pdf; Eddie Hughes - Support Letter Port
 Augusta Safer Spaces.pdf; support ltr PACC.pdf

Importance: High
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sandy Pitcher
 Chief Executive
 Department of Human Services

Dear Ms. Pitcher,

RE: Grant Application for Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program – Stage Two Implementation and Community Expansion

I am writing to formally submit the grant application for the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program – Stage Two Implementation and Community Expansion, as well as to provide you with the relevant supporting documents for your consideration.

The City of Port Augusta is seeking a funding contribution of \$543,000 from the South Australian Government's Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, which will be matched by a co-investment of \$200,000 from the Council. This initiative builds upon the foundational work laid out in Stage One of the Safer Spaces Program and is informed by the findings of the 2025 Port Augusta CBD Community Safety Audit.

The program aims to enhance community safety and wellbeing through a comprehensive, evidence-informed approach that addresses persistent safety issues in our CBD and residential public spaces. Our objectives include reducing antisocial behaviour, equipping Council staff with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) knowledge, and activating underutilised public spaces.

We are committed to fostering a safer and more inclusive community, aligning our project with the South Australian Government's vision for connected communities. Furthermore, we intend to use this initiative as a model for sharing successful approaches with other regional cities through the Upper Spencer Gulf Intergovernmental Group.

The supporting documents attached to this letter detail the project overview, objectives, activities, expected outcomes, and a comprehensive budget breakdown. We believe that the Safer Spaces Program will not only improve safety and wellbeing for our residents but will also strengthen community cohesion and enhance the vibrancy of our public spaces.

I appreciate your consideration of this application and the potential impact it could have on our community. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

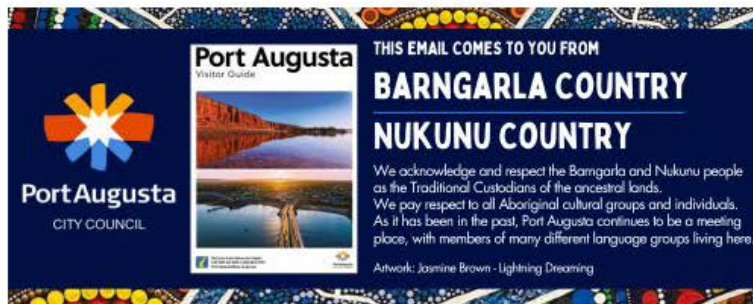
Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

John Banks
Chief Executive Officer



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Grant Application

Project Title:

Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program – Stage Two Implementation and Community Expansion

Organisation:

City of Port Augusta

Contact: John Banks, Chief Executive Officer

Project Overview (Executive Summary)

The City of Port Augusta is seeking \$543,000 from the South Australian Government's Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, to be matched by a co-investment from Council, to deliver Stage Two of the Safer Spaces Program. This evidence-informed initiative builds on the findings of the 2025 Port Augusta CBD Community Safety Audit — a project funded through a State Government grant in December 2024.

The City of Port Augusta will contribute an estimated \$200,000 through in-kind and direct support, demonstrating strong and ongoing commitment to improving community safety and wellbeing. Council will provide:

- Project governance, employer responsibilities, and overall oversight
- Technical expertise across project management, design, lighting (lux measurement), and horticulture
- Integration of CPTED principles into the city's ongoing planning and operations
- Staff time to support delivery, including contributions to community and stakeholder engagement.

Council is embedding the Safer Spaces Program into broader strategic frameworks, including input into the Port Augusta CBD Masterplan and alignment with the Far North Regional Strategic Plan. The initiative is also viewed as a model to test and share successful approaches with other regional cities, with key findings to be shared via the Upper Spencer Gulf Intergovernmental Group.

While Stage One laid the foundation for change through partnerships with SAPOL and DHS, targeted CCTV improvements, and community engagement, Stage Two seeks to address persistent safety issues in the CBD and residential public spaces through a more comprehensive, place-based approach. This stage will focus on:

- Delivery of physical safety upgrades
- CPTED training for relevant Council staff
- Activation of underutilised public spaces
- Extension of audit and engagement activities into residential neighbourhoods.

The project supports the South Australian Government's vision for safer, more inclusive, and better-connected communities — and contributes to long-term community wellbeing by strengthening local capability and fostering cross-sector collaboration.

Funding Requested

\$543,000

Project Duration

14 months (anticipated commencement October 2025 – completion December 2026, subject to funding confirmation).

Project Objectives

- Reduce antisocial behaviour and public fear of crime through public realm improvements.
- Equip Council operations staff with CPTED knowledge for ongoing and sustainable maintenance practices.
- Support small business operators to improve shopfront safety and vibrancy.
- Activate high-risk and under-utilised public spaces with community-driven and cultural initiatives.
- Expand the successful safety audit model into residential neighbourhoods.

Project Activities and Deliverables

Stage 1: Reform the Safety Audit Committee (Month 1-2)

- Safety Audit Committee representatives: Council (chair), SAPOL and DHS will meet monthly for the duration of the project.
- A detailed implementation timeline, budget, and evaluation framework developed.

Stage 2: Infrastructure and Maintenance (Months 1–6)

- CPTED-informed **lighting and vegetation upgrades** in laneways, the foreshore, and retail precincts. Where possible incorporate Master Plan intent.
- **CPTED training** for Council staff (horticulture, asset maintenance, and urban planning).
- In collaboration with SAPOL, purchase and deployment of a **mobile CCTV trailer** for flexible crime prevention and monitoring.
- Replace problematic seating with **accessible, single seats with arms** (in retail zones) and **group/family-friendly seating** (in parks and squares).

Stage 3: Community Activation and Digital Infrastructure (Months 4–10)

- Develop and Launch a **Business Safety Rebate Scheme** supporting shopfront improvements, CCTV, and lighting. Work with property owners to restrict public access to audit identified unsafe areas, out of hours.
- Deliver **public space activation initiatives**, including art installations, cultural programming, and pop-up events (with the intent to complement youth focussed activities conducted by the Safety and Wellbeing Project).
- Install **vandal-resistant digital kiosks** providing wayfinding, transport information, safety alerts, and community event details.
- Install **vandal resistant Wi-Fi and charging stations** (free for 30 minutes per session) in non-retail public spaces to promote movement and reduce loitering.
- Promote 'My Council App' through all channels and agency networks.

Stage 4: Residential Audit Expansion (Months 2–14)

- Extend the CBD audit model into **5+ high-priority residential public space areas** using a CPTED framework.
- Use the resident survey and SAPOL intelligence to inform the sites selections and priority.
- Conduct a series of **safety audits** in selected residential public spaces at the times they are considered to be most unsafe. Identify CPTED priorities for maintenance and upgrade.

Target Groups

- Residents affected by real or perceived safety concerns — particularly women, older adults, and renters
- Small business owners in the CBD and wider Port Augusta (with priority to locations identified by the CBD safety audit)
- Families and visitors accessing the foreshore and central retail areas
- Council staff undertaking CPTED training.

Expected Outcomes & Impact

- Tangible reduction in crime and fear of crime in key public spaces
- Upgrade of 50% of high-risk locations identified in the March 2025 CBD Safety Audit
- Over **30 local businesses** supported via the rebate program
- At least **10 Council staff** trained and applying CPTED principles
- CPTED-based safety audits completed in **5 residential public space areas**
- Improved activation and public perception across major gathering points.

