

Public Consultation on the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-2027

Community feedback report
(1 May – 21 May 2026)

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Executive Summary

Every year Council develops an Annual Business Plan and Budget. These plans are developed considering Marion's strategic directions, Four Year Business Plan and feedback from community throughout the year. The Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-2027 shows how Council proposes to manage its annual \$122 million budget to deliver quality services while maintaining a large and diverse asset portfolio valued at over one billion dollars across the council area.

Council endorsed the Draft Plan and Budget at its 28 April 2026 meeting and supported a period of community consultation to be held between 1 May and 21 May 2026 (inclusive).

Approximately 78 comments were received across all feedback methods. All comments received have been arranged in alignment with the City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034 with the following common topics emerging:

- **Liveable:** Street parking and road access; sport and recreation facilities; road maintenance; and transport solutions.
- **Sustainable:** Tree planting and maintenance; open space; and environmental initiatives.
- **Community:** Programs and services; customer satisfaction; health and wellbeing initiatives; and cost of living pressures.
- **Our Organisation:** Balance of spending; economic and industry pressures; long-term financial sustainability.

43 people responded to a short survey and 41 were residents or ratepayers for City of Marion. Overall, 36% people strongly supported or somewhat supported the Draft Plans, 25% were neutral, and 39% strongly did not support or somewhat did not support Draft Plans.

All feedback received during the consultation period will be presented to the 26 May 2026 General Council meeting for consideration ahead of the final budget preparations. The final Plan and any changes will then be presented to the 23 June 2026 General Council meeting.

1. Overview

Each year council creates a Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget and invites all community members to review the Draft Plans and share their insights. All feedback is presented to General Council to consider before the final budget is adopted. The consultation process provides an important opportunity for members of the City of Marion community to shape the proposed activities for the year ahead and satisfies requirements under the *Local Government Act 1999* and revised Community Engagement Charter for South Australian Councils (proclaimed on 11 December 2025).

In developing the Draft Annual Business Plan 2026-2027 and Council's Long term Financial Plan (Draft Plans) for community consultation, council sought to achieve a delicate balance between responsible spending, long term sustainability and delivering projects and services for our community's current and future needs. Council was mindful of challenging geopolitical conditions and economic pressures felt by all members of the City of Marion community.

The Draft Plans outlined council's major projects, priorities and proposed spending for the upcoming financial year. It showed how Council proposes to manage its annual \$122 million budget to deliver quality services while maintaining a large and diverse asset portfolio valued at over one billion dollars across the council area.

It proposed a 4.8% average rate increase to support ongoing services and capital project delivery. For the average residential property, this equates to an estimated \$99 per year, or about \$1.90 per week.

It included proposed investments of \$47.2 million in capital works including community and sporting facilities, playgrounds, and capital work programs including stormwater upgrades, footpaths, and road upgrades. This total proposed spend is made up of \$17.9 million for the renewal of assets and \$29.3 million for new and upgraded assets.

Council has been determined to keep rates as low as possible whilst delivering necessary projects that will deliver much-needed upgrades to community facilities and improve the environmental sustainability of our community.

1.1 Purpose of the engagement

The engagement sought to ensure Council is informed about local community views ahead of the finalisation of the Annual Business Plan and Budget. It also ensured mandatory requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and Community Engagement Charter were met. The objectives throughout the engagement period included:

- Keep City of Marion community members informed about the proposed plan and budget and how they can shape the year ahead
- Ensure flexible opportunities for the community to read and share their views on the proposed plan and budget
- Seek to understand what's important to the City of Marion community and the levels of support for the proposed plan and budget
- Share insights and all feedback for Council Members to consider before setting the Final Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2026-2027

1.2 Audience

All City of Marion community members, including:

- rate payers
- all residents
- business owners
- visitors

1.3 Timeline

Council endorsed the Draft Plans for community consultation at the Council meeting on 28 April 2026. The 21-day consultation period opened Friday 1 May 2026 and closed on Thursday 21 May 2026 at 11.59pm. Community were invited to view the Draft Plans and provide feedback in person, in writing or online during this period. Key dates and opportunities for community to have their say are outlined in the Figure 1.



Figure 1: Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-2027 community consultation timeline

All feedback received during the consultation period will be presented to the 26 May 2026 General Council meeting for consideration ahead of the final budget preparations. The final Plan and any changes will then be presented to the 23 June 2026 General Council meeting.

1.4 Approach

The engagement approach was carefully considered and strategically targeted to reach the diverse City of Marion community. It consisted of multiple ways for community to hear about the consultation, view the Draft Plan and share their thoughts as outlined in Figure 2 and detailed further in this feedback report.

Ways for community to view the Draft Plan and their share thoughts

Options promoted across varying platforms throughout the community consultation period

Online

View or download the Draft Plan on the City of Marion or Making Marion website

Visting City of Marion

View a hardcopy of the Draft Plan at the Administration Centre, Cove Civic Centre and library, Marion Cultural Centre and library, Parkholme Library, Mitchell Park Community Centre, Glandore Community Centre, Trott Park Neighbourhood Centre or Mitchell Park

Survey

Complete a survey online

Email

Provide feedback in an email

Phone

Call us to ask a question, or register to present to council

Drop-in

Come to a drop-in session to have an informal chat with our staff

Post

Pick up a hardcopy of the survey or post us your feedback

Present

Make a submission to Council at the May Public Meeting

Figure 2: Planned approach to promote and provide ways for community to view the Draft Plan and their share thoughts

(a) Promotion across City of Marion

The communication and marketing strategy included consistent messaging across channels, such as:

- We're planning the year ahead - Tell us what you think!

It was complemented with promotion in the newspaper (mandatory notice requirements) and across multiple City of Marion channels, such as:

- Dedicated page on Making Marion, Council's community consultation website
- Outdoor and indoor amplification across digital kiosks and screens
- Spotlight and push notification on My Local Services app
- Electronic Direct Mail, such as e-talk, Green Thymes, business and volunteer databases
- City of Marion social media sites
- Printed assets, such as banners, copies of the Draft Plan, QR codes and more in key City of Marion facilities

Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-2027

The City of Marion is seeking community feedback on its Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-2027. The consultation period opens on **Friday 1 May 2026** and closes on **Thursday 21 May 2026** at **11:59 pm**. You can have your say in person, in writing or online.

- To view the Draft Plans and make a submission online visit:
makingmarion.com.au.
- You can make a submission at the Council Meeting on **Tuesday 12 May 2026**.
- Hard copies of the Draft Plans will be available at the City of Marion Administration Centre, Cove Civic Centre, Park Holme Library and the Marion Culture Centre.

If you would like to make a submission to Council, you can contact **8375 6600** or email **council@marion.sa.gov.au** to register.

