Media Release

Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

Thursday 16 July 2026

Consultation helps shape revised Annual Business Plan and Budget

The Adelaide Hills Council has lowered the rate increase for 2026/27 following community consultation around its draft Annual Business Plan.

The plan now reflects a rate increase of 6.8%, made up of May CPI of 4.4% plus an additional 2.4% to manage the Council's $800 million portfolio of infrastructure assets, deliver $2.2 million in new capital expenditure and continue the process of ensuring long term financial sustainability.

The rate rise of 6.8% represents a reduction of 0.8% from the increase proposed in the draft plan that went to consultation last month and equates to approximately $204 for an average value residential property.

Careful management of the budget has ensured that all key capital expenditure on new projects proposed in the draft remain fully funded in the revised budget including works on the Amy Gillet Bikeway, new footpaths, school safety zones and essential recladding of the Stirling Coventry Library.

Quotes attributable to Mayor Nathan Daniell:

> "Thank you to the residents who took the time to provide feedback during consultation.
>
> "We have listened to that feedback and reduced the proposed rate increase while maintaining funding for key projects, essential services and infrastructure.
>
> "This budget strikes a balance between protecting what makes the Adelaide Hills special and managing Council's finances responsibly to ensure we can return to surplus in coming years.
>
> "The final Annual Business Plan reflects the community's priorities and Council's commitment to long-term financial sustainability."

Key points of the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan include:

- forecast income of $68.0 million and expenditure of $71.1 million, resulting in a proposed $3.1 million operating deficit
- $2.2 million in capital expenditure on new or upgraded assets, down from $3.45 million in 2025/26
- $12.1 million expenditure on existing asset renewal, down from $14.29 million in the adopted 2025/26 budget
- a closing balance of all borrowings of $32.5 million

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The Adelaide Hills Council remains committed to returning to surplus in coming years and achieving the goals set out in our Strategic Plan.

Consultation on the draft Annual Business Plan ran from 15 June to 6 July.

The Annual Business Plan and Budget can be viewed on Council's website

[Council Strategies and Plans • Adelaide Hills Council]

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