Alignment with State Government Safety and Wellbeing Priorities

The Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program directly contributes to South Australia's safety and wellbeing agenda through:

- Multi-agency collaboration (SA Police, Department of Human Services, Council, Department Infrastructure and Transport, and Planning and Land Use Services)
- Public space improvements that foster **community connection and reduce isolation**
- Building **local government capacity** in place-based crime prevention (providing real time testing of included elements for other regional towns)
- Supporting inclusive and vibrant public spaces accessible to all residents and visitors.

Community Engagement and Support

- Over **330 residents and 56 businesses** engaged through surveys and workshops
- Direct input from **local Elders, young people, and traders**
- Clear community demand for **enhanced lighting, increased police visibility, and active use of public space**
- High levels of **business interest in co-investing** in public-facing safety upgrades

Budget Breakdown

Activity Category	Funding Requested
Lighting & Vegetation Management	\$200,000
CPTED Training, Auditing & Project Coordination	\$45,000
Residential Public Space Audits (Stage 4)	\$10,000
Community Engagement and Communications	\$2,000
Business Safety Rebate Program	\$80,000
Mobile CCTV Trailer (with solar battery)	\$70,000
Public Wi-Fi and Charging Stations (4 locations)	\$70,000
Events, Art Activation, and Digital Kiosks	\$66,000
Total	\$543,000

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

- Baseline (in place) and follow-up **community safety perception surveys** (with sub sets of residents and businesses)
- **CCTV and SAPOL crime data** (where available) reviewed before and after interventions
- Tracking of **business rebate uptake** and CPTED training participation
- Independent **progress evaluation reports** at 6 and 12 months

Attachments

1. Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program – Stage Two - Grant Application/Project Summary
2. Port Augusta CBD Safety Audit – Council Report 8 April 2025
3. Summary of Business and Resident Perception of Safety Survey Highlights (February 2025)

Attachment 1: Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program – Stage Two

City of Port Augusta | Funding Request: \$543,000 | Duration: 14 months

Contact: John Banks, CEO

Overview

Funded through a \$200,000 State Government grant in December 2024, the Port Augusta CBD Safety Audit Project delivered significant outcomes by April 2025, including:

- Strengthened collaboration between SAPOL, DHS, and Council,
- significant community engagement with businesses and residents including young people and Elders,
- a structured Safety Improvement Plan for Port Augusta,

This foundational investment has laid the groundwork for meaningful and lasting change. However, persistent safety concerns, underutilised public areas, and the need for safer residential environments highlight the urgency of continued action.

To address these needs, the City of Port Augusta is seeking co-investment from the Department of Human Services to implement Stage Two of its Safer Spaces Program, building on the success and insights of the 2025 CBD Community Safety Audit. Noting an estimated \$200,000 in-kind commitment from Council through project governance, employer responsibilities, oversight and technical expertise. This next phase will deliver targeted, evidence-based public space upgrades, equip Council staff with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) skills, support small business safety improvements, and expand the program into adjacent residential neighbourhoods. The initiative provides a practical, place-based response to ongoing community concerns around crime, antisocial behaviour, and the safe use of shared public environments.

Key Outcomes

- **50% of high-risk areas** in the CBD upgraded
- **30+ businesses** supported via a safety rebate scheme
- **10 Council staff** trained in CPTED for long-term safety integration
- **3–5 residential areas** audited and improved using CPTED principles
- Reduced fear of crime and increased community use of public spaces

Project Highlights

- Lighting and vegetation improvements in laneways, retail zones, and foreshore
- CPTED training for horticulture and asset maintenance teams
- Mobile CCTV trailer for flexible response to antisocial behaviour
- New seating that is accessible, safe, and inclusive
- Business co-investment in safety upgrades (façade, CCTV, lighting)
- Public art, events, and digital infrastructure (wayfinding kiosks, free Wi-Fi)
- Safety audits extended to residential areas, engaging SAPOL and the community

Why It Matters

- Responds directly to concerns raised by **over 330 residents and 56 businesses**
- Supports **State Government priorities** on safety, wellbeing, and inclusion
- Strengthens partnerships across government (SAPOL, DHS, Council)
- Delivers tangible, high-visibility improvements with long-term impact

Funding Request

\$543,000 to co-deliver targeted public safety initiatives across infrastructure, training, community engagement, and local economic development.

Next Steps

Milestone one will provide a detailed implementation timeline, budget, and evaluation framework to guide the program. The City of Port Augusta is committed to matching this investment with project governance, operational support and community partnerships.

Attachment 2: CBD Safety Audit 8 April 2025 Council Report



REPORT FOR:	Council		
MEETING DATE:	08 April 2025		
REPORT FROM:	Safety Audit Project Officer		
REPORT TITLE:	CBD Safety Audit		
FILE NAME:	F25/167	RECORD NO:	AR25/16417

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	
1	Community
1.2	We are resilient, inclusive, safe and a vibrant community where people feel proud to live.
1.3	People of all ages, cultures, abilities and interests have access to services, facilities and experiences that support their wellbeing.
2	Economy
2.2	Our City is known as a destination of choice where people come to stay awhile to experience our lifestyle and environment.
4	Infrastructure
4.2	We have safe, accessible and well-utilised CBD, public spaces and built environments that reflect the priorities of our community.

SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

In response to community concerns about safety in the CBD, a comprehensive safety review focussing on the public realm was conducted from January to March 2025. This included trader and youth focus groups, Elder meetings, a night safety audit, and a preliminary lighting assessment. Findings highlight opportunities for long-term improvements through the CBD Masterplan, as well as immediate measures such as lighting re-lamping, repairs and upgrades, tree trimming, and crime prevention initiatives supported by grant applications. The review identified key areas requiring immediate attention and proposed a collaborative approach involving Council, SA Police (SAPOL), Department of Human Services (DHS), businesses, and residents.

RECOMMENDATION

Council:

1. Notes the completion of the safety audit, including extensive consultation via surveys, focus groups and direct community engagement (audit locations listed in Attachment A).
2. Approves a targeted program of lighting and tree trimming improvements, following a lighting audit (see Attachment B for works map)
3. Notes that Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles provide guidance to the master planning and asset renewal processes in relation to public realm improvements.

4. Continues to support applications for crime prevention grants to fund initiatives, potentially including:
 - A CCTV rebate scheme for businesses to install security cameras with SAPOL access.
 - A sensor and decorative lighting rebate scheme to improve safety and ambiance.
 - A mobile CCTV trailer, deployable to monitor emerging crime and antisocial behaviour hot spots.
 - A shopfront improvement program to enhance business security and streetscape appeal.

BACKGROUND

In response to community concerns, Council initiated a CBD safety audit project in November 2024. A \$200,000 grant was secured to fund 13 new CCTV cameras and the safety audit project. On October 18, 2024, Port Augusta's CBD was designated as a Declared Public Precinct (DPP), with increased police powers, enhanced safety through increased police presence and targeted crime prevention efforts. The DPP status is in effect until April 27, 2025, with a potential extension based on effectiveness. The DPP combines with initiatives such as Operation Summer Safe which deploys police from other districts to increase local resources during the summer influx of remote visitors. In addition to regular foot and vehicle patrols, SAPOL uses bike, horse, traffic, dog operations and STAR Group patrols in the CBD.

DISCUSSION

CPTED is an approach to urban planning and design that reduces crime and improves community safety by shaping the physical environment. It focuses on strategies such as improved lighting, clear sightlines, natural surveillance, community activation of spaces, and well-maintained public areas to discourage criminal activity and enhance perceptions of safety. Effective CPTED principles help create safer, more inviting public spaces while supporting local economic and social well-being.

