Media Release

Tuesday 27 October 2026

Adelaide Hills Council appoints new CEO

Adelaide Hills Council has appointed Jade Ballantine as its new Chief Executive Officer, with Jade to commence in the role on Monday 9 November.

Council unanimously endorsed the appointment at a special meeting on 19 October, following a competitive recruitment process that attracted a strong field of applicants.

Mayor Nathan Daniell said Jade brought valuable regional experience, a strong understanding of the organisation and a clear commitment to serving the Adelaide Hills community.

“Jade brings a strong commitment to our community and extensive regional experience that will support the delivery of high-quality services and infrastructure for Adelaide Hills residents,” Mayor Daniell said.

“Jade understands the strengths of our organisation and the importance of a collaborative culture. Her leadership will be key to building on those strengths, supporting our people and ensuring we work effectively towards shared goals.”

During the recruitment process, Roberto Bria served as Acting Chief Executive Officer, providing leadership and continuity for the organisation.

On behalf of Council, I’d like to thank Roberto for stepping into the Acting CEO role and providing clear and steady leadership during this transition period,” Mayor Daniell said.

“His contribution has been particularly valuable in guiding the preparation of Council’s next Long-Term Financial Plan. I thank him for his support and the work he has undertaken during his time with us.”

Jade is currently the Adelaide Hills Council Director Environment and Infrastructure and has extensive local government experience, including Director City Growth at Whyalla Council, and previously as Director Infrastructure, Planning and Environment at the City of Port Lincoln. Prior to this, Jade worked for Regional Development Australia on major economic development initiatives for the Eyre Peninsula and was the former manager of the Watershed Protection Office of the Environment Protection Authority based in Stirling in the Adelaide Hills.

Her understanding of the Adelaide Hills and the needs of its community will help guide the organisation as it continues to deliver its services and infrastructure.

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"I'm proud to lead the Adelaide Hills Council as CEO, ensuring our organisation delivers on the essential everyday services that sustain our community and visitors to our region," said Ms Ballantine.

"As a local resident, I feel a deep responsibility to our unique landscape—from supporting our primary producers and safeguarding our critical watersheds, to caring for our aging population so they can thrive in the community they helped build. I am fully committed to delivering practical, positive outcomes for every generation in the Hills."

Please join us in warmly welcoming Jade to the position leading the Adelaide Hills Council team.

The Council will continue to focus on caring for, protecting what is best about our area, with an emphasis on responsible financial management, quality services and infrastructure, and working collaboratively with the community to support the long-term future of the Adelaide Hills.

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