

**ADELAIDE HILLS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY 23 September 2025
63 MT BARKER ROAD STIRLING**

In Attendance

Presiding Member: Acting Mayor Nathan Daniell

Members:

Councillor Adrian Cheater
Councillor Chris Grant
Councillor Malcolm Herrmann
Councillor Lucy Huxter
Councillor Leith Mudge
Councillor Mark Osterstock
Councillor Kirsty Parkin

In Attendance:

Greg Georgopoulos	Chief Executive Officer
Gary Lewis	Director Corporate Services
Jade Ballantine	Director Environment and Infrastructure
Zoe Gill	Executive Governance Officer
Georgie McKeon	Minute Secretary
Tom Portas	Technical Support

1. COMMENCEMENT

The meeting commenced at 6:30

2. OPENING STATEMENT

Council acknowledges that we meet on the traditional Country of the Peramangk and Kaurna people. We pay our respects to Ancestors and Elders past and present as the Custodians of this ancient and beautiful land.

Together we will care for this place for the generations to come and in this context the decisions we make should be guided by the principle that nothing we do should decrease our children's ability to live on this land.

3. APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Apology

Cr Kirrilee Boyd

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3.2 Leave of Absence

Cr Kirsty Parkin – 6 October 2025 to 17 October 2025 – approved 26 August 2025

3.2.1 Request – Cr Leith Mudge

Moved Cr Mark Osterstock

S/- Cr Chris Grant

307/25

1. That a Leave of Absence from all duties of office be granted to Cr Leith Mudge from 14 October to 17 October 2025
2. That any committee or panel membership currently held by Cr Leith Mudge be undertaken by the Deputy during the leave of absence.

Carried Unanimously

3.2.2 Request – Cr Malcolm Herrmann

Moved Cr Mark Osterstock

S/- Cr Kirsty Parkin

308/25

1. That a Leave of Absence from all duties of office be granted to Cr Malcolm Herrmann from 27 September 2025 to 3 October 2025
2. That any committee or panel membership currently held by Cr Malcolm Herrmann be undertaken by the Deputy during the leave of absence.

Carried Unanimously

3.3 Absent

Nil

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Council Meeting – 9 September 2025

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann

S/- Cr Kirsty Parkin

309/25

Council resolves that the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 9 September 2025, as supplied, be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Carried Unanimously

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5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

5.1 Acting Mayor Nathan Daniell, Item 19.1 – CEO PRP Independent Member Appointment and Presiding Member Appointment

Under section 75B of the Local Government Act 1999 Acting Mayor Daniell disclosed a General (section 74) Conflict of Interest in Item 19.1.

6. PRESIDING MEMBER'S OPENING REMARKS

The Acting Mayor:

- Acknowledged the recent resignation of Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom
- Congratulated and welcomed Lisa Woolcock who had been provisionally elected for the Ranges ward, along with Richard Gladigau and Alex Trescowthick who had been provisionally elected for the Valleys ward.

7. QUESTIONS ADJOURNED/LYING ON THE TABLE

7.1 Questions Adjourned

Nil

7.2 Questions Lying on the Table

Nil

8. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC FORUM

8.1 Petitions

Nil

8.2 Deputations

Nil

8.3 Public Forum

9. PRESENTATIONS

10. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

10.1 Staffing and Governance matters (Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom)

1. What is the current establishment of the arborist team? Are these vacancies (across the organisation) the result of an expansion of services or staff turnover? What is the staff turnover rate since the beginning of this year (2025) and how does it compare to the twelve months of 2024? What new services are being offered with the new staff being recruited?

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The current structure of the arborist team is 13 positions. There are currently 5 of these roles being advertised. These vacancies are due to staff turnover.

Staff turnover across the organisation is due to changed services and staff turnover.

Staff turnover from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 is 13.

For the full year from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, the staff turnover was 51.