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MARION

Figure 3: Paid advertisement for newspaper article (Statutory requirement)

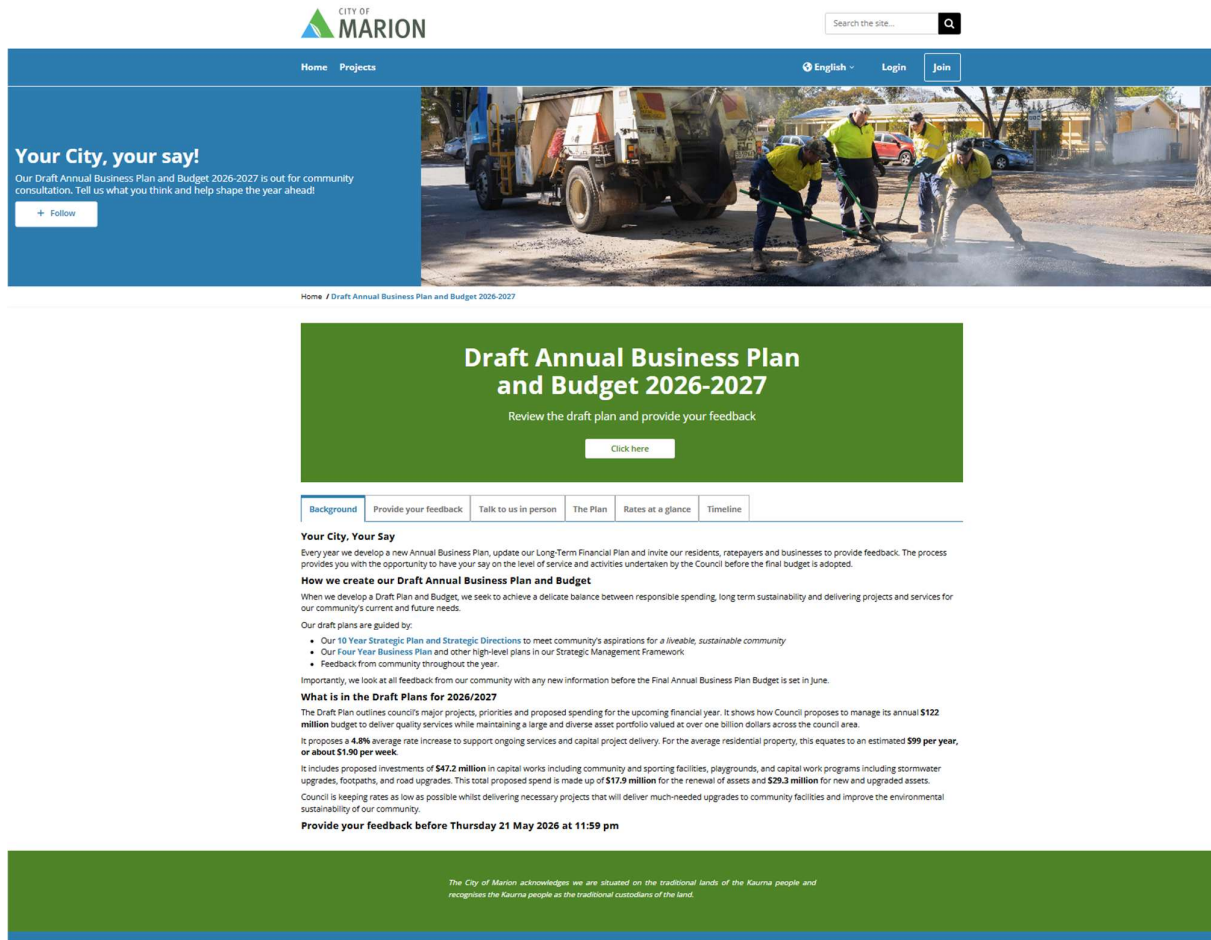


Figure 4: Making Marion dedicated community consultation page

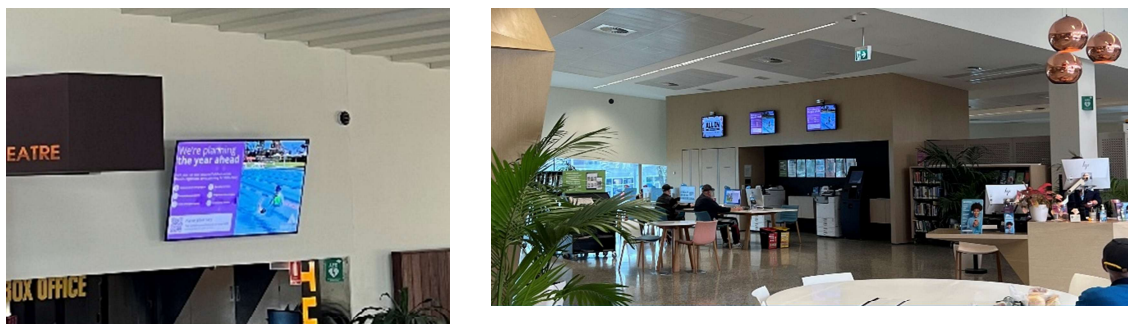


Figure 5: Digital screens across City of Marion venues and facilities

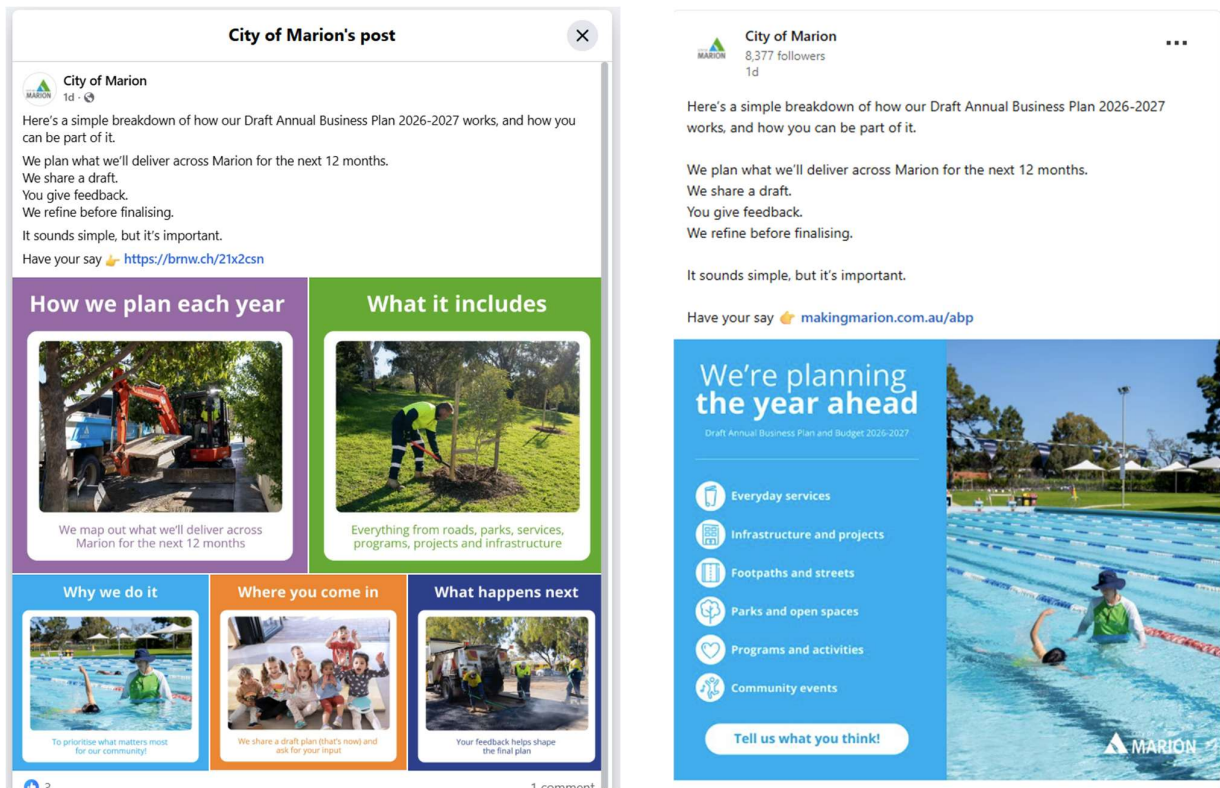


Figure 6: Social media posts amplifying the community consultation period (examples pictured – LinkedIn and Facebook)

