

40th Council Achievements

2018 - 2022



Elected Members Committee Representation 2018 – 2022



Mayor Brett Benbow

Mayor: 2018 - current
Deputy Mayor: 2014 – 2018
Councillor: 2010 – 2018
CEO Performance Review Committee



Deputy Mayor Phillip Brown

Deputy Mayor: 2018–2020, 2021–2022
Councillor: 2010 – 2018, 2020–2021
CEO Performance Review Committee
Aboriginal Community Working Group



Cr Matt Leonard

Councillor: 2018 – current
Audit Committee
Council Assessment Panel: 2019 – 2020



Cr Linley Shine

Councillor: 2018 – current
Deputy Mayor: 2020–2021
Port Augusta Roxby Downs Woomera
Health Advisory Council



Cr Louise Foote

Councillor: 2018 – current
Marine Advisory Committee
CEO Performance Review Committee



Cr Maralyn Marsh

Councillor: 2018 – current
Audit Committee
Finance Reference Group



Cr Fran Paynter

Councillor: 2003 – current
AALBG Advisory Committee



Cr Ann Johnston

Councillor: 2014 – current
Port Augusta Alcohol Management
Group



Cr John Naisbitt

Councillor: 1981–1983,
2018 – current
Council Assessment Panel 2018–2019
Disability Reference Group

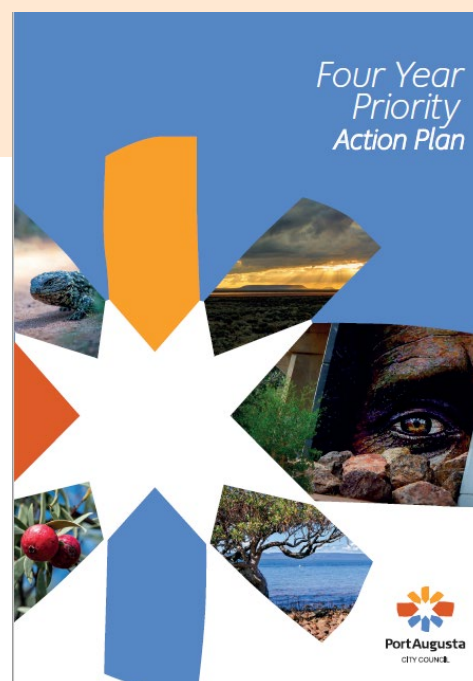


Cr Sunny Singh

Councillor: 2018 – current

Strategic Directions

In 2019/2020 Council adopted a new strategic management plan: Strategic Directions 2019 – 2029. This document is supported by a Four Year Priority Action Plan. These documents focus on the importance of Port Augusta as a Regional Hub in the areas of Education, Tourism, Transport, Recreation and Culture, Retail and Business, Government and Not-for-profit Services, Renewable Energy and Circular Economy, Mining Services and Defence. The Strategic Directions document contains five themes for which Council has an overarching strategic goal, and a number of targeted outcomes: Community, Economy, Environment, Infrastructure and Governance and Financial Stability.



This report provides an overview of the achievements of the 40th Council in relation to the five themes and goals set within the Council's Strategic Plan – Strategic Directions 2019 – 2029.

General Council Activities

96 Meetings
87 Informal Gatherings
Over 800 Resolutions
24 Confidential Agenda Items

14 Training Sessions
160 Policies Adopted/Reviewed
68 Volunteers
Reduction in Services 49 to 45

COVID Response

The performance against each of the five themes and associated outcomes, as well as Council's overall service delivery has been impacted by the COVID-19 Global pandemic. The effects of COVID-19 are continuously felt within South Australia and restrictions, legislative changes and mandatory directions remain imposed across various Council operations.

During the state-wide lockdown, Council services were forced to close for a period of time. However, essential services continued at the Civic Centre Customer Service, Animal Control, Substance Misuse Services, Park and Works teams and Childcare Centre.

Other services run by Council were forced to close for defined periods, or revise operations to different extents throughout the year, including Wadlata, the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Café and Visitor Centre, Central Oval Complex, Yarta Purtli Gallery, Health Focus, Men's Shed and theatres. Throughout the various closures and restrictions, Council was able to adapt services in some areas, and continue to provide a modified service to the community. Council also provided support and education for the general community in a time of constant change.

To ensure the safety of all our staff and customers, heightened safety measures are continually practiced across Council venues, including the implementation of Covid Safe Plans, Covid Management Plans, QR Codes, increased cleaning, sanitisation, and personal protective equipment.



Theme 1 – Community

Within this area of the Strategic Plan, Council had three goals, to celebrate cultural diversity, improve the relationship with communities and improve better two-way communication with communities.

Oz Minerals Mural Project

Council received funding from Oz Minerals to complete public art projects. The Local History mural was painted on the Garden Club building on Elizabeth Terrace by Joel Plevin. The Aboriginal Art mural was painted at the Eastside foreshore by Ashawariya Designs.