The four-month project focused on CPTED strategies and included:

- Perceptions of Safety Surveys: Conducted from Jan 23 to Feb 7, with a response rate of 35% from 56 out of 160 businesses and 5.27% from residents (334 out of 6,334 households). Key concerns included poor lighting, anti-social behaviour, and inadequate surveillance. Both Residents and Business participants provided input into locations for potential inclusion in the CBD safety audit.
- Multi-Agency Collaboration: A Safety Audit Committee was established, involving Council, SAPOL, and DHS.
- Business & Community Engagement:
- Business Focus Group (Feb 26, 2025): Engaged 13 businesses with 22 attendees, mapping key safety concerns and proposing crime prevention strategies.
- Youth and Elder Consultations: Provided safety insights and priority locations for the safety audit.
- Safety Audit: A night-time assessment of 25 locations, evaluating safety ratings and identifying areas needing intervention (See Attachment A).

KEY FINDINGS

The Business Focus Group refined the audit locations via a mapping exercise. They also provided input on a series of crime prevention strategies to support businesses, the most popular of these are summarised below (see Attachment C).

- CCTV Rebate Scheme: Assists businesses in installing CCTV cameras to cover footpaths and rear areas, with agreed SAPOL access to footage for crime prevention.
- Sensor/Decorative Lighting Rebate: Encourages businesses to improve exterior lighting to deter crime and enhance safety.
- Mobile CCTV Trailer: A portable surveillance unit linked to SAPOL's network, deployed in response to emerging crime hot spots.
- Shopfront Improvements: Enhancements aimed at increasing business security and aesthetic appeal, including:
 - Murals on closed roller shutters to deter vandalism.
 - Themed window wraps showcasing local culture and history.
 - Colour schemes refresh to create a cohesive and inviting streetscape.
 - Historical walk timeline integrated into footpaths.
 - Projection displays for nighttime engagement.
- WhatsApp Safety Groups – Guidance provided to businesses on forming small business safety networks using WhatsApp.

Perception of Safety Audit and Findings:

On Thursday March 6, a safety audit was conducted from 8.30pm until 11.35pm by a team including three police officers and three Civic Centre senior staff and two Sobering Up Unit staff (3 women and four men with two participants identifying as Aboriginal). Twenty-five locations were assessed with auditors rating their sense of safety on a five-point scale from Very Unsafe, Unsafe, Neutral, Safe to Very Safe. This was combined with a range of questions about the physical and social environment and auditor ideas for improvement of each site.

Key Issues Identified: Poor lighting, hiding spaces for alcohol and loitering, congregation of individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour, and limited surveillance of problem areas.

Proposed Solutions:

Improved lighting in high-risk areas, with regular lights-out checks by Council Depot staff. Tree trimming to increase light spill and line of sight. Increased public awareness of the 'My Council App' for reporting lights out and other Council issues.

- Expanded CCTV coverage (in progress).
- Engagement with private property owners to restrict laneway access in problem areas.
- Environmental design interventions to eliminate hiding spots and improve visibility.
- Pedestrian safety enhancements in high-foot-traffic areas.
- Work with building owners to upgrade shopfronts; use uniform security measures such as roller blinds decorated with themed murals.
- Consider smart lighting solutions that brighten areas during high use periods and dim when not needed (this energy saving feature also advises the public that someone is already in the space, can be used in sports grounds, walking paths etc).
- A list of audit locations (see Attachment A). Proposed improvements will be reviewed with SAPOL and DHS through the Council-led Safety Audit Committee, which has received an advance copy of this report.

Additional crime prevention solutions for consideration:

- **Short-term Seating Options:** Introduce shorter-stay furniture such as perches or single-seat benches to offer resting spots without promoting prolonged gatherings in commercial and retail areas. Additionally, place conversation group benches in recreation areas including Gladstone Square and along the foreshore.
- **Time-Limited Charging Stations and Public Wi-Fi:** Implement time-limited charging stations and public Wi-Fi zones that encourage users to move regularly to different areas, strategically located around town outside retail zones.
- **Digital and Interactive Kiosks:** Install digital kiosks that provide real-time updates on transportation, events, service contact details, and public safety information (e.g. Dry Area, Declared Public Precinct, and CCTV coverage areas).
- **Activation of Underutilised Spaces:** Utilise vacant or closed shops and spaces for temporary installations, similar to Renew Adelaide/Newcastle, incorporating rotating art displays to attract a diverse range of users throughout the day.
- **Enhanced Foreshore Engagement:** Promote active use of the foreshore by hosting food trucks and dining spaces that cater to moderating groups including families. Utilise the back-of-house area of Woolworths/Big W for cultural or dining experiences with views of the Gulf. Live music and entertainment can further draw a wider age range.
- **Youth-Friendly Zones:** In addition to enhancing existing services and places where young people gather. Transform underutilised areas into youth-friendly spaces featuring climbable walls, bouldering areas, or parkour elements that encourage physical activity. Develop arts-based community projects giving young people a platform to showcase talents in music, dance and spoken word to engage young people and reduce anti-social behaviour.
- **Sculpture Exhibition:** Consider organising a sculpture exhibition, similar to the Holdfast Bay and the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens exhibition, to draw public interest and promote appreciation for sculpture and public art.

CONCLUSION

The safety audit provides clear evidence-based actions to improve safety in the Port Augusta CBD. By combining immediate interventions (lighting, surveillance, tree trimming and crime prevention initiatives) and longer-term CPTED based urban planning, the safety audit project ensures a sustainable community-led approach to safety. Collaboration is key; success depends on coordinated efforts between Council, SAPOL, DHS, businesses, and residents.

CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS

N/A

RISK MANAGEMENT

Financial: Poor safety perceptions affect local business viability and economic growth. Addressed through targeted crime prevention measures such as improved lighting, CCTV, and proactive initiatives.

This project is grant-funded.

Where appropriate, public realm improvements will be funded through the master planning process and Council's Asset Renewal budget.

Additional grants to be sought for crime prevention strategies outlined in the recommendations.

Where external funding is unavailable, Council ⁵ may allocate budget resources, recognising the importance of these recommendations

3: Financial

Seek external funding and or Council Budget Allocation.

2: Legal/Policy

N/A

3: Environment/Planning

N/A

4: Community

Extensive consultation has ensured alignment with public concerns. Findings will be communicated via media releases and direct stakeholder engagement.