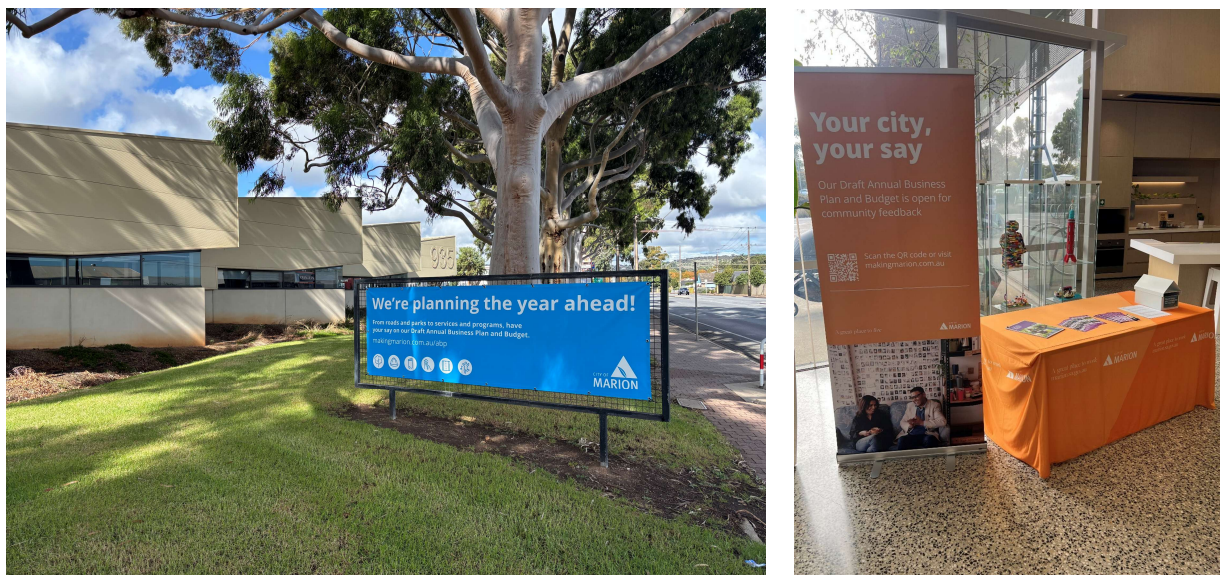


Figure 7: Roadside banners (Marion Road pictured) and promotional tables at key City of Marion sites (Cove Civic Centre pictured)

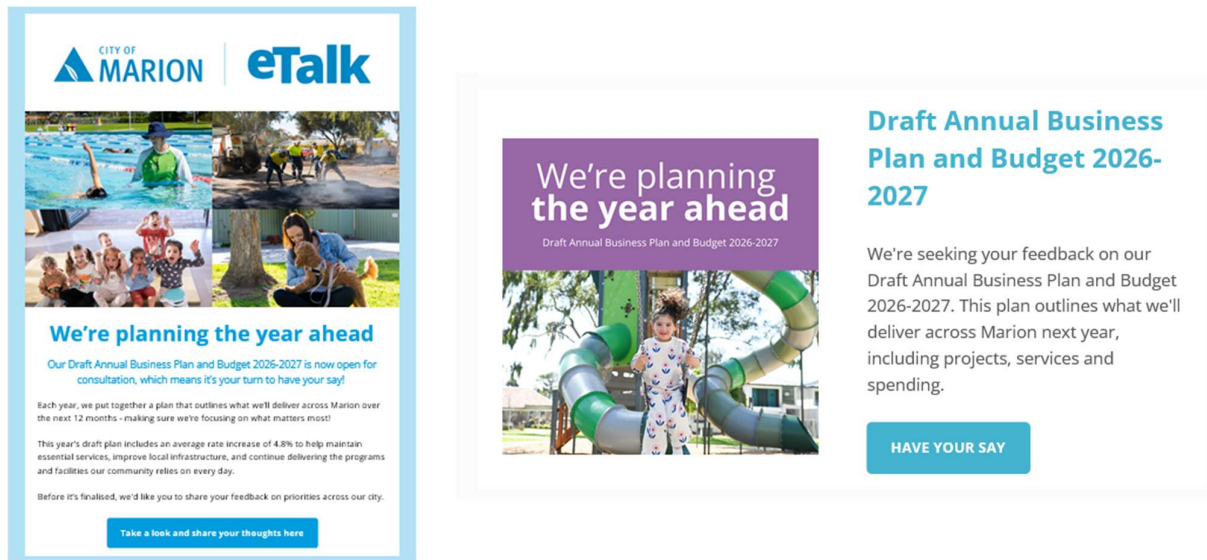


Figure 8: Electronic Direct Mail articles promoting the consultation period (example pictured – e-Talk and Marion Library Loop)

(b) Completing a short community survey

A survey was developed to seek feedback and insights from the City of Marion community. The survey was available online (via the Making Marion platform) and hard copies available at key City of Marion locations. The short survey included questions relating to the Draft Plans (listed below) and demographic-related questions to help us better understand the background of respondents:

1. Have you reviewed the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2026-2027?
2. Do you think the City of Marion has the proposed balance of spending right?
3. How much do you support the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-27?
4. Is there anything you would like us to consider before the plan is adopted?

(c) Visiting a drop-in session

The community was invited to attend a drop-in session and chat to staff in-person. Two drop-in sessions were scheduled and promoted throughout the consultation period, these included:

- Cove Civic Centre on Tuesday 5 May 2026 (10am-2pm)
- Marion Cultural Centre on Thursday 7 May 2026 (10am-2pm)

The locations, dates and times of the sessions were selected during times of high activity that coincided with:

- Scheduled Baby Bounce, Toddler Time and Story Telling sessions
- Popular visiting hours to use tea, coffee and breakfast facilities

(d) Presenting to Council

Community were invited to register and attend the 12 May 2026 General Council meeting, which started at 6:30pm.

At this meeting, community had the opportunity to make a submission (verbal or written) to Council in relation to the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-2027.

Registrations were encouraged by contacting 8375 6600 or emailing council@marion.sa.gov.au.

Members of the public who registered in advance would be provided the first opportunity to make their submission to Council.