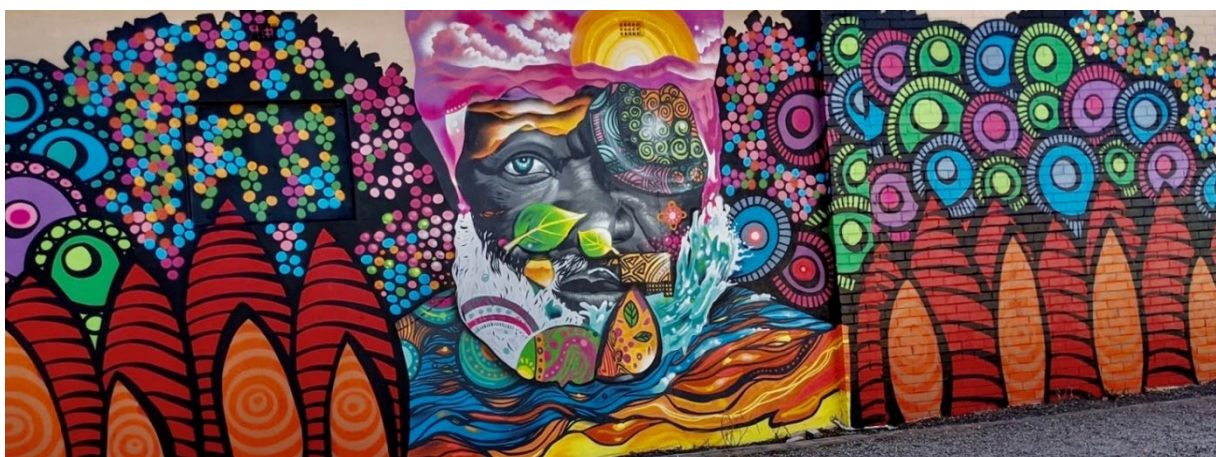


Photo (L): Aboriginal Art mural at the Eastside Foreshore painted by Ashawariya Designs.

Photo (R): Local History mural on the Garden Club painted by Joel Plevin

SANAA Public Art

Council together with SANAA facilitated the installation of two public mural on a privately owned buildings on Commercial Road. The 2020 mural was completed by Artist Scott Rathman Rusted Tin in collaboration with visiting Ghanaian artist Moh Awundu. The 2021 mural was completed by Artist Scott Rathman (Rusted Tin – Contemporary Aboriginal Arts) together with young artist Ashton Filmer who painted the birds at each end of the work.



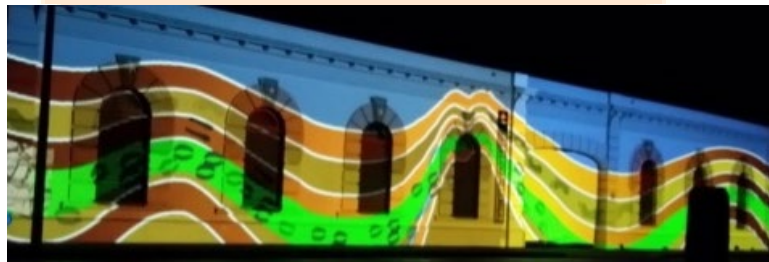
Uniting Country SA and Communities for Children Murals

Communities for Children provided \$20,000 funding to the Port Augusta City Council to support Children aged 7-12 to *Connect to Culture through Art*. The funding allowed the Yarta Purtli Art Gallery to deliver a series of 8 facilitated art workshops where children developed new skills and learnt about different art mediums. Two new murals have been completed by Joel Plevin on the Post Office wall in Port Augusta's CBD and at the Maule Avenue playground at Stirling North. Children who attended the connecting to Culture Art Workshops at the Yarta Purtli Art Gallery assisted with concept development.



Illuminart

The Travelling Light show came to Port Augusta in 2019 as part of the SALA Projection Art Tour to illuminate Silos, Town Halls and Landmarks.



Malka Aboriginal Art Prize

The Malka Aboriginal Art prize is in its thirteenth year, in 2022 Malka secured a major sustainability partner – Bungala Solar Farm, Operated by Enel Green Power. The Malka Aboriginal Art Prize is well known across the region, and it is also a major stepping-stone for Aboriginal artists to become discovered and showcased. Previous artists have gone on to feature at exhibitions in South Australia and Nationally. The exhibition is a chance for artists of all ages to be seen and to experience what it is like to have their artwork hanging in a regional art gallery. It also puts Port Augusta on the map



Photos: Malka Art Prize 2022 Winners: Junior Award Ngayan Donovan “Tree of Life” and \$20,000 2022 Malka Aboriginal Art Prize Kathryn Queama “Two Women”.

Community Support

Council has provided the community with over \$200,000 for events, project and community groups and individuals.

In 2022 Council partnered with Major Arts as part of the initiative to incentivise local participation in Aboriginal Art and Culture. The partnership allowed the Port Augusta Cultural Centre to host the Bungala Sustainability Sculpture Exhibition and award first prize with \$20,000.

Desert Fringe Events

Council held local fringe events in 2019 and 2020, which were well supported by the community. The event held in the Barracks showcased dance, singing, music, drama, comedy and circus acts.



Arid Sculpture Exhibition

The Event was held in 2020 attracting over 15,000 people to the gardens. For the 2022 event, Council has partnered with Bungala Solar Farm to host the Bungala Sustainability Sculpture Exhibition which will award first prize with \$20,000.

Photo: Winner of the 2018 'Arid – a Sculptural Exhibition' Lisa Wood – 'Life'



Australia Day Awards

The Mayor announced Australia Day Awards annually at the Australia Day Breakfast held in Gladstone Square. Due to COVID-19, the 2022 Awards were held via Zoom with attendees provided a photo opportunity with the Mayor, once restrictions permitted.



Australian Citizenship

Council has held 22 Citizenship Ceremonies, welcoming a total of 111 new Australian Citizens.