JENNIFER WEST
SAFETY AUDIT PROJECT OFFICER
12/03/2025

Attachments:

A: List of Safety Audit locations

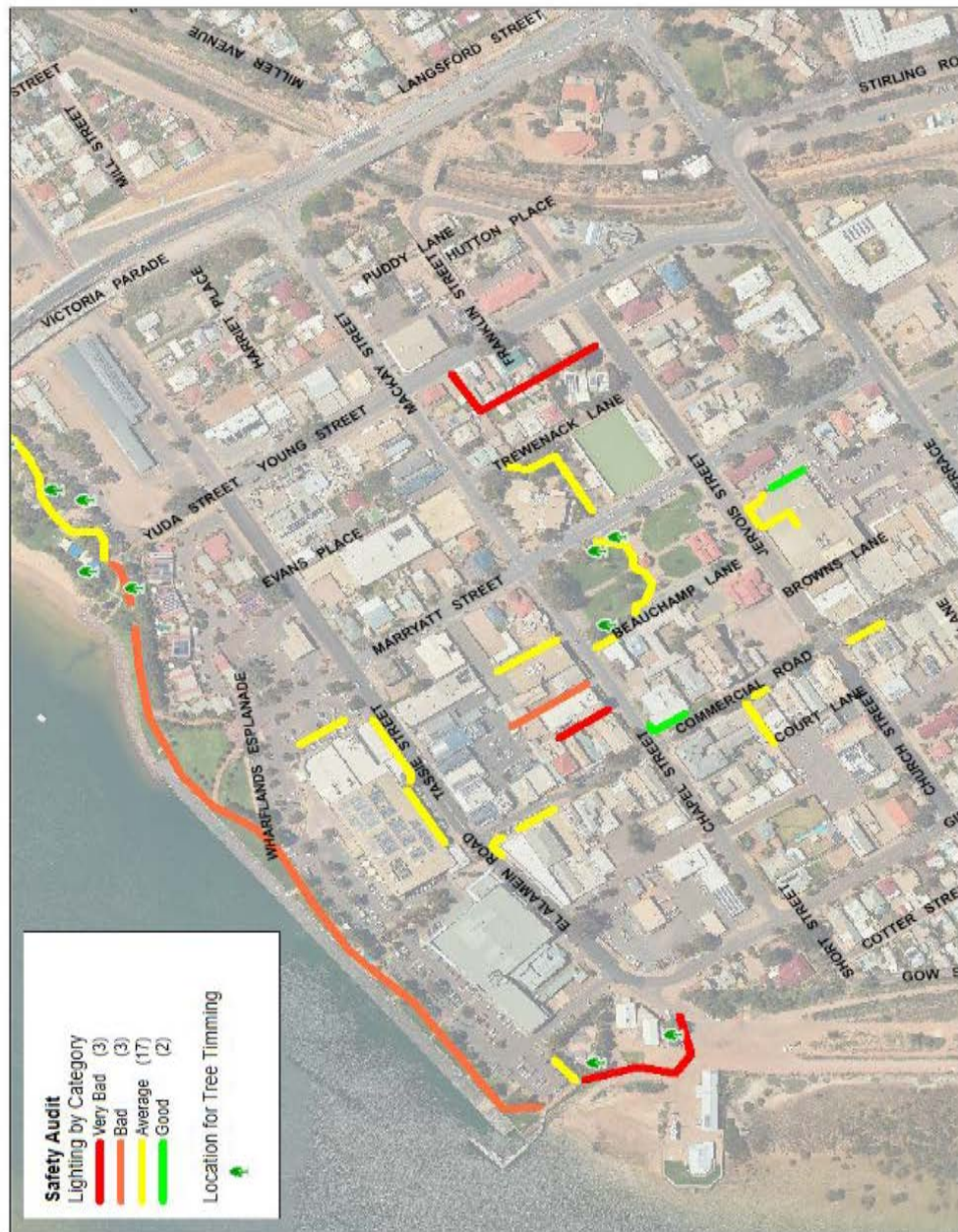
B: Map of lighting and tree trimming improvements (to be provided by Shiree)

C: Potential Crime Prevention Grant focus areas.

Attachment A: Safety Audit Locations by Issues Identified and Potential Solutions

Location	Issues Identified	Potential Solutions
Jervois St Lane behind Day Centre – Private Lane	Dark, hiding spaces, anti-social behaviour	Improve lighting and if necessary, discuss the potential to gate off with vehicle access for residents.
Laneway behind NAB – Private Lane	Dead-end, security concerns	Improve lighting and engage businesses on gating after hours
Yacht Club & Vicinity – DIT owned	Hiding spaces, poor lighting	Trim shrubbery, improve and extend pathway lighting along entire walkway
Lane beside Services SA – Private Lane	Shadowed areas, security concerns	Engage businesses on gating after hours, improve lighting
Commercial Rd (Chinese Takeaway)	Unsecured small gate	Lock and secure gate
Laneway beside Inspiration Paints - Private Lane	Antisocial cut-through, shadowed areas	Improve lighting and engage businesses on gating section between McKay St and Tassie Hotel after hours (Commercial St exit would remain open)
Subway Frontage	Contested space issues	Consider ways to improve pedestrian movement flow, to address width and congregation issues.
Tassie Street Taxi Rank	Accessibility concerns, movement issues	Swap bus and taxi ranks to increase accessibility
Woolworths Frontage & Seating	Congregation concerns	Improve seating layout to encourage diverse users
Skate Park	Climbable rooftop, security issues	Replace rooftop with non-climbable alternative
Foreshore Path (Shade Sails-Wharf)	Hidden spaces under wharf, drowning risk, lights out	Reinstate all lighting, consider motion-activated lighting, remove access to under wharf hiding space
Swimmers Memorial Garden	Hiding spots, poor lighting	Trim vegetation, reinstate lights
Coles Ramp (private)	Poor sightlines, entrapment risk, poor lighting	Install convex mirrors, remove last 2m of ramp fence, replace faulty lighting
Coles private undercroft car park	Poor lighting, congregation issues, hidden alcohol	Improve lighting, increase patrols, monitor via CCTV
Council Car Park	Poor lighting, safety concerns at night	Improve lighting, sensor lights, designate closest parks for late workers, CCTV monitor adjacent to car park exit
Gladstone Square	Address the use of foliage and other locations for Alcohol storage, address unsecured power points, address hiding spaces	Trim understories, improve lighting, secure sprinkler covers, remove flashing lights
Post Office (MacKay & Commercial)	Seating causes congregation, safety risks.	Remove benches, box in step next to post boxes.
Playground Toilet & Under-Bridge	Potential congregation spot	Trim vegetation, increase lighting

Location	Issues Identified	Potential Solutions
Commercial St near KHub	Poor lighting, visibility issues	Improve lighting, clear sightlines
Corner Mackay St & Beauchamp Ln	Congregation space, graffiti issues	Install mural to deter graffiti
Commercial Road (Commercial Hotel)	Vandalism via small checker plate	Replace with larger checker plate or secure
Reject Shop private car park	Pedestrian and vehicle safety	Improve lighting, ensure clear pedestrian pathways
Coles private carpark (Liquor Land veranda)	Congested space, difficult visibility, narrow footpath	Improve lighting, widen footpath if possible, reorganize layout to improve line of sight.
Church St & Alan's Hairdressing – private car park & lane	Window damage, after-hours access concerns	Engage businesses on gating after hours, improve lighting
Corner Tassie & Commercial St	Poor lighting, visibility issues	Improve lighting, clear sightlines

Attachment B: 2025 and 2025/26 Lighting and 2025 Tree Trimming CBD Improvements

Attachment C: Business Focus Group

A Business Focus Group with 13 businesses and 22 attendees was conducted on 26 February 2025. Presentations were made by Supt Josh Heinz, John Banks (Port Augusta CEO) and Jen West (Project Lead, Safety Audit Project). A mapping exercise identified and refined key locations for the safety audit. This group considered and rated a wide range of crime prevention strategies. Grant applications will be made to fund the following more popular of the ideas discussed:

- A CCTV rebate scheme that supports local traders and small businesses to purchase and install CCTV Cameras in their businesses, this innovative response to feedback from traders and SAPOL regarding issues with crime against property and general nuisance matters. The CCTV cameras would be required to provide coverage of the footpaths and back of house in the vicinity of their businesses. The footage from these cameras would be available to SAPOL as required.
- A sensor light/decorative light rebate scheme which supports local traders to install sensor lighting or decorative lighting in the front and sensor lighting in the rear of their business premises to promote perceptions of safety for business operators.
- a CCTV mobile trailer connected to the CCTV network which SAPOL has monitoring access to. This will allow Council and SAPOL to respond to emerging hot spots ensuring that police resources are deployed to such areas as required.
- Shop Front Improvements (note this idea was further developed during the safety audit to address identified issues):
 - Murals on Roller Shutters: Engaging local artists to create vibrant murals that not only beautify but also discourage vandalism.
 - Themed Window Wrapping: Utilise the inside of closed shop glass to display themed images that promote local culture and history.
 - Colour Scheme Refresh: Implement a cohesive colour scheme across shop fronts to create a unified aesthetic. Involve the business community in colour selection, and fund paint for individual shop use.
 - Historic Walk Timeline: Pave a historical timeline along a key street, showcasing Port Augusta's development and acknowledging traditional owners, similar to successful initiatives in Wellington.
 - Projection Displays: Expand the successful projection of images on roller shutters, as demonstrated during the 2024 NAIDOC week, to create an engaging nighttime atmosphere.

Mapping Exercise: Business Focus Group



Note: Dots (all) identify locations where participants reported feeling unsafe.

Exercise to Rank Crime Prevention Ideas at Business Focus Group



Ranked Ideas

CCTV

- REBATE PROGRAM – 12, 1, 1
- MOBILE HOT SPOT CCTV TRAILER – 5, 8

LIGHTING

- SENSOR LIGHT REBATE – 9, 2, 2
- STOREFRONT VISIBILITY – 3, 6, 2

SHOPFRONT IMPROVEMENT – 4, 5, 4

SOCIAL MEDIA

- WHATSAPP SAFETY NETWORK – 11, 1
- POSITIVE SAFETY MESSAGING/CAMPAIGN – 4, 8

ACTIVATION

- LOCAL MARKETS / EVENTS 3, 6, 4

Note: Businesses were provided with WhatsApp Safety Network information on Friday 28 February 2025.

Attachment 3: Business and Residential Perceptions of Safety Survey Highlights

Business Survey

A total of 56 businesses (35% of the 160 businesses located in the CBD) responded to the business survey. This high response rate reflects strong interest and concern within the business community regarding safety issues in the area.

Survey Methodology

The survey was promoted through multiple channels, including:

- A CEO letter (email) to all businesses listed in the council database.
- Targeted CEO letters to selected residents.
- Direct visits to businesses in late January and early February, with survey QR codes and links provided.
- Hard copies available at Council offices.
- Council and business social media platforms.
- An article in The Transcontinental newspaper.
- Promotion by Safety Audit Committee representatives during business engagement.

Surveys were primarily completed online using SurveyMonkey via mobile or desktop, with paper responses manually entered by Council staff.

Survey Results and Analysis

Perceptions of Safety in Different Situations

- 71.4% felt unsafe or very unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhoods at night.
- 30.6% felt unsafe or very unsafe when home alone at night.

CBD Locations Most Vulnerable to Crime or Antisocial Behaviour

- Commercial Road – 85.4%
- Gladstone Square – 79.2%
- Tassie Street – 68.7%
- Wharflands Esplanade – 62.5%
- Parking areas – 62.5%

Top Public Space Crime/Antisocial Behaviour Concerns

- Anti-social behaviour – 97.9%
- Public intoxication – 85.4%
- Vandalism – 85.4%
- Loitering – 70.8%
- Theft – 72.9%
- Break-ins – 58.3%

CBD Safety Perceptions by Time of Day

- 87.5% reported feeling unsafe in the CBD after 5 PM.
- 95.8% felt unsafe from dusk to 1 AM.
- 91.7% felt unsafe after 1 AM.

Impact of the Declared Public Precinct (DPP)

- 45.8% of respondents felt safer in the morning.
- 35.4% felt safer in the afternoon.
- 22.9–35.4% were unsure, suggesting the need for improved public communication.

Changes in Safety Over the Past Five Years

- 81.3% believe safety in the CBD has worsened.
- 10.4% said it is unchanged.

- No respondents reported improved safety.

Areas Avoided Due to Safety Concerns

Two-thirds of businesses reported avoiding areas of the CBD due to safety concerns. Common areas include:

- Woolworths entrance
- Coles undercover parking
- Gladstone Square
- East and West side foreshore areas
- Post office and Subway

Reasons for Avoidance

- Lack of surveillance
- Poor lighting
- Loitering and public intoxication

Places Where Business Respondents Feel Safer

- Yacht Club
- Gladstone Square (daytime)
- Police station vicinity
- Inside shops and specific workplaces

Factors Contributing to a Sense of Safety

- Visibility and lighting
- Pedestrian activity
- Clean, maintained environments
- Security presence

Awareness and Perception of CCTV

- 59.6% unaware or unsure of the program

Desire for Increased Police Patrols

- 91.5% support for increased patrols

Support for Crime Prevention Measures

Strong support for:

- CCTV and lighting upgrades
- Police patrols
- Community-led initiatives

Business Engagement and Next Steps

- Over 50% expressed interest in follow-up meetings

Conclusion

The survey provides a solid foundation for safety upgrades and future planning. It highlights the need for environmental, social, and strategic interventions and can be used to add value to the CBD Master Plan and the broader DHS Safety and Wellbeing Project.

Business Respondents (selected)

Included major banks, retailers, service providers, hospitality venues, etc.

Resident Survey

The resident survey received 334 responses from 6,334 households (5.27% response rate). This indicates strong interest and community concern about safety in Port Augusta.

Survey Methodology

The survey was promoted through:

- A targeted CEO letter
- Hard copies at Council offices.
- Social media campaigns.
- Article in The Transcontinental newspaper.
- Promotion by Councillors and Safety Audit Committee representatives.

Surveys were completed via SurveyMonkey or by hard copy (manually entered by staff).

Key Survey Insights

Public Safety Concerns

- 88% cited anti-social behaviour as a key concern.
- 85% worried about vandalism and property damage.
- 81% concerned about public intoxication.
- 78% mentioned theft and break-ins.
- 71% noted loitering.
- 60–66% cited physical assault and drug-related issues.

Safety Perceptions by Time of Day

- Safety perceptions decline significantly at night.
- 94% felt unsafe after 10 PM; 77% rated it 'Very Unsafe'.

Perceived Changes Over Time

- 80% reported safety has worsened over the past five years.
- Over half said it is 'much worse'.

Demographic Comparisons

Gender-Based Trends:

- 74% of women feel unsafe alone at night vs. 63% of men.
- Women are more likely to avoid specific areas.

Age-Based Trends:

- All age groups reported insecurity at night.
- Older residents were more likely to report a decline in safety.

Analysis of Open-Ended Responses

- 68% were neutral (suggestions or general observations).
- 27% positive (supporting safety initiatives).
- 5% negative (concerns about enforcement or inaction).

Resident Recommendations

1. Increase Visible Police Presence

More foot and bicycle patrols to enhance confidence and deterrence.

2. Target Anti-Social Behaviour

Stricter enforcement around intoxication, vandalism, and aggression.

3. Improve Public Realm Maintenance

Enhanced lighting, cleanliness, and infrastructure maintenance.

4. Encourage Community Activation

Use public events to populate spaces and discourage crime.