Each speaker will be allocated a maximum of 5 minutes to make their submission.

(e) Writing to us

Written submissions were welcomed and could be addressed to either of the following:

- Post to City of Marion PO BOX 21 Park Holme SA 5046
- Email to council@marion.sa.gov.au
- Provided to customer service staff at a City of Marion location

All submissions needed to be received before Community Consultation closed on Thursday 21 May 2026 at 11:59pm to be included in the feedback report for presentation at the 26 May 2026 General Council meeting.

2. Engagement Snapshot

2.1 Promotional campaign results

The performance of the promotional campaign is outlined in the following table. Definitions can be found in **Appendix 6.1** of this feedback report.

Platform	Outreach
Making Marion website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homepage banner • There was a total of 775 visitors to the Making Marion page. • The draft plan was downloaded 139 times. • 5750 Making Marion subscribers were notified of the consultation via Making Marion newsletter sent on 8 May.
City of Marion website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2465 users viewed the City of Marion homepage, with Draft ABP Plan call to action as the first carousel image for the campaign duration.
Electronic Mailing (e-newsletters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,587 people were notified in the eTalk May send, with 108 clicks through the link • 8300 people were notified in the Open for Business e-news, with 2 link clicks • 106 people were notified in the volunteer e-newsletter, with 8 link clicks
Social media	<p>20 social media posts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22,704 impressions (number of times content was displayed to users) • 14,992 reach (number of unique users exposed to the content) • 133 engagements • 846 clicks • Cross-promotion with City of Marion Libraries social media and Community Centre social media.
Paid advertising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91 link clicks • 5033 reach • 6372 impressions • 11 reactions
Promotional collateral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x roadside banners (Oaklands Road and Marion Road) • 750 take home bookmarks in on-hold books across 3 library branches • Flyers and posters in all facilities
Digital collateral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-hold message, for callers via Customer Service phone line • Spotlight on My Local Services • Digital screens in all facilities and external kiosks • Screensavers on all external computers, including in libraries and community centres

Table 1: Outcomes of the promotional campaign

2.2 Engagement results

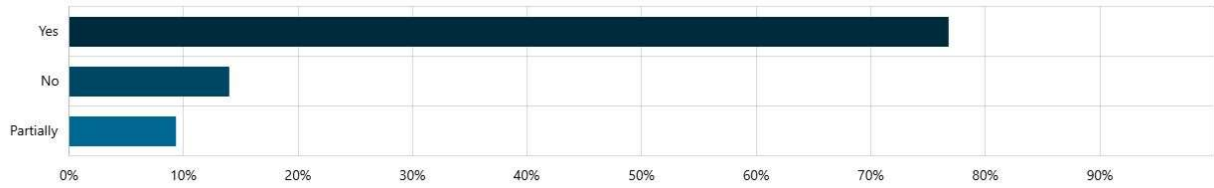
The following table outlines the results of varying community engagement methods. This data provides insights into the effectiveness, reach, and impact of the methods, offering an understanding of how different strategies contribute to building meaningful connections within the community. Overall, there were approximately 78 comments provided across all methods during the engagement period.

Method	Results
Survey	Making Marion was open throughout the entire consultation period. Overall, there were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 survey responses received • 39 written comments
Drop-in sessions	At the Community Drop-In sessions approximately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 insights were shared and captured in this report • Over 50 people were informed of the consultation • 50+ bookmarks and 35+ flyers handed out • Several hard copies of the survey taken and QR code scans of the banner.
Public Meeting	Community members were invited to make submissions at the General Council meeting on 12 May 2026. Overall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One (1) person made an enquiry about the opportunity • No registrations were received • No verbal or written submissions were made at the public meeting
Written feedback	Overall, there were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 emails received • 2 letters received

Table 2: Outcomes of community engagement methods

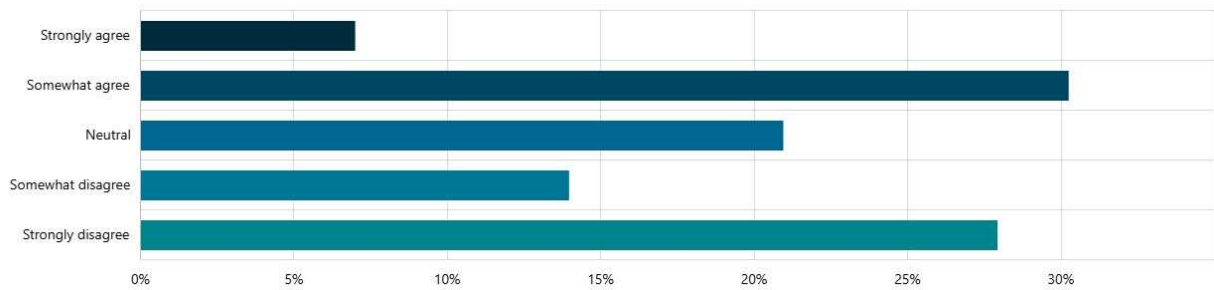
3.Consultation results

3.1Have you reviewed the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2026-2027?



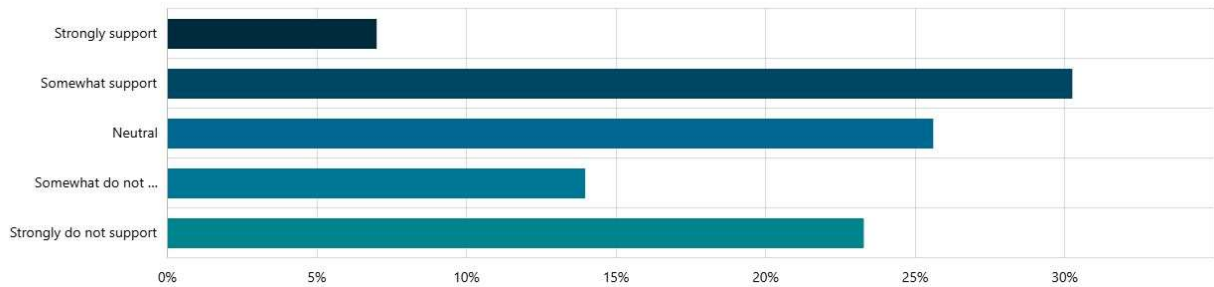
Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	76.74%	33
No	13.95%	6
Partially	9.30%	4

3.2Do you think the City of Marion has the proposed balance of spending right?