Christmas Celebrations

In 2019 Council held the Christmas Lighting Festival and provided financial assistance and support preparing the CBD for the Rotary Christmas Pageant. Mayor Benbow judged the best floats and awarded prizes to the winning entries. Following the Pageant the Community enjoyed the Christmas Party at Gladstone Square.

In 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions neither the Rotary Christmas Pageant nor the Community Christmas Party were able to run. Council was able to provide support to the MFS and Rotary Christmas Events. Residents and businesses were asked to register their Christmas light displays for the Community Map. Council displayed Christmas banners in the CBD, installed lights in Gladstone Square and put on a giant Christmas tree display and light show in the Cultural Centre.



Photos: Fireworks at the foreshore, Santa's Cave in the Yarta Purtli Gallery, and Mayor Brett Benbow in the Christmas Pageant



In 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions Council worked with community groups to host the Christmas Extravaganza at Central Oval. The Extravaganza included carols, market stalls and a Christmas Pageant.

Photo: Mayor Brett Benbow and Elected Members at the Christmas Tree display in the Cultural Centre – Yarta Purtli Gallery



Reconciliation Action Plan

In 2020/2021 Council drafted a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to address operational processes to ensure Council provides a welcoming, supportive, inclusive and collaborative environment, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councillors, Employees and Community are treated with equality, care and respect.

Port Augusta City Council launched its first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) as part of National Reconciliation Week in Gladstone Square in 2022.

The RAP consolidates Council's longstanding commitment to driving positive change towards Reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the community. Council aim to develop strong relationships built on trust and respect, and that are free of racism.



Reconciliation Week

In 2019 Council organised the Reconciliation Week Breakfast at the Port Augusta Yacht Club, featuring a dance performance from Dusty Feet Mob and Anderson Dancers. Council also participated in multiple events.

In 2020 Council partnered with SA Water to provide public art on a portion of the Princess Highway pipeline. Community members embraced the project, with local school children, truck drivers, families and Aboriginal Elders able to participate and add their "print" to the mural.

In 2021 a day of celebration was held in Gladstone Square. Organisations were invited to attend and set up an activity, and Council hosted a Yarning Circle.

In 2022 the Community Development Team partnered with Uniting Country SA to run a Youth focused Reconciliation week event. Organisations were invited to attend and set up an activity for a day of celebration held in Gladstone Square.



NAIDOC Week

Events were held in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 with Council providing financial support to activities throughout Port Augusta.

Disability Access & Inclusion Plan 2020-2024

In 2018, the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) (the Act) was passed because the South Australian Government recognised that a stronger commitment to access and inclusion planning for people living with disability was needed. Council reviewed its Disability Access & Inclusion Plan (DAIP) in 2020 in consideration of the new legislation.

As a priority action of the Plan, Council formed a Disability Reference Group with people with lived experience participating on the group. This group meets regularly throughout the year providing advice and support to Council on a range of issues that impact on people living with disability.

An annual report is provided to the Department for Human Services on the progress of the actions within the DAIP



Airport

Flights into the airport over the last 4 years have continued to increase as a result of FIFO operations within the State. Funding was received by the Council from the South Australian Government Support Regional Aviation Initiative. The grant allowed the Precision Approach Path Indicator lighting system to be completed, which enables jet passenger operations into Port Augusta Airport.

In 2021, Council received funding of \$81,269 under the Support Regional Aviation Grant for the construction of a dedicated helipad area. In support of the Region's FIFO Operations, Cobham Aviation purchased 2 new De Havilland Canada Dash 8, Q400 Aircraft.

The Council in 2022 were successful in receiving \$320,000 across 2 years in funding through the Regional Airports Program. This funding, along with 320,000 of Council funds, provided the Airport with new runway lighting, updated electrical cabling, renewal of the apron area and a new asphalt surface and line marking for flight operations.

In 2022, Council also received funding through the State Government's Support Regional Aviation Grant Fund totalling \$99,160. This funding provided the Airport with new LED Lighting on the unsealed Taxiway and a back up generator power to the Fuel Depot. The generator has supported the Royal Flying Doctor Service and local operations during black outs and extreme weather events.



Health Focus

In June 2020, the Federal Funded CHSP funded Health Focus program supporting over 80 clients celebrated 30 years of service. In 2021 clients and staff were finalists in the SA Community Achievement Awards for the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency Rural Community Health and Wellbeing Award.

Walking SA Award

The Bizzi Walkers Group won the 2021 WalkingSA award in the category of 'Walking for Health'.



Men's Shed

The Federal Government CHSP funded Men's Shed program reached 20 years of providing a much-revered social service to older men of the Port Augusta community. The men learn new skills, make new friends and get back into enjoying life and their community whilst undertaking projects for the community. The Men's Shed received a nomination for the 2021 SA Community Achievement Awards Loneliness Cure category.

Substance Misuse Service

Council is funded through the State and Commonwealth Governments to provide Substance Misuse Services to the Port Augusta Community. The programs include the Sobering Up Unit, Clean Needle Program, Mobile Assistance Patrol, Assertive Outreach Program and an Exceptional Needs Program. The Substance Misuse Services team provide on the ground outcomes, offering holistic support, assistance and case management for the most vulnerable members of our community. These services were particularly critical throughout the pandemic.

New Contracts were secured for all services throughout the Council term.