Within the arborist team, some previously outsourced services will be provided internally by Council staff. Across the organisation, the structure has been changed to align with the Your Space Your Place: Strategic Plan 2024 objectives and goals.

- 2. Has any correspondence been received by Council from the Behavioural Standards Panel over the past six months and if so has the correspondence been noted in the appropriate public Council Agenda and Minutes?**

There has been no correspondence from the Behavioural Standards Panel noted in Council's public Agenda and Minutes between March 2025 and 23 September 2025.

Complaints referred to the Behavioural Standards Panel are confidential until such time as the Panel determines that a report of the Panel should be published. Council members (under section 62(4a)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1999*) and council employees (under section 110A of the Act) have obligations to treat such matters as confidential.

- 3. Have any on-site or offsite meetings (including public houses, hotels, cafes, parks etc) occurred between the Administration (including the CEO) and two, three of four Elected Members at any one time in the past 18 months or so? If so, given such meetings would constitute a public Information or Briefing Session, were they advertised on Council's website notifying the public?**

The relevant section relating to the question regarding publication is s90A(7). There is also a requirement for the session if it deals with a matter that will be in a future Council agenda to be open to the public unless the CEO uses s90A(4) to order it to be closed to the public. If such an order was made was it recorded under s90A(5) and the details published under s90A(7) noting whether the session was open to the public or not.

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Yes, Administration (including the CEO) meets regularly with Elected Members. Some meetings are *Information and Briefing Sessions* under s90A of the *Local Government Act 1999*. Other meetings are not.

Most Information and Briefing Sessions are public. Others are held in confidence under s90A(4) of the Act.

Notice of Information and Briefing Sessions, and whether they are public or confidential, is provided on Council's [website](#) and comply with the requirements under s90A(5) and (7) of the *Local Government Act 1999* and regulation 8AB of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2013.

- 4. Will the Council please request a correction from and inform the Courier newspaper that there is no requirement, legal or otherwise, and Local Government legislation does not support a Council requiring or requesting an individual Elected Member to pay ratepayer funded legal fees incurred at the request of a Council or its Administration.**

At time of writing what are the current costs for legal advice relating to any investigation or complaints about the Mayor? For comparative purposes what are the total costs to date for legal advice of each separate Directorate?

Correction request to the Courier

On 10 September 2025, an article was published in the Courier stating that "Dr Wisdom was also required to pay the Council for costs associated with the investigation, which amounted to 52,000 dollars," and that she had not done so. This is incorrect. The *Local Government Act 1999* does not support a Council requiring an elected member to pay for costs associated with a behavioural complaint. A Council is able to request such payment, as Council did on this occasion.

Administration have requested that the Courier publish a correction to reflect this distinction and ensure the public record is corrected. The Courier has indicated they will publish the correction.

Clarification of Legal Costs

At the time of writing, the current total costs for legal advice relating to any investigation or complaint about the Mayor are as follows:

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Independent Inquiry	Independent Inquiry into the Mayor's use of the Mayor Seeking Legal Advice Policy	\$87,365
Behavioural Matter	Elected member behavioural matter (Mayor)	\$52,813
Total		\$140,178

Comparative Directorate Costs

In relation to the question, "For comparative purposes what are the total costs to date for legal advice of each separate Directorate?", Administration are undertaking this detailed analysis, which will be presented to Council at the ordinary meeting of Council when the 2024/2025 financial statements are considered for adoption in October.