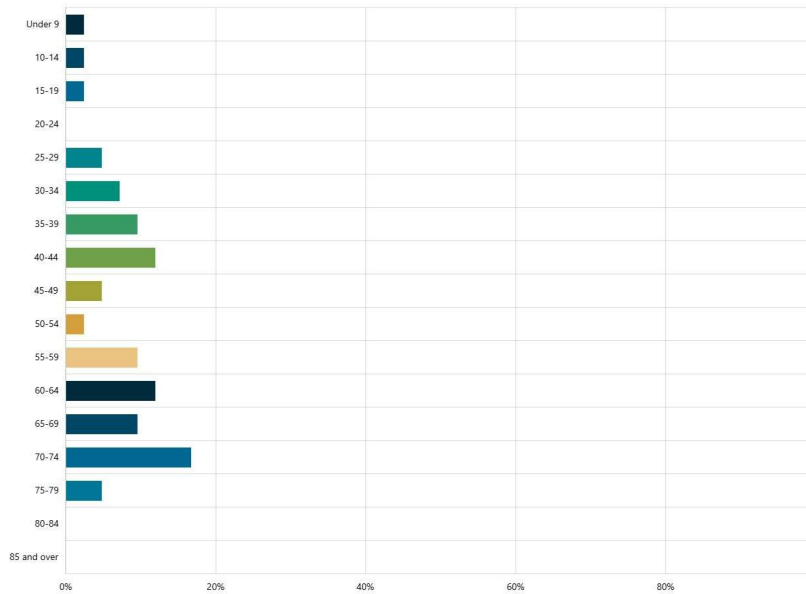
Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	6.98%	3
Somewhat agree	30.23%	13
Neutral	20.93%	9
Somewhat disagree	13.95%	6
Strongly disagree	27.91%	12

3.3 How much do you support the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026-2027?

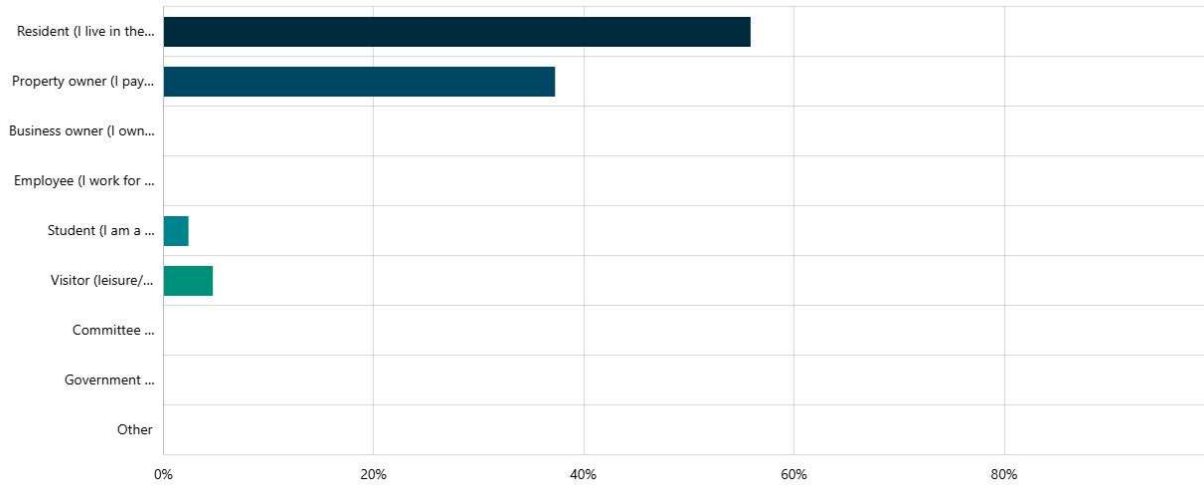


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	6.98%	3
Somewhat agree	30.23%	13
Neutral	25.58%	11
Somewhat disagree	13.95%	6
Strongly disagree	23.26%	10

3.4 Age group



3.5 Connection to the City of Marion



3.6 Suburb

Suburb	Total
Clovelly Park	2
Dover Gardens	2
Edwardstown	2
Glandore	1
Glengowrie	2
Hallett Cove	6
*Hove	1
Marino	4
Marion	2
Mitchell Park	1
Morphettville	1
Oaklands Park	2
Park Holme	2
Plympton Park	1
Seacliff Park	3
Seacombe Gardens	3
Seaview Downs	1
South Plympton	1
Sturt	1
Trott Park	1
Warradale	3

*1 (one) survey respondent didn't provide a suburb and 1 (one) indicated their connection to City of Marion is a visitor and lives outside of the Council area. This respondent did not provide comments to consider ahead of the final budget adoption.

4. Community comments and council response

Approximately 78 comments were received across all feedback methods. This included survey comments, in-person discussions, and written feedback through emails and letters. All comments and council response (if required) are arranged in alignment with the City of Marion Strategic Plan 2024-2034 Directions and Priorities and detailed in the tables below. Comments containing name references have been redacted.

We thank all members of the public for their contributions and comments on the Draft Plan and Budget.

4.1 Liveable: feedback topics relating to City of Marion’s Liveable Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Strategic Priority	Topic	Community feedback <i>(verbatim)</i>	Council response <i>(if required)</i>	Method and date received
Liveable <i>+Community</i>	Safe and active city <i>+Valuing contribution</i>	Roads program	Refer to written submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport listed in Item 5.2 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to Christopher Grove, O’Halloran Hill.	Refer to Item 5.2 of this feedback report.	12 May 2026 Emailed letter
Liveable	Safe and active city	Street parking and road access	<p>We need to do something to get cars off the street.</p> <p>Streets in my area and all across council are littered with cars parked on the street, trailers and more. It needs to be addressed.</p> <p>We need more proactive measures to stop people from parking illegally. Many streets have cars parked on both sides with limited space, people often park on yellow lines and across driveways. The other day I asked someone who parked across my driveway to move and they dismissive and rude.</p> <p>Bay Street / Ramsay Street parking is an issue. Also around the church and school. Many cars parked on both sides of the</p>	<p>Council endorsed the City of Marion Parking Management Guidelines in 2023 to provide a clear, consistent and holistic approach to managing on-street parking concerns across the city.</p> <p>The guidelines assist Council in managing the limited parking resource and improving the local road network by supporting safe access, appropriate on-street parking provision and consistent responses to community concerns. They include a parking management matrix, guiding principles and a flow chart outlining best practice for reviewing parking requests raised by the community.</p> <p>Council acknowledges that in some locations, particularly in narrow residential streets, parking congestion can affect accessibility, safety and the amenity of an area. These pressures are being exacerbated by increasing urban infill and development across Adelaide, including within the City of Marion, as well as an upward trend in households owning two or more vehicles and the increasing prevalence of larger</p>	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session

			<p>streets, making it very narrow to pass and little controls to prevent or control or enforce.</p>	<p>vehicles. Together, these factors can place additional pressure on streets to accommodate both parking and vehicle movements where limited off-street parking is available.</p>	
			<p>I am becoming increasingly concerned at the number of cars parked along our streets (in Glengowrie). After hours, emergency vehicles, particularly fire trucks would not be able to drive down many streets. I believe it is the council's responsibility to ensure adequate, speedy access to all homes in all streets. Please address this in this year's budget.</p>	<p>It is important to note that streets are public spaces, and vehicles may generally drive through or park on-street unless restrictions are in place, including trailers or other vehicle types not exceeding 7.5 metres in length. The City of Marion applies the Parking Management Guidelines, in alignment with the Australian Road Rules, when considering road access and parking management solutions.</p> <p>Council also understands the frustration and safety concerns caused by illegal or inconsiderate parking behaviours, particularly where access may be restricted for residents, visitors or emergency services. Council's Community Safety Inspectors undertake regular patrols across the city to monitor compliance with parking regulations and respond to reported issues, including parking on yellow lines, across driveways and in other prohibited areas. Enforcement action is taken where breaches are identified.</p> <p>In addition, the Planning and Design Code outlines minimum on-site parking requirements for new developments and encourages the provision of on-street parking where appropriate.</p> <p>Council will continue to monitor parking concerns raised by the community to help inform future parking management and infrastructure improvements. If you have a concern regarding vehicle parking or movements within a particular local street, please contact the Transport team at the City of Marion.</p>	<p>10 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>