In 2019 Substance Misuse Service celebrated it's 20th Anniversary within the Port Augusta Community



SMS Service staff partnered with the Clontarf Foundation Students from PASS to undertake a Community clean up.

Native Title Determinations

Council representatives attended the Nukunu Native Title Claim Consent Determination Hearing on 17 June 2019 at the Port Germein Institute, for land including Port Pirie and parts of the surrounding Flinders Ranges. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement for this land was signed on the same day.

Council attended the Barngarla Native Title Consent Determination Hearing on 24 September 2021 in Gladstone Square. The determination covers a large portion of the Eyre Peninsula and includes the regional townships of Port Lincoln and Whyalla.



Photo: Nukunu Determination Hearing



Photo: Barngarla Determination Hearing

VOLUNTEERS

At 30 June 2022 Council had 68 registered volunteers contributing to various sites and services, including the Men's Shed, Cultural Centre, Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Childcare, Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre, Library and Health Focus.



Photo: Council volunteers, Mayor Brett Benbow, and CEO John Banks at the 2021 Thank you Function

Theme 2 – Economy

The Council aim to obtain a balance between new economic developments and existing assets by identifying and leveraging off assets for economic growth through advocacy for improved Government and investment co-ordination. The Council expect that the use of local engagement will maximise positive benefits from the growth in mining, energy, and defence activity.



Regional Development

Council has continued to build relationships with a number of organisations with their involvement in developments within our region, including visits to Sundrop Farms and Oz Minerals Carrapateena Sites.

Photo: Oz Minerals Carrapateena Site Visit

Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf Conference

The 2020 Conference was hosted in Port Augusta, with the Central Oval Facility able to meet all the Covid Management requirements. The Mayor participated in a Panel Discussion with the other members of Spencer Gulf Cities.



Major Developments

Council has seen a number of major developments submitted and approved including Bentley's Cabin Park, Port Augusta Renewable Energy Park Stage 1 and 2, Port Augusta Operations, Bunnings and Port Playford.

Port Augusta Operations

Port Augusta Operations has proposed 'Port Playford' a \$40 million development to transform the former Port Augusta Power Station site into an export facility. The development will see the return of commercial shipping to Port Augusta, creating over 100 jobs during the construction phase and a smaller number to support the ongoing operations.

Port Augusta Renewable Energy Park

The Chief Executive Officer and Mayor attended the official opening and turning of the sod for Stage 1 of the Port Augusta Renewable Energy Park. The Park is a unique hybrid renewable energy development integrating wind and solar PV technology. With a capex of \$500 million, the project will provide around 320 MW of power on land in Port Augusta. On completion, 20 ongoing full-time jobs will be created. Stage 2 of the Park as well as the Port Augusta Operations (Port) project have commenced the developing stages.



Photos: Turning of the Sod Port Augusta Renewable Energy Park, Site Plan Hallett Group Green Cement

Hallett Group Green Cement

In 2022 the Hallett Group launched a green cement project worth \$125 million taking shape across Port Adelaide, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla. The primary manufacturing operation will be based at Port Augusta, employing approximately 50 people in the region and will extract and process historic waste flyash from the previous Port Augusta power station operations. The operation will be undertaken in a highly controlled process that is sensitive to community expectations and in compliance with regulatory requirements.

Uni Hub Spencer Gulf

Council endorsed the relocation of the Uni Hub Spencer Gulf campus to the Institute Building on Commercial Road in 2020, with Uni Hub Spencer Gulf opening the doors to the new facility in 2021. Council has been proud to support the development of this facility including promoting the program on Council's social media and electronic newsletter, providing in-kind support for recruitments, media and communications and information technology.



Regional Promotion

In January 2019 Port Augusta hosted Nine News Weather broadcast live from Gladstone Square. The broadcast featured imagery of their visit to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden and the Tunnel of Time at Wadlata.



In 2022 a number of Port Augusta sites were also featured on Hello SA, the Channel Nine South Australian Travel Show. The sites were featured on two separate episodes and featured the Yarta Purtli Cultural Centre, Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden and Wadlata Outback Centre, as well as other local businesses and locations.

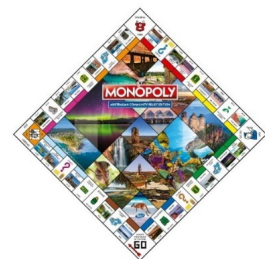


South Australian Agricultural Town of the Year

In 2020 Port Augusta was nominated as a finalist for the South Australian Agricultural Town of the Year, as it is home to the first solar-powered facility for tomato farming in Australia.

Monopoly – Australian Community Relief Edition

Port Augusta was featured in the Australian Community Relief Edition of the Monopoly Board Game, to raise much needed funds for disasters including bushfires, floods and COVID-19. The game was created to highlight the community spirit and strength of the stunning locations.



Wotif Town of the Year

In 2019 Port Augusta placed third in the 'Wotif Australian Town of the Year' awards, in recognition for its contribution to Australian holidays, culture and tourism.



Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG)

In 2022 Council entered into an agreement with the State Government providing operational funding of \$750,000 per year for 4 years from 2022/23 towards the AALBG. This occurred after much lobbying by Council and the community.

AALBG featured in an article in RM Williams outback magazine (Dec/Jan 2021 edition).

An enhancement of the Reflection Garden located in AALBG, partly funded by the local Suicide Prevention Network 'SILPAG' through a State Government grant and the Friends of AALBG was completed.