At the on 12 August Council meeting, Council resolved to receive this information at the October meeting:

11.1 Legal Costs – Cr Malcolm Herrmann

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann
S/- Cr Chris Grant

265/25

Council resolves:

That at the ordinary meeting of Council when the 2024/2025 financial statements are considered for adoption, the CEO provides the following information:

- 1. For 2023/24, the budget for legal costs, the actual expenditure by department and the reasons for any variation.**
- 2. For 2024/25, the budget for legal costs, the actual expenditure by department and the reasons for any variation.**
- 3. For 2025/26, the quantum in the Annual Business Plan for legal costs and the actual expenditure to the 30 September 2025.**

Carried Unanimously

- 5. Given the recent interest in the media about leadership, management and confidentiality at Adelaide Hills Council, and the recent occurrence of the CEO's annual Performance Review, how many confidential orders have been made at CEO Review Panel meetings over the past two years and how many have now been released from confidence? What reasons are cited for keeping an item or resolution in confidence for more than six months?**

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From September 2023-September 2025, the CEO Review Panel has made confidential orders in relation to 18 items. Confidential items are reviewed regularly by Council in accordance with legislative requirements, and four have been released from confidence since September 2023.

In relation to reasons for and timing of confidentiality orders, these are decided by Council or the relevant Committee/Panel on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Section 90 and 91 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, which allows Council or its committees to consider matters in confidence where:

- (a) Information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead);
- (b) Information the disclosure of which –
 - (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;
- (c) information the disclosure of which would reveal a trade secret;
- (d) commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which –
 - (i) could reasonably be expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and
 - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest;
- (e) matters affecting the security of the council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person;
- (f) information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the maintenance of law, including by affecting (or potentially affecting) the prevention, detection or investigation of a criminal offence, or the right to a fair trial;
- (g) matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty;
- (h) legal advice;
- (i) information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the council or council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place, involving the council or an employee of the council;
- (j) information the disclosure of which –

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- (i) 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
- (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.
- (k) tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works;
- (m) information relating to a proposed amendment to a Development Plan under the Development Act 1993 before a Plan Amendment Report relating to the amendment is released for public consultation under that Act;
- (n) information relevant to the review of a determination of a council under the Freedom of Information Act 1991;
- (o) information relating to a proposed award recipient before the presentation of an award.

In accordance with Section 91(9) of the Act, when a confidentiality order is made, Council or the relevant committee must:

- Specify the duration of the order, the circumstances in which it will cease to apply, or a period after which it must be reviewed;
- Ensure that any order operating for more than 12 months is reviewed at least once every year;
- Record in the minutes the grounds on which the order was made and the decision regarding its duration or review;
- Note that orders of specified duration cannot be extended once expired, and extensions cannot be delegated;
- Delegate to a Council employee the power to revoke the order, if appropriate

Where items or resolutions of the CEO Performance Review Panel have remained in confidence for more than six months, reasons include:

- Information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)
- Legal advice
- Information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

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Council regularly reviews confidentiality orders to ensure compliance with legislative requirements and to promote transparency wherever possible.

11. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

- 11.1. Behavioural Standards Investigation – Mayor Wisdom – Failure to Comply with Council Resolution 430/24 (Cr Mark Osterstock) - withdrawn**

12. OFFICER REPORTS – DECISION ITEMS

12.1 Multi-Year Agreement regarding Tour Down Under

Moved Cr Malcolm Herrmann
S/- Cr Leith Mudge

310/25

Council resolves:

1. That the Multi-Year Agreement Regarding Tour Down Under report be received and noted.
2. That Council acknowledges the importance of the Santos Tour Down Under to local communities and in particular the economic benefits it provides.
3. That Council will provide in-principle support of the Santos Tour Down Under up to and including for the year 2030 providing there are no hosting fees applied.
4. That each year support for the Santos Tour Down Under will be contingent upon, to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer, there being no exceptional aspects to hosting the Santos Tour Down Under that would require Council consideration.
5. Notes the Chief Executive Officer will use the delegation already provided to him to consider consent for road closures under Section 33(2) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 on an annual basis.
6. That the planning and budgeting aspects of the Santos Tour Down Under be managed within the core operating budget of Council rather than as a Strategic Initiative.
7. That each year the Chief Executive Officer will provide an information report to Council on the previous Santos Tour Down Under and outlining Council's involvement in the upcoming Santos Tour Down Under.