	Traffic management	McLaughlan Avenue and MacArthur Avenue – something needs to be done about the cars speeding around this area. There is a school nearby and lots of kids, it's can be very dangerous. Needs more signs, preventative or deterrents as more people are cutting through.	Council is a strong advocate for road safety and works closely with schools to ensure safety is paramount around these facilities. The Transport team will investigate any traffic and speeding concerns reported in this locality and undertake further traffic counts as required. Any actions deemed necessary following the review will be consulted with the affected residents in the first instance and then planned and implemented as required.	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session
	Public safety, increased crime and public lighting	Security in Mitchell Park and Clovelly Park. There is alot of stealing in both suburbs, but by the same people. CCTV and lighting needs to be introduced to park, as well as regular patrols Lighting and cctv is needed in parks, to determine local drug dealers and users in Clovelly Park. Its becoming very unsafe in what is a nice suburb. We need patrols arrest and removal of those stealing from us	The City of Marion lighting guidelines are currently being reviewed throughout open space to help residents feel safe within our reserves. This will help determine future open space lighting requirements across the City.	8 May 2026 Making Marion
	Public lighting	Refer to written submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport listed in Item 5.2 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to Matthew Street, street lighting	Refer to Item 5.2 of this feedback report.	12 May 2026 Emailed letter

		<p>Bike paths</p>	<p>Would like to know more about the cycling bike path around Adams Road, Glenthorne National Park (i.e. will this happen, example that lots of great bike paths that are missing a connector link)</p>	<p>We support active travel around the City of Marion and understand the importance of a connected travel network.</p> <p>In 2026-27, cycling upgrades, including a separated path, is being delivered on Lander Road between the Lonsdale Highway Shared Path and the Adams Road bicycle lanes.</p> <p>The Adams Road Reconstruction Project, incorporating a cycle connection to Majors Road, is scheduled for construction in 2029-30.</p> <p>When the Adams Road Reconstruction Project is completed, there will be a seamless cycling connection between the Majors Road Shared Path and Lonsdale Highway Shared Path.</p> <p>Additionally, upon confirmation of a State Government election commitment to deliver a new cycling facility along Black Road, the City of Marion will collaborate with the City of Onkaparinga and the Department for Infrastructure and Transport on a design to ensure connection to the Majors Road Shared Path.</p> <p>Collectively, these projects will substantially expand the cycling facilities available between Happy Valley and Flagstaff Hill to the east, and Hallett Cove and Sheidow Park to the west.</p>	<p>5 May 2026</p> <p>CCC drop-in session</p>
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Liveable <i>+ Our Organisation</i>	Safe and active city <i>+Core services done well</i>	Maintenance (bike and footpaths)	<p>Separate out bike path maintenance from footpaths, as the Council has a habit of thinking these paths are ok to grow gardens on and put bushes too close to the edge of the paths! A separate budget should be applied so that contractors\staff are educated as to how bushes should be pruned and what can be planted! If the jobs are done correctly in the first place they would last longer. The Council left riders exposed to Fire danger over summer as they dragged their feet in removing dry grass from a number of bike paths they are responsible for!</p>	<p>We acknowledge the feedback regarding vegetation management and maintenance along shared use paths and bike paths. Council considers required clearances and safety standards when planting vegetation adjacent to paths and utilises qualified horticultural staff and contractors to undertake pruning and maintenance activities.</p> <p>In addition, we operate an ongoing firebreak and vegetation management program to reduce fire risks across Council-managed land. Where residents identify specific locations of concern relating to vegetation encroachment, sightlines, or dry grass management, we encourage these to be reported so they can be investigated and addressed where necessary.</p>	<p>4 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
		Maintenance (roads)	<p>Hallet Cove Shopping Centre – the road surface between the petrol station and bottle shop is terrible, there are some really deep pot holes. I spoke with the centre management and they said it’s a council issue.</p>	<p>This is private land. Council staff have been in contact with Caltex operations regarding the potholes. Caltex intend to resurface the entire area later in 2026.</p>	<p>7 May 2026</p> <p>MCC drop-in session</p>

		<p>Maintenance (Streets and footpaths)</p>	<p>The streets and footpaths in Edwardstown need cleaning. Trees need to be trimmed as trees lose their leaves in autumn makes streets look untidy.</p>	<p>Council understands the concerns raised regarding street and footpath cleanliness in Edwardstown, particularly during autumn when increased leaf fall can make the area appear untidy and contribute to debris build-up.</p> <p>Council will arrange for the trees in the area to be reviewed by the appropriate team to determine whether any pruning or maintenance works are required. Any necessary works will be undertaken in accordance with Australian Standards and arboricultural best practices to ensure the ongoing health and safety of the trees.</p> <p>Council will also review current street sweeping and cleaning schedules for the area during peak leaf fall periods to assist in maintaining the presentation of streets and footpaths.</p>	<p>14 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
		<p>Traffic solutions</p>	<p>The intersection of Dunorlan x Sixth Ave x Railway Tce is not working for the local community. Can Council please consider installing temporary speed reductions along Dunorlan and Sixth as well as Adelaide Tce?</p>	<p>Council are aware of the concerns at this location and recently commissioned a Road Safety Review to identify the key safety issues. We will shortly be preparing a preferred option to present to the community in preparation for a Blackspot Funding application for the 2027-28 year.</p>	<p>19 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>

Liveable <i>+ Our Organisation</i>	Safe and active city <i>+Partnerships</i>	Transport solutions	Would love to have more bus stops in Darlington so I can walk to the bus to visit the City. Eagle Rise is a long walk to the bus.	Your concerns will be forwarded to Public Transport South Australia (PTSA), the responsible government entity for all new, or modified bus stop locations. The City of Marion can review proposed bus stop locations within its Council area, which is situated on the western side of South Road in Darlington, and advocate for bus stop changes on behalf of its residents.	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session
			Bus service Hallett cove the bus that goes up grand central Ave would be lucky to have 4 people a week using it . Speed traffic calming is required on grand central Ave below the bridge towards Herron way	All public transport bus services are managed by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), with the City of Marion responsible for the renewal of some bus stop infrastructure. It is acknowledged that the 683 bus service, which travels between Dutchman Drive and St Vincent Street via Grand Central Avenue, has a low patronage in comparison to other locations within the City of Marion, however it appears to have been assessed by DIT as being a key community service provision within the Hallett Cove area. The City of Marion is aware of speeding vehicles on Grand Central Avenue, and has notified SAPOL of the issue. The City of Marion Transport team has also identified some opportunities to help manage speeding behaviour for consideration in future years.	15 May 2026 Making Marion