A review of the AALBG Master Plan was completed in 2020. The original plan was developed in 2009 and many activities had occurred in that period of time. The AALBG Master Plan is the guiding document for the development of the AALBG.



AALBG featured in the September issue of SA Life magazine.

The AALBG has formed partnerships to support various Universities and Government Departments with research projects undertaken at the Garden as well as the establishment of a Cochineal nursery on site with the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board for use on Cacti management.

The Friends of the AALBG continue to provide valuable support through the donation of funds and volunteer hours to meet the objectives of the garden.

AALBG celebrated its 25th birthday on 23rd September 2021.

AALBG Tourism Awards

The AALBG was once again a finalist in the Flinders Ranges and Outback South Australian Tourism Awards, taking out Bronze in the Ecotourism category. The gardens were also named as finalists in the National Australia Bank award of Excellence in delivery of service.



Wadlata Outback Centre

The Wadlata Outback Centre continues to receive positive reviews from visitors and staff have been acknowledged on social media as the 'go to' site for tourism advice.

Wadlata was a Trip Advisors travellers choice award winner in 2020.



WADLATA OUTBACK CENTRE



RECOGNISING 5 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF CONSISTENTLY
HIGH RATINGS FROM TRAVELLERS

Theme 3 – Environment

It is the goal for Council to protect the coastline through educating the community on the impacts of rubbish to our coastline, the value of biodiversity and encourage the community to care for the environment. Council is aiming to review their waste management systems and undertake mapping to understand vulnerable areas in relation to climate change adaptation.

FOGO Kitchen Caddy

Council obtained funding to introduce a new organic composting system. Residents are encouraged to use the FOGO (Food and Garden Organics) kitchen caddy system, to collect food scraps and other compostable materials before placing them into the green lidded food and garden organics bin.

This initiative has seen a reduction in waste to landfill. The FOGO caddies were delivered to properties in Port Augusta with the assistance of Orana.



Waste Management

In 2021/2022 KESAB assisted Council in promoting the reduction of waste to landfill across 7 schools with a total of 44 workshops to provide awareness. Council also promoted the South Australian Government 'Which Bin?' campaign.

Shopping Trolleys

Council coordinated a large scale clean-up operation and engaged contractors to remove 500 trolleys in the water adjacent to the Port Augusta Wharf. Council partnered with Coles, Woolworths and BigW to recover the cost of the retrieval process. Local supermarkets have now implemented wheel-lock systems to prevent a reoccurrence.



Waste Water Treatment Plant

Council undertook maintenance works on the outer walls of the wastewater lagoon to repair damage to the crest and outer walls. Council funded \$435,000 of relining works for the damaged sections of the CWMS pipework. The works returned the pipeline back to its original condition, providing in excess of 50 years of useful life.

Replace the Waste

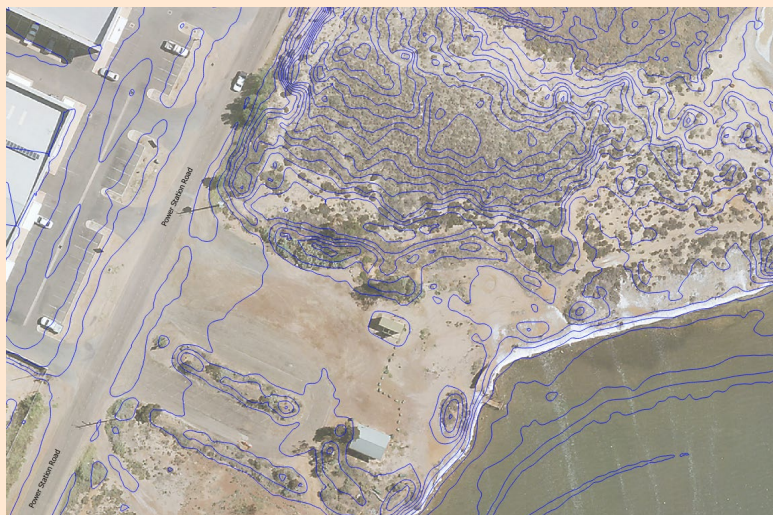
The State Government banned the use of single use plastics straws and cutlery from 1 March 2021. In support of this initiative, on 9 February 2021 Council passed a resolution addressing Single -Use Plastics on Council Controlled Land Policy.

Stormwater Management Plan

Council has commenced development of a Stormwater Management Plan. Staged over several years the plan is a strategic document that considers the capacity issues with the current system and provides a holistic view of how Council will manage its stormwater in the future. The urban areas' underground systems and the three main creeks will be modelled identifying where there are capacity issues. and will include scenarios for projected climate change impacts. These models will be used to prioritise capacity improvements including where deficiencies were found in recent major rain events.

Stage 1 of the project is almost complete with delivery of "Digital Elevation Model" of the surface of the city from which another consultant can create the models of water flow. Highly accurate contours have been developed from this model and are currently in use for assessing local flooding issues.

Stage 2 will be tendered in August 2022.



Tree Planting and Maintenance

Street tree planting was conducted around Port Augusta to enhance the streetscape.

- 957 street tree trimming requests
- 207 dead tree removals
- 124 delegated tree removals
- 262 tree assessment requests
- 195 storm damage requests
- 34 termite inspection requests
- 238 new street trees
- 325 stumps removed
- 321 branch/litter collections



Photos: Tree maintenance work by Parks staff at Gladstone Square, and Street Tree planting on Davenport Street.