Carried

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12.2 AHRWMA Deputy Board Member Appointment

Moved Cr Leith Mudge
S/- Cr Chris Grant

311/25

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That in relation to the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Board, to appoint Ms Sharon Leith, Sustainability Coordinator to the Deputy Board Member position for a term to commence from 23 September 2025 and conclude at 28 January 2027 (inclusive).
3. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer to lodge all required documentation to give effect to Council's resolutions regarding Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority Board Membership.

Carried Unanimously

12.3 East Waste Management Authority Deputy Board Director Appointment

Moved Cr Lucy Huxter
S/- Cr Chris Grant

312/25

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That in relation to the Eastern Waste Management Authority Board, to appoint Greg Georgopoulos, CEO to the Deputy Board Director position for a term to commence from 23 September 2025 and conclude at 28 January 2027 (inclusive).
3. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer to lodge all required documentation to give effect to Council's resolutions regarding Eastern Waste Management Authority Board Membership.

Carried Unanimously

12.4 Review of Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedure

Moved Cr Leith Mudge
S/- Cr Malcolm Herrmann

313/25

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Council resolves:

1. That the Review of Public Interest Disclosure Policy report be received and noted.
2. With an effective date of 30 September 2025, to revoke the 27 April 2021 Public Interest Disclosure Policy and to adopt the 23 September 2025 Public Interest Disclosure Policy as per Appendix 2.
3. To note proposed amendments to the Public Interest Disclosure Procedure as per Appendix 3, which will be approved by the CEO.
4. That the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make any formatting, nomenclature or other minor changes to the 23 September 2025 Public Interest Disclosure Policy as per Appendix 2.

Carried Unanimously

12.5 Status Report – Council Resolutions Update

Moved Cr Mark Osterstock
S/- Cr Chris Grant

314/25

Council resolves:

1. That the report be received and noted.
2. That the completed items in Appendix 1 be removed from the Action List.

Carried Unanimously

12.6 Expression of Interest Wildlife Rescue Support

Moved Cr Leith Mudge
S/- Cr Adrian Cheater

315/25

Council resolves:

1. To receive and note the Expression of Interest Wildlife Rescue Support report be received and noted.

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2. That Administration, in partnership with SOWFI, conducts a four-week Expression of Interest process using website, social media and direct approaches, where appropriate, to relevant government and community groups.
3. A report be provided to Council at the conclusion of the Expression of Interest process with the results and recommendations.

Carried Unanimously

13. OFFICER REPORTS - INFORMATION ITEMS

Nil

14. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

Moved Cr Mark Osterstock

S/- Cr Lucy Huxter

316/25

Council resolves that the following correspondence is received and noted:

1. 14.1 Letter from the GRFMA regarding the GRFMA 2024/25 Annual Report
2. 14.2 GRFMA 2024/25 Annual Report
3. 14.3 Letter from the GRFMA regarding the GRFMA Floodplain Mitigation Business Case
4. 14.4 Minutes from the GRFMA meeting, held 28 August 2025

Carried Unanimously

15. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

16. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil

17. REPORTS

17.1 Council Member Function or Activity on the Business of Council

Cr Malcolm Herrmann

- 7 Sep - Top of the Torrens - Exhibition launch
- 9 Sep - Top of the Torrens – AGM

17.2 Reports of Members as Council/Committee Representatives on External Organisations

- Nil

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17.3 CEO Report

Greg Georgopoulos, CEO, provided Council with a verbal update, including:

- A focus on the Campbelltown City Council Boundary Change Proposal and meeting with different stakeholders
- Options for Ashton Landfill moving forward
- Official roll-out of the 'Great Place to Work' initiative and launch of an organisation-wide survey, and the official roll-out of the 'values program'

18. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

18.1 Council Assessment Panel

Moved Cr Leith Mudge
S/-Cr Adrian Cheater

317/25

That the minutes of Council Assessment Panel held on 10 September 2025 as supplied, be received and noted