Liveable <i>+ Our Organisation</i>	Safe and active city <i>+Sustainable financial management</i>	Public lighting	Functional Street lights in South Plympton and Plympton Park. Please reconsider increasing rates knowing the valuation every year is already causing pain in our budget. Plus appreciate if street lights can be made functional in the areas of South Plympton and Plympton Park	Public lighting Council has recently completed a city-wide street lighting audit and modelling exercise. This work has captured the current lighting levels in every street within the City of Marion and is being used to review how closely existing lighting aligns with relevant standards and good-practice guidelines. The results of this review will inform our priority list for future city-wide lighting upgrade projects. We are currently working through scenarios to upgrade lighting across the city as required according to priority and non-compliance, which may include improvements to lighting in the suburbs of Plympton Park and South Plympton. Reduced lighting performance could be also partly caused by overhanging street tree foliage obstructing light distribution. Assessment of this will be included in the above mentioned lighting review and pruning will be undertaken as required. If there are particular streets of concern, please advise council so we can review accordingly.	11 May 2026 Making Marion
		Rates	Rates Increases in property values do not automatically result in a corresponding increase in Council's total rate revenue. Importantly, Council first determines the total revenue required each year through the annual budget process to deliver services, maintain infrastructure and provide community programs. Property valuations are then used to fairly distribute this amount across all ratepayers. Each year, Council adjusts the rate in the dollar applied to property values to ensure that changes in property valuations are used to fairly distribute the total rates revenue required across all properties, rather than creating a "double increase" in income for Council.		

		<p>Roads program</p> <p>Balance of spending</p>	<p>The roads are a disgrace. Davenport Terrace was resurfaced by Seacombe Rd and did not need it but the roundabout further up has lumps and dips in it, it's like riding a roller coaster and the same with Gully Rd near Tracy St, the site of the new gym that is a waste of money. The road there is sinking and it will only be a matter of time before someone has an accident there, straight into the gym equipment. Money needs to be spent on the roads and footpaths rather than sport.</p>	<p>Council recently completed a city-wide condition audit of all roads. As part of this assessment, several sections of Davenport Terrace were identified as requiring renewal works due to their poor condition. Renewal works have already been completed between Seacombe Road and Gregory Street, with additional sections identified between Gregory Street and Cadell Street, and from Hurst Street to Irwin Street, including the roundabout. These works are being prioritised within the current program and are scheduled for completion in the near term. Similarly, Tracy Street has also been identified as being in poor condition and will be prioritised for inclusion into the program.</p>	<p>11 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
		<p>Streetscapes</p>	<p>Rates up for infrastructure we didnt ask for. planting trees in Marino which we look after. paving the road outside newland hall waste of money will need repairing in a few months time with all the traffic which uses that road just like paved footpaths dangerous. same as hanging branches along newland and bandon rds dangerous only need one to break hit a car and dead person</p>	<p>Newland Avenue</p> <p>The Newland Avenue Streetscape Project incorporated paving as part of the design, not only to extend the life of the existing surface, but also to enhance the amenity for people moving through the area. The paved area also acts as a signal to drivers to drive more carefully given an increase in activity following the upgrade of the Community Hall and people navigating to the railway station.</p> <p>The pavement replacement undertaken outside of the Marino Community Hall was necessary in order to achieve footpath grades compliant with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards, supporting people with a disability to safely navigate to and from the community hall and railway station.</p>	<p>7 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>

			<p>Waste of money with whats happening in Marino.too many detours/rd closures</p>	<p>The previous infrastructure was not compliant with current standards.</p> <p>Road pavers were selected for the area in front of the Marino Community Hall to enhance the amenity and raise awareness of the additional foot traffic of the local area as part of the broader redevelopment works. Paving offers several benefits and is typically only used in selected locations where there is a clear functional or aesthetic advantage.</p>	
		<p>Trees</p>		<p>Trees</p> <p>Council’s street tree planting program plays an important role in increasing urban canopy across the City of Marion, helping to create cooler, greener and more liveable neighbourhoods for the community. Street trees provide a range of environmental and community benefits including shade, reduced urban heat, improved air quality, stormwater management and enhanced streetscape amenity. Council also has an established maintenance and watering program for newly planted trees to support their establishment and long-term health.</p> <p>Trees integrated within pavements are now also part of tree canopy improvement goals sought under Adelaide's 30 Year Plan and Marion's Strategic Plan, which will improve climate resilience over time.</p>	

		Maintenance		<p>Maintenance Thank you for your feedback regarding the street trees along Newland and Bandon Roads.</p> <p>Council takes public safety concerns seriously and understands the importance of maintaining trees to minimise risks to road users and pedestrians. Council has an ongoing street tree pruning and maintenance program that proactively inspects and manages street trees across the city.</p> <p>In addition to scheduled maintenance, Council also responds to individual tree requests and safety concerns raised by residents. Your feedback regarding hanging branches in this area will be referred to the appropriate team for inspection and assessment.</p>	
		Facility upgrades	<p>Stop pandering to clubs and using ratepayers money to pay for the upgrade of facilities for clubs, especially those that are exclusively used by clubs. Concentrate on saving ratepayers money and using it for necessary infrastructure and community services.</p>	<p>Council carefully considers community benefit, long-term infrastructure needs and responsible financial management when making investment decisions. Sporting and community facilities play an important role in supporting participation, health and wellbeing across the community, while also providing broader shared community value. Council remains committed to balancing investment in community facilities with the delivery of essential infrastructure and services for residents.</p>	<p>14 May 2026 Making Marion</p>

Liveable <i>+ Sustainable</i>	Safe and active city <i>+Connecting to the natural environment</i>	Public safety and increased crime	<p>There are no proposals in the capital proposal section for works in the suburb of Clovelly park where there is a need for work on existing parks and green spaces. There is also a need to address the increasing crime in said suburb through community outreach. This is becoming a significant issue in the area particularly as cost of living pressures increase</p>	<p>There have recently been some significant upgrades in open space in Clovelly Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grahan Watts Reserve playground upgrade • Cohen Court Reserve playground upgrade • Byron Road Reserve open space upgrade <p>An irrigation upgrade at Kensington Street Reserve is planned within the 10-year Open Space Plan.</p>	<p>8 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
		Verge and footpath maintenance	<p>Marino needs its verges and footpaths reviewed and needs investment. The train line is extremely ugly and would be a great space for biodiversity or community art projects. It would be great to see council engage stakeholders on upgrading the median strip up Brighton road and the ocean blvd.</p>	<p>Council recognises that residents may wish to further beautify their verges beyond standard maintenance. To support this, Council offers the Verge Incentive Fund, which provides assistance and encouragement for residents interested in improving their verge through landscaping and planting that contribute positively to the streetscape and local amenity.</p> <p>For footpath reviews, the City of Marion carefully plans and manages maintenance and upgrades to keep footpaths safe and in good condition, in line with our Asset Management Plans. We encourage residents to report any footpath concerns so they can be inspected and, where needed, repaired or improved.</p> <p>Council recently installed public artwork at the new Marino Hall facility. Streetscape upgrades are also currently underway adjacent to Marino Hall, including the construction of new footpaths and verge improvements. In addition, Council is</p>	<p>4 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>

planning to incorporate natural landscaping and irrigation within Newland Avenue Reserve as part of the 2027/28 financial year works program.

