

DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET SUMMARY 2025-26



Maintaining existing services while actively preparing for growth is the primary theme of the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2025–26, with a focus on what really matters - our places, people, planning and strong partnerships. The plan sets out the key steps we're taking now to support both our current and future communities - making sure we're ready for what's ahead and set up to grow well, together.

We recognise the cost-of-living pressures facing many households and have worked hard to reduce and manage costs, introduce efficiency targets and deliver a financially responsible budget that still invests in the services and projects our community value.

HIGHLIGHTS

- We will focus on Infrastructure delivery for East Side ensuring improved walkability and access.
- We will work on a Stormwater Management Plan for Murray Bridge to provide clear visibility of the stormwater requirements for any future developments.
- We will develop an Open Space Masterplan to provide a long-term vision for how our green and open spaces are protected and enhanced and help meet community needs as the area grows and changes.
- We will continue our Footpath Expansion Program to improve walkability and access.
- We will continue to implement our Swanport Road Master Plan to improve town entrances.
- We will begin developing an Investment and Attraction Plan to encourage businesses to establish in Murray Bridge and create employment opportunities for our growing community.
- We will progress lighting upgrades on Wharf Hill.
- We will continue to make improvements to local sport and recreation facilities.
- We will support our community to be job ready with the Murraylands Skills Centre and Murray River Study Hub to continue to grow.

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AT A GLANCE

- Council is actively planning for the future of our growing rural city, ensuring we are ready to meet the needs of a larger, thriving community.
- Council will continue to deliver the core services we know are important to you - like maintaining public spaces, hosting community events, and delivering key community programs.
- Council is proposing an overall operating budget of \$73.4m in 2025-26. This includes \$63.3m in delivering our services and key projects, \$9.4m on renewal of community assets and \$710k on enhancing community assets.
- On average the Valuer General has lifted property values by 7.5% across our community – to ease the burden on our rate payers, Council has reduced the rate in the dollar by 2%, proposing a budget with a 4.8% increase in rates on average.
- The average residential rate for existing ratepayers in 2025-26 will be \$2,297.
- During recent consultation the community told Council they didn't want any changes to the Rating Structure, so we listened which is reflected in the proposed budget.
- While the Rating Structure determines how rates are distributed across properties in our community, a Rating Policy outlines how Council collects rates. As required by the Local Government Act, Council has reviewed its Rating Policy with a single change proposed to increase the vacant land differential rate from 30% to 50% above the base rate. This change is to encourage development and boost housing supply while limiting the impact on the rest of the rate base including residents, primary production and business.

SHARE YOUR VIEWS

Community consultation commences on Thursday 15 May 2025 and closes at 5.00pm Thursday 5 June 2025.

Scan the QR Code to read the full Plan and make a submission via our Let's Talk website



Written submissions are welcomed via post or email:

Rural City of Murray Bridge
PO Box 421
Murray Bridge SA 5253

council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

Verbal submissions can be made at the Council's Special Meeting on Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 7:00 PM. Each speaker will be allocated a maximum of five minutes to make their submission and the meeting will be held for at least one hour.

To register your interest in making a verbal submission please contact council via 8539 1100 or council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au.