City of Marion

Annual Business Plan Summary 2025-2026

A great place to *live*

Mayor's message

Welcome to the City of Marion's Annual Business Plan Summary 2025-2026. This is a snapshot of our budget for the year ahead. Extraordinary construction costs and rising wages contributed to making it the most challenging budget of the last 10 years.

Despite these challenges, the budget delivers great improvements for our community.

We remain committed to getting the basics right. Council will continue to provide regular rubbish collection, plant over 3000 trees each year, and work harder to maintain safe, level footpaths.

Over the past year, we continued to invest in special facilities which will benefit the community for decades to come. We now turn to plans for a new basketball stadium and a new home for the Marion Tennis Club.

In my 10 years as Mayor, Marion Council successfully contained average rate increases to around the rate of inflation but, disappointingly, this year Council believes we need to put up the average residential rate by 4.64% for 2025–2026. Individual rate rises vary from the average due to changes in property valuations, which are outside Council's control.

Most importantly, Marion Council continues to provide great services and facilities, with environmental sustainability, while maintaining manageable debt and a sound financial position (independently verified by the Essential Services Commission).

Yours faithfully

Kris Hanna

Mayor Kris Hanna

Stay informed

City of Marion

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This document is a summary of the Annual Business Plan 2025-2026.

To view the complete plan please visit: **marion.sa.gov.au/abp**

What we achieved 2024-2025

- Opened Coastal Walkway Bridges.
- Completed key projects: Seacliff Golf, Marino Hall, Marion Cultural Centre Plaza.
- Held events: Touch a Truck, Citizenship Ceremonies, Concert at the Cove.
- Marion Outdoor Pool hit record 157,932 visitors.
- Planted over 4000 trees, 15,000 native plants and expanded EV fleet.
- Progressed upgrade plans: Warradale Park Tennis Club, Marion Basketball Stadium, Glandore Oval redevelopment.
- Upgraded reserves – including new pump track and multi-sports court.
- Renewed 3,119 m² footpaths, 1.15 km stormwater pipes, resealed 37,210 m² of roads.
- Kept the community safe with over 400 food inspections and over 1,350 building inspections.

A full list of key achievements can be viewed via City of Marion's annual report.

Key objectives 2025-2026

- Progress plans for Marion Basketball Stadium, Warradale Park Tennis Club, Morphettville Park Tennis Club and Glandore Oval redevelopment.
- Expand our events calendar.
- Resurface Cove Netball Courts.
- Design and update sections of the Coastal Walkway.
- Improve liveability through streetscape projects and expanded footpath maintenance.
- Redevelop and upgrade reserves and playgrounds across the city.
- Deliver programs and initiatives for environmental outcomes.

Project priorities

Our new Strategic Directions reflect our Community Vision for 'A Liveable, Sustainable, Community'.

Key project priorities for 2025-2026 are focused on delivering Liveable, Sustainable, Community and Our Organisation outcomes now and strengthening our position into the future.

Liveable

Reserve and playground development across council.

Progress Marion Basketball Stadium, Glandore Oval redevelopment and Morphettville Park Tennis Club projects.

Deliver the annual capital works program, including stormwater infrastructure, road management and open space works.

Sustainable

Continue tree planting across council.

Partner to deliver the Resilient South Program and other environmental programs and initiatives.

Continue with transition of council's passenger vehicles to electric.

Community

Provide the community bus to support residents to remain connected.

Deliver an increased number of community events.

Deliver the Youth and Community Grants Program.

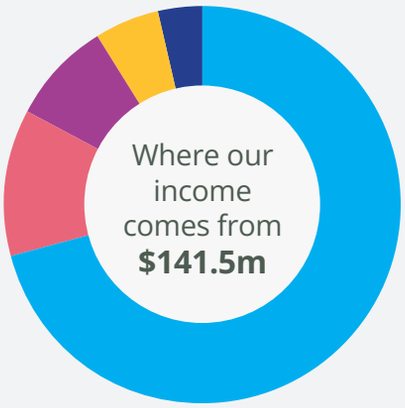
Our Organisation

Continuation of asset renewal program.

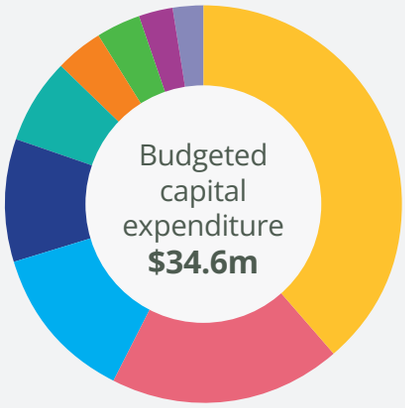
Implement the Information Services Strategy.

Continue to support the Gap Year Program.