Theme 4 – Infrastructure

The Council aim to improve the appearance of the city, update and enhance electronic records of aged infrastructure assets. The Council aimed to work with the community to identify a path forward in relation to foreshore structure on Crown Land under Council's care and control.

Central Oval

Central Oval Community Hub celebrated its 5th Birthday in 2020.

Council was successful in obtaining a grant of \$486,500 from the Office for Recreation and Sport's Grassroots Football, Netball, Cricket funding program for the Central Oval Turf Upgrade. The upgrade included redeveloping the oval base, surface and irrigation system. Construction of a new toilet block on the southern side of the oval was completed. This incorporated a storage facility for Soccer Port Augusta partially funded through the *Fund my Neighbourhood* program.



The Wave - Skate Park

The Skate Park was featured on a popular Australian Youtube channel.

Infrastructure Investment

Over \$3.2M of capital infrastructure works have been informed by the Asset Management Plan process.

Parks and Gardens

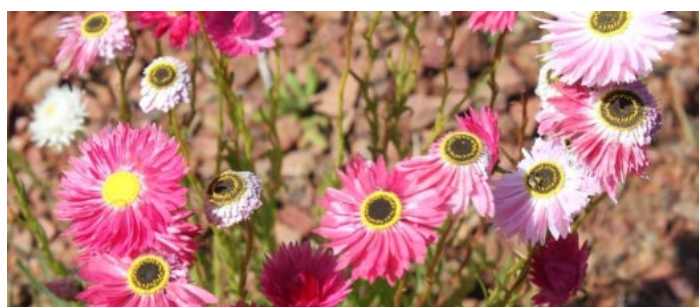
As informed by the Open Space and Play Space Strategy 2016-2031 and the Infrastructure Asset Management Plan principles, open space areas, including 21 public playgrounds have been maintained through a combination of internal staff and contractors.



Central Business District (CBD) Beautification

Beautification and enhanced vibrancy of Port Augusta's CBD and Council parks and reserves has been a priority for Council. Garden beds and planter boxes at the Airport and in the CBD have been planted with fresh nursery stock. Parks staff have propagated a section of native wildflowers at Apex Park, Mackay Street and Lions Jubilee Park. The garden beds at Central Oval were revitalised with new rock formations, new plantings and an upgrade to the irrigation system.

Council's turf management program was reviewed to improve the green open spaces throughout Port Augusta for the community to enjoy.



The CBD and surrounding areas have received an LED lighting upgrade as part of an agreement with SA Power Networks. The new LED lights will reduce power consumption, maintenance costs and increase visibility and safety.

Revitalising Port Augusta Project

The joint State Government and Council funded project has upgraded the picnic area at the Eastside Foreshore Reserve and renewed the heritage walk signage.

Two new Greenplate barbeques were installed at the Eastside Foreshore and landscaping was undertaken to address the patchy turf.

The new Heritage Walk signage was designed and installed by local contractors. The Heritage Walk was upgraded and extended with 21 locations, which now includes Water Tower Park and Loudon Road Foreshore Reserve area in Port Augusta.



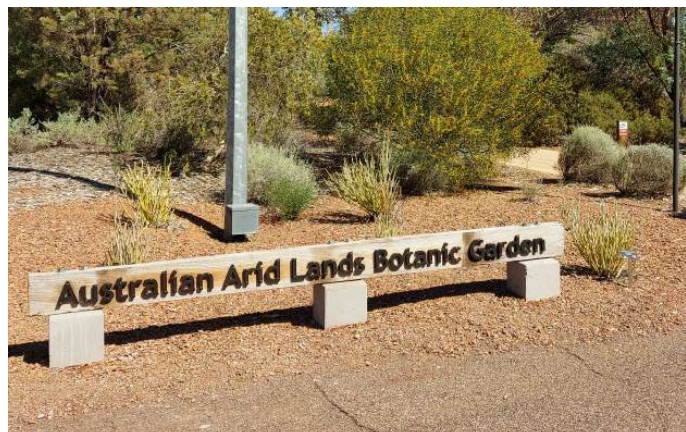
These projects focus on creating a more active and vibrant public realm, and ultimately revitalization of Port Augusta.



Jetty Timbers Repurposing Project

Council created an Eastside Mill Jetty Timbers Reference Group to generate ideas to repurpose the timber from the demolition of the Old Mill T-Jetty. In recognition of its historical value and significance, six signs were installed at:

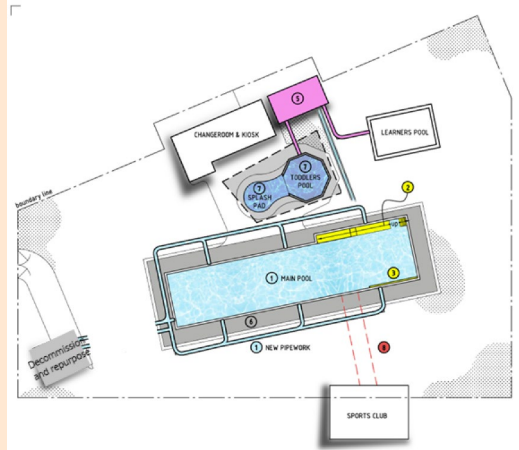
- Civic Centre
- Central Oval
- Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden
- Foreshore
- Lions Park
- Rotary Park



Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre

The centre has had over 107,000 attendances over the past 4 years and continues to receive great reviews regarding the pool grounds from visitors.