5. Expand CCTV Awareness and Coverage

More visible promotion of Council's CCTV program.

6. Prioritise High-Risk Areas and Vulnerable Groups

Focus resources on frequently avoided areas and address safety for women and older residents.

CCTV Program Awareness and Impact

- 141 respondents aware of Council CCTV program.
- 106 unaware, 20 unsure.
- 18 felt safer due to CCTV, 139 did not.

Perception of Police Presence

- 223 believe more police patrols would improve safety.
- 21 disagreed.

Demographics

- Broad representation across age groups; majority in the 35–65+ range.

Conclusion

The survey highlights serious resident concern over public safety, especially at night. Insights will inform ongoing safety interventions with potential input to the Master Plan priorities, and Council collaborations with SAPOL and DHS.

John Banks

Chief Executive Officer

E: ceo@portaugusta.sa.gov.au | P: (08) 8641 9144

A: Civic Centre, 4 Mackay Street (PO Box 1704) PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700



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File Name: F25/167
Record No: AR25/34652

18/06/2025

Eddie Hughes MP
Member for Giles
PO Box 2476
WHYALLA NORRIE SA 5608

By Email: giles@parliament.sa.gov.au

Honourable Geoff Brock MP
Member for Stuart
2A Stirling Road
Port Augusta SA 5700

By Email: stuart@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Mr Hughes and Mr Brock,

Subject: Funding Request for Stage Two of the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program

I am writing to you in your capacities as representatives of the Port Augusta community to formally request your support in pursuing funding for Stage Two of the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program. We seek a total of \$543,000 from the South Australian Government's Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, to be matched by significant co-investment from the Council, to address ongoing community safety issues in our vibrant city.

As you may be aware, Stage One of this initiative has successfully established key partnerships with the South Australian Police (SAPOL) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), resulting in the implementation of targeted CCTV improvements and robust community engagement strategies. However, our recent community safety audit, funded through a State Government grant in December 2024, has highlighted persistent safety concerns in the Central Business District (CBD) and residential public spaces that warrant immediate attention.

Stage Two of the Safer Spaces Program aims to build on the momentum generated through Stage One, with an evidence-informed and comprehensive approach that focuses on essential safety upgrades and the activation of underutilised public spaces. The anticipated outcomes of this project include:

- A reduction in antisocial behaviour and the public fear of crime.
- Enhanced safety training for Council operations staff in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Activating high-risk and under-utilised public spaces through community-driven initiatives.
- Extending safety audit activities to encompass residential neighbourhoods.

The City of Port Augusta is committed to matching the funding request with an estimated \$200,000 in-kind and direct support, which includes project governance, technical

expertise, and ongoing community engagement. This initiative aligns strongly with the South Australian Government's vision for safer, more inclusive communities and contributes to long-term community wellbeing by bolstering local capacity and fostering cross-sector collaboration.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find the Council report detailing the successful implementation of Stage One, along with supporting documentation, including our grant application. These materials underscore the urgency and necessity for continued action as we work to create safer public spaces for all residents, especially those most vulnerable.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We are keen to engage with you both and other stakeholders to discuss this vital initiative further. Together, we can make a meaningful difference to the safety and wellbeing of our community.

Regards,

Enclosures: Grant Application Summary, CBD Safety Audit Report, Business and Resident Perception of Safety Survey Highlights

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Banks', is positioned above the printed name.

JOHN BANKS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Eddie HughesMP
Member for Giles



To Whom it May Concern,

The Port Augusta City Council's (PACC) bid for \$543,000 to undertake Stage Two of the Safer Spaces program has my full support.

A solid foundation was set with Stage One funding leading to collaboration between a number of agencies including the PACC, SAPOL and the Department of Human Services. The collaboration led to worthwhile practical outcomes such as CCTV installations across the CBD and a comprehensive community engagement process designed to help identify other areas of concern around anti-social behaviour, crime and resident safety.

Stage Two will also lead to a range of practical outcomes to enhance CBD safety in addition to expanding initiatives beyond the CBD to other areas of concern. The following will be implemented with Stage Two funding:

- Lighting and improved visibility in laneways and retail areas
- Installation of accessible seating
- Deployment of a mobile CCTV trailer for crime prevention and surveillance
- Strategic vegetation management
- Use underutilised public spaces
- Specialist training in crime prevention through environmental design for relevant council staff
- Extension of safety audit processes into residential neighbourhoods

I congratulate the PACC on the initiatives it is pursuing to enhance community safety in Port Augusta and create a greater sense of community wellbeing. It is worth noting that the PACC is contributing approximately \$200,000 to the Stage Two proposal.

The PACC and broader community disproportionately shoulder the burden generated by anti-social behaviour and crime. The impact on the community is extensive both in terms of tangible impacts and perception. The PACC strongly deserves our support when it comes to addressing what in many cases are deep-seated and ongoing social problems.

The cost borne by the council and wider community due to the impact of antisocial behaviour and crime is particular to the Port Augusta community and the handful of other regional communities. The State has a clear role around public safety in communities like Port Augusta.

I look forward to a positive response for this much-needed initiative. I recognise that this is one approach amongst many that are going to be needed to bring about positive change for the people of Port Augusta.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EH' or similar initials, written over the words 'Yours sincerely,'.

Eddie Hughes MP
Member for Giles



OFFICIAL

Hon Geoff Brock MP

Independent Member for Stuart



OUR REF: GB/MMA

24 June 2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

PORT AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL FUNDING REQUEST FOR STAGE TWO OF THE PORT AUGUSTA SAFER SPACES PROGRAM

It is my privilege to provide this letter to support the Port Augusta City Council in their request for funding to implement Stage Two of the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program.

The Port Augusta City Council (PACC) is seeking \$543,000 in state government funding to implement Stage Two of its Safer Spaces Program. This initiative represents a critical investment in the safety, wellbeing, and vibrancy of the community, building directly on the demonstrated success of Stage One.

Through Stage One, Council established a solid foundation by forming productive partnerships with SAPOL and the Department of Human Services (DHS). This collaboration led to targeted CCTV installations and meaningful community engagement efforts that have already made a visible difference in safety outcomes. However, a recent safety audit has highlighted continuing areas of concern, particularly in the Central Business District (CBD) and surrounding residential public spaces that require urgent attention.

Stage Two offers a comprehensive and evidence-based strategy to further improve public safety and community confidence. Key elements include upgraded lighting and improved visibility in laneways and retail areas, strategic vegetation management, installation of accessible seating, and deployment of a mobile CCTV trailer for crime prevention and surveillance. Council also plans to activate underutilised public spaces through public art, local events, and digital infrastructure enhancements such as vandal proof wayfinding kiosks and free public Wi-Fi.

In addition, Council will roll out specialist training in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) for staff across horticulture and asset maintenance teams, ensuring that public safety principles are embedded in everyday operations. Business owners in the CBD have already committed to co-investing in complementary safety upgrades, including improved facades, lighting, and security systems, demonstrating strong local buy-in and shared responsibility.

The next phase will also see the extension of safety audit processes into residential neighbourhoods, further deepening community involvement and broadening the program's impact. Council is committing an estimated \$200,000 to support project delivery, including governance, technical oversight, and ongoing community engagement.