Finances at a glance



- Rates and Regional Landscape Levy **$100.4m**
- Grants/Subsidies **$16.8m**
- Borrowings **$11.9m**
- User and Statutory Charges **$7.6m**
- Other income **$4.8m**



- Major projects **$13.4m**
- Buildings **$6.5m**
- Roads and kerbs **$4.5m**
- Stormwater **$3.4m**
- Open Space Development **$2.4m**
- Traffic devices/other infrastructure **$1.4m**
- Footpaths **$1.2m**
- Streetscapes **$1.0m**
- Fleet Plant and Equipment **$0.8m**

For every $100 spent

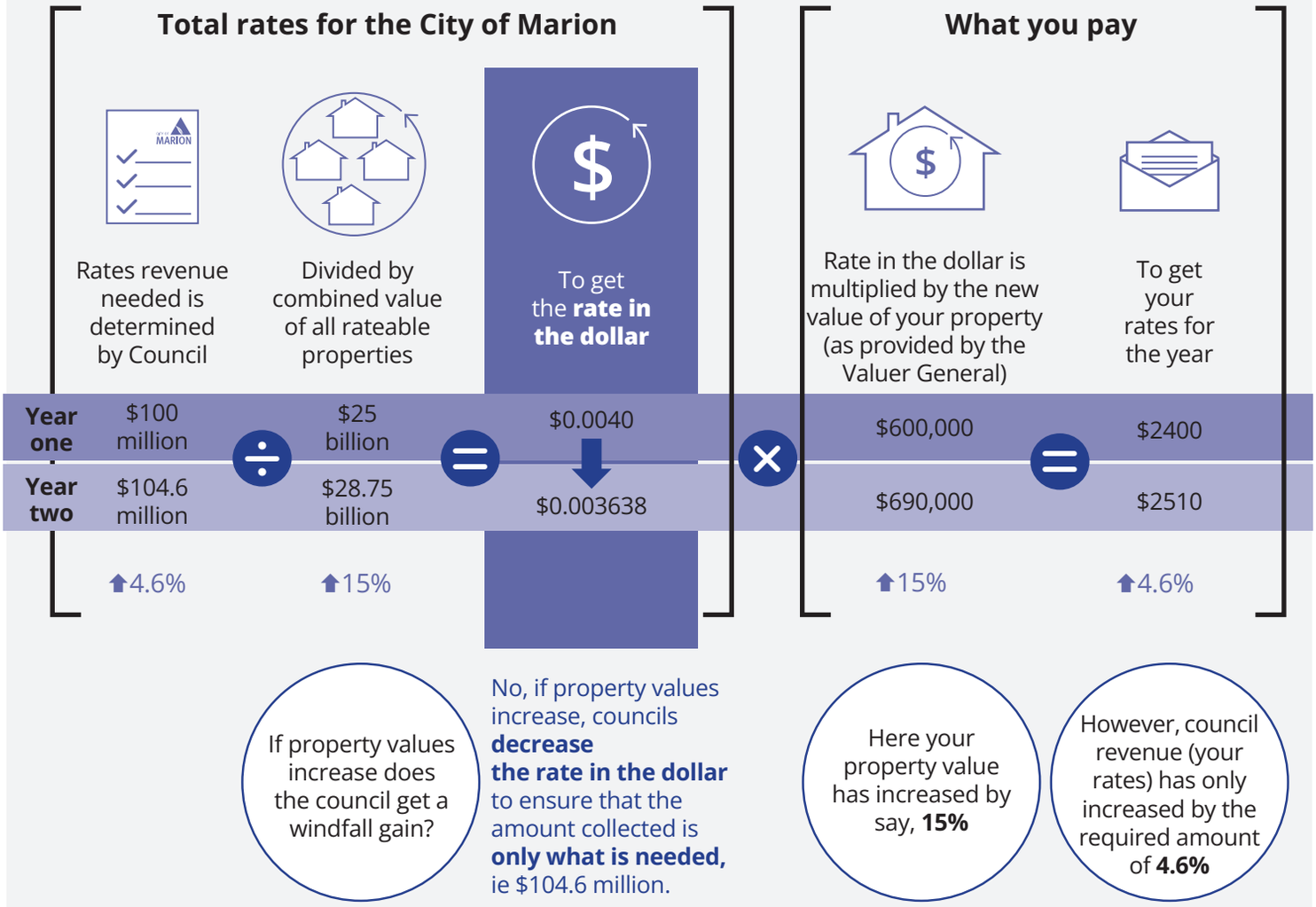
$18.02	Roads, bridges and footpaths
$15.67	Community facilities
$10.44	Waste and recycling services
$9.65	Open space, parks and gardens
$8.78	Other infrastructure - eg streetlighting
$7.27	Library services
$5.69	Community development and capacity building
$5.22	Environmental sustainability
$4.54	Urban development
$4.09	Culture and recreation
$3.82	Stormwater drainage and wetlands
$3.80	Health and community care
$3.01	Inspection, regulation and control

How your rates are calculated

Valuations do not determine the rates income of a council. Property values are used to determine the share of the total budgeted rates that one property pays relative to other properties in the council area.

Property valuations are used by councils to determine the rate in the dollar to generate the total amount of rate revenue that councils need. Councils review the rate in the dollar annually making sure they only raise the budgeted rate revenue as required.

The following example illustrates how your rates are calculated using the rate in the dollar:



What rates will you pay

Council forecasts an average increase in residential rates of 4.64%, with overall rates revenue increasing by 4.8% (excluding new developments and capital improvements). In 2024-2025, Marion's relative rating position continued to be the fifth lowest out of 18 metropolitan councils. The rate rise in 2025-2026 enables the city to develop its Strategic Directions and continue to deliver and maintain services without placing an undue financial burden on ratepayers.

Relief for rates

Ratepayers experiencing financial difficulties and unable to meet standard payment arrangements can contact Council to discuss alternative payment options.

Council will also continue to provide relief to qualifying ratepayers against a substantial increase in rates payable by applying a residential rate rebate. A rebate will be applied to residential properties where an increase in general rates is greater than 10%, subject to meeting the qualifying criteria.