Carried Unanimously

18.2 Audit Committee

Nil

18.3 CEO Performance Review Panel

Nil

18.4 Boundary Change Committee

Nil

19. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

19.1 CEO PRP Independent Member Appointment and Presiding Member Appointment – Exclusion of the Public

Moved Cr Chris Grant
S/- Cr Adrian Cheater

318/25

Council resolves:

Pursuant to section 90(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999* the Council orders that all members of the public, except:

- Chief Executive Officer, Greg Georgopoulos
- Director Environment & Infrastructure, Jade Ballantine
- Director Corporate Services, Gary Lewis

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- Executive Governance Officer, Zoe Gill
- Minute Secretary, Georgie McKeon
- IT Support, Tom Portas

be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 19.1: (CEO PRP Independent Member Appointment and Presiding Member Appointment) in confidence.

The Council is satisfied that it is necessary that the public, with the exception of Council staff in attendance as specified above, be excluded to enable Council to consider the report at the meeting on the following grounds:

Section 90(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda Item is

- Information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).

Accordingly, on this basis the principle that meetings of the Council should be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed by the need to keep the information and discussion confidential.

Carried Unanimously

**19.1.1 CEO PRP Independent Member Appointment and Presiding Member Appointment–
Confidential Item**

Moved Cr Chris Grant
S/- Cr Kirsty Parkin

319/25

Council resolves:

1. To receive and note the CEO Performance Review Panel Independent Member Appointment Report.
2. To note that Hannah Wandel is the Selection Panel's preferred candidate to the position of CEO Performance Review Panel Independent Member.
3. To appoint Hannah Wandel to the position of CEO Performance Review Panel Independent Member for a term to commence from 24 September 2025 until 24 September 2028 (inclusive).

Carried Unanimously

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The Acting Mayor declared a General Conflict of Interest in relation to Item 19.1.1 (second motion) as he was being nominated for the position. The Acting Mayor left the Chamber and did not participate in the vote.

7:12pm The Acting Mayor left the meeting room.

7.13pm Through the CEO, leave of the meeting was sought and granted to appoint Cr Osterstock as the Presiding Member.

**Moved Cr Kirsty Parkin
S/- Cr Chris Grant**

320/25

Council resolves:

- 1. To appoint Acting Mayor Nathan Daniell to the position of CEO Performance Review Panel Presiding Member to commence 24 September 2025 and conclude on 28 January 2026 (inclusive).**

Not Carried

7:15pm The Acting Mayor returned to the meeting room and resumed the position of Presiding Member.

**19.1.2 CEO PRP Independent Member Appointment and Presiding Member Appointment–
Duration of Confidentiality**

**Moved Cr Adrian Cheater
S/- Cr Chris Grant**

321/25

Council resolves:

Subject to the CEO, or his delegate, disclosing information or any document (in whole or in part) for the purpose of implementing Council's decision(s) in this matter in the performance of the duties and responsibilities of office, Council, having considered Agenda Item 19.1 in confidence under sections 90(2) and 90(3)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, resolves that an order be made under the provisions of sections 91(7) and (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999* to retain the Items in confidence as detailed in the Duration of Confidentiality Table below:

Duration of Confidentiality NB: Item to be reviewed every 12 months if not released	
Item	
Report	Until the appointment has been confirmed
Related Attachments	Not applicable

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Minutes	Until the appointment has been confirmed
Other (presentation, documents, or similar)	Not applicable

Pursuant to section 91(9)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Council delegates the power to revoke the confidentiality order either partially or in full to the Chief Executive Officer.

Carried Unanimously

20. NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the Adelaide Hills Council will be held on Tuesday 14 October from 6.30pm at 63 Mt Barker Road, Stirling.

21. CLOSE MEETING

The meeting closed at 7:17pm