PORT PIRIE

SHOP C, Ellen Centre Port Pirie SA 5540
Phone: 08 8633 1210

PORT AUGUSTA

Shop 4, Wharflands Plaza Pt Augusta SA 5700
Phone 08 8642 3633

www.geoffbrock.com.au
Email: stuart@parliament.sa.gov.au

FB: Geoff Brock MP

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Ref: 25BCEO/0238



Mr John Banks
Chief Executive Officer
Port Augusta City Council
PO Box 1704
PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

Via email: ceo@portaugusta.sa.gov.au

Office of the Chief Executive

Level 8 North
Riverside Building
North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 292
Adelaide SA 5001

DX115

Tel: 08 7424 5980
Fax: 08 8413 9002

ABN 11 525 031 744

Dear Mr Banks

I am writing in response to your recent correspondence seeking funding from the Port Augusta and Davenport Community Safety and Wellbeing Alliance Partnership for stage two of Council's Safer Spaces Program.

In July 2024, the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments announced a commitment of \$12 million over three years towards community safety and wellbeing in Port Augusta. The Port Augusta and Davenport Community Alliance Group was established to finalise the Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, identify priority actions for funding, and establish monitoring and evaluation of impact and outcomes.

To support Aboriginal-led and community decision making, the Alliance makes decisions about measures to be funded from the \$12 million investment. Initiatives must be strongly aligned to the priority actions in the Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. Additionally, the National Indigenous Australians Agency have confirmed that infrastructure/capital works items are out-of-scope for funding.

This advice is consistent with our meeting on Monday 11 August 2025, with the Port Augusta City Council Aboriginal Community Advisory Group, where parameters for Alliance partnership funding were discussed, including that infrastructure/capital works are out of scope and proposals must meet key priorities within the Plan.

I have enclosed a copy of the Port Augusta and Davenport Community Alliance Ideas / Initiative Proforma for your interest should you determine that aspects of Council's Safer Spaces Program meet the above criteria. Additionally, I am supportive of DHS working closely with your staff to identify and seek funding from other more appropriate sources.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss the matter further, you may contact Ms Emily Butler, Executive Officer – Port Augusta and Davenport Community Safety and Wellbeing Alliance, via email to emily.butler2@sa.gov.au or telephone on 0477 013 712.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandy Pitcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sandy Pitcher
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

16/10/2025

Encl: Port Augusta and Davenport Community Alliance Ideas / Initiative Proforma

OFFICIAL

From: John Banks
Sent: Wednesday, 22 October 2025 11:19 AM
To: Malinauskas, Peter (DPC)
Subject: FW: Update on Funding Application for Stage 2 of the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program
Attachments: 25BCEO-0238 - Letter from the CE, Department of Human Services.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,

Mayor Linley Shine has a Teams meeting scheduled with Premier Peter Malinauskas tomorrow at 1pm – Thursday 23rd October.

As per the email below, Mayor Shine has requested that the following email and attachment be forwarded in advance of the meeting.

Regards

John Banks
Chief Executive Officer



E: ceo@portaugusta.sa.gov.au | **P:** (08) 8641 9144
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W: www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au
f facebook



From: Linley Shine <Linley.Shine@portaugusta.sa.gov.au>
Date: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 at 12:21
To: Self Banks <John.Banks@portaugusta.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Update on Funding Application for Stage 2 of the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program

Hi John, I'd like this email content as is, to be sent to the premiers office prior to our conversation with him this week, thanks

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From: John Banks <John.Banks@portaugusta.sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 11:39:14 AM
To: _Elected Members <ElectedMembers@portaugusta.sa.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Update on Funding Application for Stage 2 of the Port Augusta Safer Spaces Program

Elected Members,

Correspondence has been received from Sandy Pitcher Chief Executive advising that the Council's application for funding for Stage 2 of the Safer Spaces Program has been declined by the Department of Human Services. The application was lodged on 8 August, accompanied by supporting letters from Eddie Hughes MP and Geoff Brock MP.

The funding sought amounted to \$543,000 from the South Australian Government's Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, which was intended to be matched by a co-investment of \$200,000 from the Council. This initiative was designed to build upon the foundational work established in Stage 1 of the Safer Spaces Program, informed by the findings of the 2025 Port Augusta CBD Community Safety Audit.

The objectives of the program included enhancing community safety and wellbeing through a comprehensive, evidence-informed approach that addresses ongoing safety issues within our CBD and residential public spaces. Key aims were to reduce antisocial behaviour, equip Council staff with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) knowledge, and activate underutilised public spaces.

The intention was to foster a safer and more inclusive community, aligning our project with the South Australian Government's vision for connected communities. Additionally, we sought to utilise this initiative as a model for sharing successful strategies with other regional cities through the Upper Spencer Gulf Intergovernmental Group.

While we are disappointed by this outcome, we remain committed to pursuing alternative avenues for funding and support to achieve the goals of the Safer Spaces Program. I will keep you updated on any developments in this regard.

There will be a combined meeting of the Alliance Group and Council's Aboriginal Community Advisory Group on Tuesday the 28th October.

Regards

John Banks
Chief Executive Officer



E: ceo@portaugusta.sa.gov.au | **P:** (08) 8641 9144
A: Civic Centre, 4 Mackay Street (PO Box 1704) PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700
W: www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au
 facebook

From: John Banks
Sent: Thursday, 4 December 2025 4:21 PM
To: Colleen Jackson
Subject: FW: City of Port Augusta Safer Spaces funding request
Attachments: City of Port Augusta Safer Spaces Grant Application - Stage Two .pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Trim

From: Blaikie, Catherine (DPC) <catherine.blaikie@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 8:20 PM
To: John Banks <John.Banks@portaugusta.sa.gov.au>
Cc: Linley Shine <Linley.Shine@portaugusta.sa.gov.au>
Subject: City of Port Augusta Safer Spaces funding request

Some people who received this message don't often get email from catherine.blaikie@sa.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi John

Thank you for talking to me last week about the attached funding request of \$543,000 from the Port Augusta and Davenport Community Safety and Wellbeing Alliance Partnership to fund stage two of the stage two of Council's Safer Spaces Program.

As discussed at the meeting with the Premier on 23 October, under the funding rules set by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the State Government is unable to make unilateral decisions with respect to the Alliance funding. The members of the Alliance must make collective decisions about priority actions and funding; and must focus on Closing the Gap outcomes and prioritise local Aboriginal community-led and self-determined decisions. The NIAA rules do not permit funding of capital works or infrastructure.

As this is the case, the Premier undertook to consider your funding request and get back to you. As discussed last week, while the State Government would not usually be responsible for funding local government infrastructure projects, the wellbeing and safety of the Port Augusta community is important to the State Government and the Premier has determined that the South Australian Government is prepared to fund this project on a 50:50 basis with the Port Augusta City Council, should the Council be prepared to do so.

Under the current proposal, this would mean each party providing a funding contribution of \$271,000 each, to make up the \$543,000 total.

Please let me know when the Council has considered and how you would like to proceed. Happy to discuss at any time.

Kind Regards
 Cat

Cat Blaikie
Senior Adviser
Premier of South Australia
Hon Peter Malinauskas MP

M: 0422 546 421 | E: catherine.blaikie@sa.gov.au

From: John Banks
Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 8:05 AM
To: Brock, Geoff
Cc: Linley Shine
Subject: FW: City of Port Augusta Safer Spaces funding request
Attachments: City of Port Augusta Safer Spaces Grant Application - Stage Two .pdf

Hi Geoff,

I'm writing to share correspondence from the Premier's Office regarding the Port Augusta Community Safety Program Stage 2. They have indicated that a 50% contribution from Council is required to proceed, which amounts to \$271,000. While this has been communicated to the Elected Members, it has not yet been formally considered by Council, as we are currently exploring viable options.