A significant refurbishment to the Pool commenced in 2022 including the replacing existing pool pipework, installing a new plant room, adding an access ramp to the main pool to meet our DDA obligations, and a installing a new liner to the main pool.., The upgrade portion will be the installation of a new water play area splash pad complete with shade sails and a 4m high splash bucket. Funding of \$1.1M was secured through the Local Government Infrastructure Partnership Program towards the upgrades.



Joy Baluch AM Bridge Duplication

Council has been worked closely with the State Government to develop opportunities for local business and outcomes for the local community during the development on the bridge duplication.

The Bridge Duplication project is on track to be completed by the end of 2022.



Bird Lake Rehabilitation

Council received a grant from the State Government to undertake rehabilitation works on Bird Lake. Council worked closely with several State Government Departments, and the former and new owners of the Old Power Station site. Council took on an active role in engaging with the community in relation to the works.



Road Works

Over \$2.36 million of capital roads works have been carried out resulting in over 79,000 square metres of road reseals and intersection upgrades.



Kerbing

Over 3,600 lineal meters of kerbing totalling over \$884,000 was undertaken by way of full-length replacement and section repairs.



Footpaths

Approximately 11,000 square meters of footpath work was undertaken representing \$1,094,000 of capital expenditure upgrades.

Theme 5 – Governance and Financial Sustainability

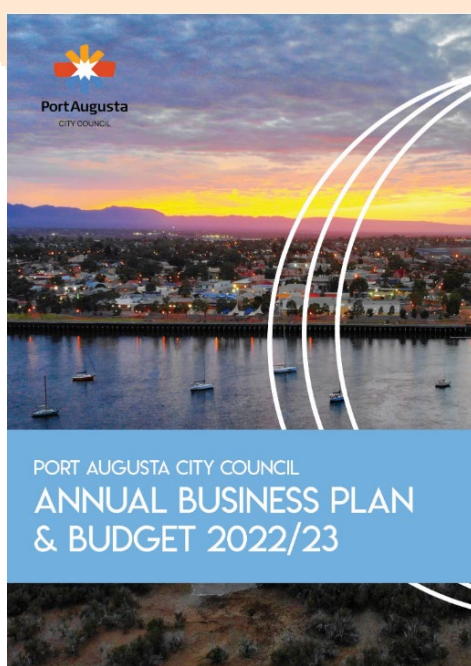
The goals for Financial Sustainability include fast-tracked removal of financial operating deficit, implementing a contingency approach to planning, changing the mix of council assets and reviewing the rating method used. The goals for governance involve building internal and other relationships, adopting clear definitions of Council roles and designing a strategy to develop a building asset plan in accordance with statutory requirements.

As at 30/06/2021:

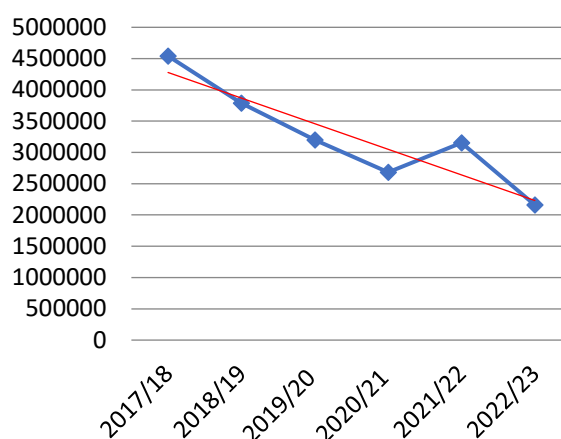
Operating Surplus Ratio 4.7%

Net financial liabilities 20.2%

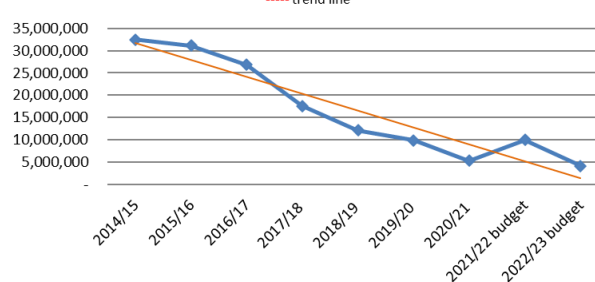
Asset sustainability ratio 68.6%



Budgeted Operating Deficit



Borrowings



Media and Communications

Council introduced a dedicated Media and Communications role to recognise the diversity in how people connect with services and endeavours to maintain a strong and up-to-date online presence. To cater for the range of needs of the community, news and information continues to be delivered across a number of platforms such as media releases, Television, Transcontinental Newspaper and Radio interviews, Facebook postings as well as Council's website.



	Council Website Visits	Facebook Followers	Twitter Followers	"Your Say" Public Consultation Page Visits
2019/2020	52,563	4,508	267	N/A
2020/2021	79,874	5,017	279	1,012
2021/2022	83,545	5,613	N/A	2,085

Service Level Reviews

Rating System Review

Council undertook a significant change to its basis of rating from Site Value to Capital Value, from Minimum Rate to Fixed Charge and a change to differential rates percentages from the 2021/2022 rating year. Whilst not generating any additional rate revenue, simplification of the rating system will create operational efficiencies, and result in a more equitable rating system.

Changes are being phased in to minimise the negative impact on some ratepayers.