As it stands, Council does not have the financial means to meet this contribution without a budget variation, which would likely necessitate either cuts to services or borrowing. Furthermore, we are contemplating the removal of items that might be seen as capital expenditure—such as the CCTV cameras for SAPOL and lighting improvements—to resubmit the application. However, initial feedback on this idea has not been encouraging, particularly as it could be argued that the CCTV expenses should be funded by SAPOL or the Government.

Another significant concern is that we have received this advice quite late in the year. There is limited time for Council to give this matter formal consideration before the Christmas period, and practically no time to engage contractors or follow the requisite procurement processes, even if Council were positioned to fund the requested 50%.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. Should community safety concerns arise over the summer, the lack of clear and practical measures as outlined in our proposal will be greatly felt.

Regards

John Banks
Chief Executive Officer



E: ceo@portaugusta.sa.gov.au | **P:** (08) 8641 9144
A: Civic Centre, 4 Mackay Street (PO Box 1704) PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700
W: www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au
f: facebook



From: Blaikie, Catherine (DPC) <catherine.blaikie@sa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 November 2025 8:20 PM
To: John Banks <John.Banks@portaugusta.sa.gov.au>
Cc: Linley Shine <Linley.Shine@portaugusta.sa.gov.au>
Subject: City of Port Augusta Safer Spaces funding request

Some people who received this message don't often get email from catherine.blaikie@sa.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi John

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As discussed at the meeting with the Premier on 23 October, under the funding rules set by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, the State Government is unable to make unilateral decisions with respect to the Alliance funding. The members of the Alliance must make collective decisions about priority actions and funding; and must focus on Closing the Gap outcomes and prioritise local Aboriginal community-led and self-determined decisions. The NIAA rules do not permit funding of capital works or infrastructure.

As this is the case, the Premier undertook to consider your funding request and get back to you. As discussed last week, while the State Government would not usually be responsible for funding local government infrastructure projects, the wellbeing and safety of the Port Augusta community is important to the State Government and the Premier has determined that the South Australian Government is prepared to fund this project on a 50:50 basis with the Port Augusta City Council, should the Council be prepared to do so.

Under the current proposal, this would mean each party providing a funding contribution of \$271,000 each, to make up the \$543,000 total.

Please let me know when the Council has considered and how you would like to proceed. Happy to discuss at any time.

Kind Regards
 Cat

Cat Blaikie
Senior Adviser
Premier of South Australia
Hon Peter Malinauskas MP

M: 0422 546 421 | E: catherine.blaikie@sa.gov.au

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential Provisions released 09/06/2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS OF PREVIOUS DEBENTURES

ATTACHMENT F)

08/10/2024	<u>GROWING REGIONS PROGRAM ROUND 2 – ARBORETUM PARK REGIONAL LEVEL ADVENTURE PLAYSPACE</u> AR24/52010 F24/663	Deputy Mayor Myers / Cr Bennett that <u>Council</u> 1. Endorses a \$500,000 application to the 2024 Growing Regions Program Round 2 for a \$1 million project to plan, design and construct the Arboretum Park Adventure Playspace, and 2. Endorses taking out a loan of up to \$500,000 to fund Council's contribution.
18/09/2024	<u>ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM – ROUND 2 – AIRPORT OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS GRANT APPLICATION</u> AR24/49193 F24/634	Cr McKinley / Deputy Mayor Myers that <u>Council:</u> 1. Endorses an Expression of Interest submission for Airport Operational Improvements Projects to the Enabling Infrastructure Program (Thriving Regions Program 2024) for up to \$931,000, and 2. If this submission is successful, endorses a future grant application to the program and taking out a Debenture Loan (Credit Foncier) of up to \$399,000 if required to fund Council's contribution.
17/04/2024	<u>COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADES FUND - ENDORSEMENT</u> AR24/17641 F24/59	Cr Brown / Deputy Mayor Myers that <u>Council:</u> 1. That Council in accordance with Option 2 as described within the report endorses an application to the Community Energy Upgrades Fund for the installation of energy efficient related solar panel, batteries, and structural works at Council facilities for up to \$1,304,000 and taking out a Debenture Loan (Credit Foncier) to fund Council's contribution of up to \$532,000.
05/12/2023	<u>GROWING REGIONS PROGRAM - GRANT APPLICATION - NORTH SOUTH CYCLEWAY AND AIRPORT RUNWAY</u> AR23/66476 F23/714	Crs Myers / Bates that <u>Council:</u> 1. Endorses an application to the Growing Regions Program 2023 for the North South Cycleway project for \$1,000,000 and taking out a Debenture Loan (Credit Foncier) of up to \$1,000,000 to fund Council's contribution, and 2. Endorses an application to the Growing Regions Program 2023 for the Airport Runway Strengthening project for \$1,350,000 noting that the Council contribution of \$1,350,000 would be funded from unexpended capital renewal funds.
4/11/2023	<u>POTENTIAL GRANT FUNDING – TELECOMMUNICATIONS DISASTER RESILIENCE INNOVATION, AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND</u> AR23/59513 F23/657 F23/656	1. Endorses the Expression of Interest submission to the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) - Regional Tourism Infrastructure Development (RTID) grant program for 30% of the cost of the proposed Port Augusta Highway Entry Statement project and agrees to take out a Debenture Loan (Credit Foncier) for up to \$175,000 to fund Council's contribution.

25/07/2023	<u>REPORT – ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM - AIRPORT OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPLICATION AR23/36953 F10/20</u>	Cr M. Myers / Mayor L. Shine that <u>Council:</u> 1. Endorses an Expression of Interest submission to the Growing Regions Program 2023 for the Runway Strengthening project for up to \$1,350,000, and taking out a Debenture Loan (Credit Foncier) for up to \$1,350,000 to fund Council's contribution, and 2. Endorses an Expression of Interest submission to the Enabling Infrastructure Program (Thriving Regions Program 2023) for the Airport Improvements Projects for up to \$931,000 and taking out a Debenture Loan (Credit Foncier) to fund Council's contribution of up to \$399,000.
11/07/2023	<u>NORTH SOUTH CYCLEWAY STAGE 1 – GRANT APPLICATION ENDORSEMENT – GROWING REGIONS PROGRAM AR23/34326 F23/530</u>	Cr Bates/Deputy Mayor Myers that <u>Council:</u> 1. Endorses the Expression of Interest submission to the Growing Regions Program for the Northern Cycleway Project Stage 1, noting that this does not represent a full commitment, and 2. Agrees to take out a Debenture Loan (Credit Foncier) for up to \$1.0 million to fund Council's contribution. Cr Brown sought leave of the meeting to speak. Leave granted. The motion was put, resulting in a <u>tied vote</u>. The Mayor exercised her right to a casting vote and voted in favour of the motion, resulting in the motion being <u>CARRIED</u>.
12/07/2022	<u>REQUEST FOR LOAN – PORT AUGUSTA GOLF CLUB AR22/28292 F10/521</u>	Crs Paynter/Naisbitt that <u>Council:</u> 1. Provides a loan to the Port Augusta Golf Club of \$70,000 to be repaid over a 10 year period at the current Local Government Finance Authority Cash Advance Debenture interest rate of 2.8% with instalments to be repaid in December and June of each year, commencing in December 2022.