General Ledger Rebuild

The restructuring of the General Ledger and implementation of Work Orders will allow Council to streamline financial reporting and use the same reporting systems for the preparation of the Annual Budget, Financial Statements, Long Term Financial Plan and Grants Commission Returns.

Fleet Vehicles

In 2020, disposing of one fleet vehicle resulted in savings of approximately \$10,000. Two light fleet vehicles were replaced with hybrid vehicles to reduce fuel consumption and operating costs.

Julia Lodge

A report was provided to Council in May 2020 reviewing the operation of Julia Lodge with Council resolving to sell the nine units on the open market through a local real estate agency. Sale of the nine single bedroom units comprising Julia Lodge was finalised on 2nd November 2020.

Snake Catching Service

In 2018/2019 Council introduced a Snake Catching service to the community, with licenced officers now able to remove snakes from public areas free of charge and from private property for a fee.

City Safe

Council resolved to end the contract on 30 September 2020 and established a Transition Working Group to assist with transitioning the service provision to other agencies.

Childcare

Council engaged Gowrie SA to undertake an operational review to improve viability of the Centre. After implementing a number of changes to centre, and with increased utilisation occurring, the operating result has improved.



Implementation of new Leases and Licenses fees

The introduction of a new lease and license fee structure for all user groups is consistent with a 'user pays' approach and in line with other South Australian Councils.

Library

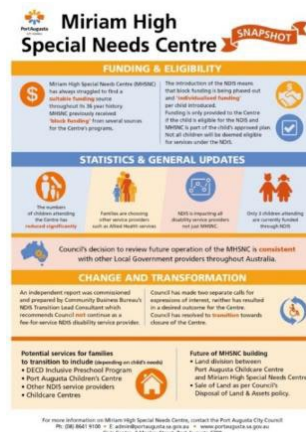
Council engaged UniSA to undertake a quality review of the Library. A report was provided from UniSA containing analysis of the summary finds, industry benchmarking figures for similar libraries, and opportunities to access ongoing collaboration and service advice from CERM Performance Indicators.

Far North Aged Care Collaborative Project

Council worked with the Department of Health to relinquish the Sector Support & Development funding through the Commonwealth Government's Home Support Program as at 30th June 2021 and transitioned this to a new service provider.

Miriam High

With low numbers of children attending, the Centre was financially unviable and Council made the difficult decision to close the centre on 30 September 2019.



Spencer Gulf Cities

The Spencer Gulf Cities have continued to strengthen their relationship with the South Australian Government, with the Mayors and CEO's of the Whyalla, Port Pirie and Port Augusta Councils. The organisation met regularly with the Premier and key Ministers to discuss issues of regional significance



Dogs and Cats Online (DACO)

Since 2018 Council has been managing the introduction of DACO for registration and microchipping of dogs and cats. Council delivered a number of subsidised de-sexing and microchipping services to assist the community in achieving compliance with the new requirements.



Dog and Cat Management Plan

Council continued to implement the Animal Management Plan 2017 – 2021 and has now completed drafting the new 5-year plan for 2022 to 2026. The Plan outlines the services required for the health, welfare and safety of animals and our community.



Community Safety Enforcement

Council enforced parking restrictions in accordance with regulations to improve traffic flow, ensure safe roads, and protect Council infrastructure. Litter and Nuisance reports in relation to illegal dumping, smoke nuisance and unsightly areas are investigated and expiations issued where appropriate.

Legislative Compliance Audit

In 2018 Council introduced a Legislative Compliance Framework, which included a Register that identifies all legislative provisions that Council must comply with.

In 2019 an independent auditor undertook the legislative compliance audit. Council completed a 12 month action plan and submitted the final report to Audit Committee in August 2021.

Cyber Security Audits

Port Augusta City Council was selected at random to be subject of an Auditor General Cyber Security Audit for Local Government in 2019. In 2020 Council also participated in a Cyber Security Audit, funded by Local Government Risk Services, delivered by consultants CQR. The results of both audits were captured within a Cyber Security Work Plan, 32 out of 33 actions have been completed. The final outstanding action relates to the Corporate Risk Register, which will be presented to Audit Committee and Council once finalised.

Shared Services

In the last four years, Council has had Shared Services Agreements with the Flinders Ranges Council, Port Pirie Regional Council, Whyalla City Council and Mount Remarkable District Council for services including Building Officers, Planning Officers, Fire Safety, General Inspectors and Work, Health and Safety Services as well as UniHub Spencer Gulf for IT support.

Human Resources – Workforce Development

Council's new performance appraisal system was implemented in 2020/2021, and was awarded the LG Professionals SA Leadership Award in the People and Culture category for the development and implementation of the My Success @PACC program. The new system included the development of a succession plan for critical roles, and identification of training and development for all staff.



Public Library

The Library has held a diverse range of programs and activities over the past 4 years.

The One Card Network consortium of libraries across South Australia, continued to allow the community to utilise the resources of the State. The Library provided a Toy Library service, audio books, home visit service, local and family history service, and community information services. Free public access is available to six computers, scanning, printing facilities and wireless internet service.

In 2020/21 and 2021/22 grant funding from Communities for Children totalling \$20,000 allowed for the introduction of Paint Port Augusta REaD, a national early literacy program for babies and pre-schoolers. Launched in February 2021, Library staff regularly visited eight early childhood centres to promote the program.

Photos: Desert Voices and Library volunteer at Grave Matters Cemetery Tour May 2021