Council has also been investing in improving biodiversity along the train line on council owned land. Biodiversity sites exist along The Cove Road and Bandon Terrace. These sites have a large number of native plants species providing increased habitat for local wildlife.

Brighton Road (City of Holdfast Bay area) and Ocean Boulevard (City of Marion Council area) are both owned by the State Government. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport is responsible for maintenance and engaging stakeholders for future improvements.

The intersection of Brighton Road, Ocean Boulevard and Scholefield Road at Seacliff Park is being upgraded to include traffic signals and landscaping. This intersection upgrade is currently out for community consultation with details available here: <https://engage.dit.sa.gov.au/brighton-road-ocean-boulevard-and-scholefield-road-survey>. Consultation closes at 5pm on 3 July 2026.

		<p>Maintenance (roads)</p>	<p>Why can't I put in two subjects that I would like looked at ie parks and also roads. Fix the rough patched up roads, water the parks - all of them.</p>	<p>Roads Council recently completed a city-wide condition audit of all roads. The data collected helps Council prioritise works, plan future maintenance and programs, and allocate funding.</p> <p>Council has dedicated bitumen maintenance crews that proactively undertake patching and repair works across the City. Main arterial roads are managed and maintained by the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.</p> <p>Some road patches may also be the result of utility work undertaken by external service providers (water, gas etc.).</p> <p>Council encourages the community to continue reporting road issues, as this helps identify and address areas requiring maintenance.</p>	<p>16 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
		<p>Open space (Watering parks)</p>		<p>Parks The City of Marion is delivering new irrigation and natural landscaping upgrades to 41 reserves across the city, creating greener, cooler, and more welcoming open spaces for the community to enjoy. The works will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new irrigated lawn areas • tree planting and natural landscaping • improved spaces for recreation and relaxation • upgrades that support biodiversity and urban cooling <p>The program responds to strong community support for greener neighbourhood spaces that encourage outdoor activity, wellbeing, and community connection.</p>	

Liveable <i>+Community</i>	Accessible and multiuse places and spaces <i>+Contribute to health and wellbeing</i>	Indoor play space	Would love to see more indoor play areas so kids can still be active during winter (could be used in heat / inclement weather too). i.e. indoor playgrounds for exercise and burning energy / not sport and recreation	The suggestion of indoor playgrounds is noted; however, Council is cautious about impacting the revenue of existing indoor play cafés operating within our municipality. While indoor playgrounds are not usually part of the Councils remit, there is an endorsed action in the Open Space Plan to build an undercover play area that can be used year round. This project is endorsed for the 2032/33 year, and community consultation will occur to understand the needs of the community.	5 May 2026 CCC drop-in session
		Outdoor recreation	Refer to written submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport listed in Item 5.2 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to Sam Willoughby BMX Track.	Refer to Item 5.2 of this feedback report.	12 May 2026 Emailed letter
Liveable	Accessible and multiuse places and spaces	Facility outdoor infrastructure	The outdoor area at the Trott Park Community Centre doesn't have any shade sails and it makes it unusable at times	Council understands the importance of providing comfortable and usable outdoor community spaces, particularly during warmer weather. Your comments regarding the lack of shade have been noted and will be considered as part of future facility improvement planning.	5 May 2026 CCC drop-in session
Liveable <i>+ Our Organisation</i>	Accessible and multiuse places and spaces <i>+Partnerships</i>	Wayfinding signage	Accessing Centrelink is confusing and need to cut through buildings, getting assistance from Centrelink can be hard, toilets needed when waiting so long.	We understand the concerns raised about navigating the site and the need for accessible toilet facilities when waiting for extended periods. While Council does not manage Centrelink services, their toilet accessibility within their premises or their signage, we appreciate the impact this can have on community members. For visitors to the area, public toilet facilities are available nearby at the Marion Cultural Centre.	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session

<p>Liveable <i>+Sustainable</i></p>	<p>Accessible and multiuse places and spaces <i>+ Connecting to the natural environment</i></p>	<p>Outdoor infrastructure</p>	<p>Refer to written submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport listed in Item 5.2 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to Peter Court Reserve.</p>	<p>Refer to Item 5.2 of this feedback report.</p>	<p>12 May 2026 Emailed letter</p>
<p>Liveable</p>	<p>Planning for future growth and changes to the population</p>	<p>Sport and recreation facilities</p>	<p>We need more public courts for groups of people to play netball, basketball and soccer together. For the same size as a tennis court that will accommodate at most 4 people, a mixed use court could have 10 players enjoying a game of basketball or soccer together. The amount of space simply handed over to tennis is insane. Instead of upgrading Hazelmere Netball Courts, Plympton Oval and Clubrooms should be upgraded</p>	<p>The 10-year Open Space Plan considers opportunity for publicly accessible courts across the City of Marion. More 3 v 3 basketball courts, netball rings and soccer goals have been delivered through this plan and where possible line marking for different sports, such as tennis and pickleball, are incorporated on full sized community courts. Council has allowed for an upgrade to the Plympton Oval Clubrooms within the Long-Term Financial Plan. However, progression of the project is dependent on securing co-investment from external government agencies, which has not been committed to date.</p>	<p>13 May 2026 Making Marion 8 May 2026 Making Marion</p>

			In the bridge for the tram and also under the bridge near Flinders, they should utilise the space by turning it into a futsal court like in Ovingham. It would be good as the world cup is just around the corner.	Council takes a strategic approach to the location of its facilities to ensure residents and park users across the City of Marion have equitable access to community infrastructure and services. To support this goal, a 10-year Open Space Plan has been endorsed, aiming to create a well-distributed network of attractive and functional open spaces throughout the city. There are soccer facilities across the City of Marion, ranging from mini soccer pitches and goals to full sized pitches that are available to the public. The tram grade separation project will include a basketball ring, futsal and fitness equipment.	7 May 2026 Making Marion
Liveable <i>+Sustainable</i>	Planning for future growth and changes to the population <i>+Protect, restore and manage</i>	Property and land acquisition	I would like rate payers to be able to offer their properties to the Council to purchase before the open market. This would allow Council to either rent; redevelop or return to parkland (if adjacent to parkland etc.).	Residents are welcome to approach Council to see whether there may be an interest in purchasing their property if it may be in a strategically desirable location. Council property staff also monitor real estate listings in areas where there may be a need or desire to acquire land for strategic purposes.	20 May 2026 Making Marion
Liveable <i>+ Our Organisation</i>	Planning for future growth and changes to the population <i>+Partnerships</i>	Vacant property	The closed primary school in Dover Gardens has been vacant and locked up for quite some time. Would be good to know what will be done.	This site has been divided into 4 allotments, 3 facing Yarmouth Street and 1 to Folkestone Road. A 150-bed aged care facility for the ACH Group has been granted planning consent on the Folkestone Road site. Two separate applications for residential dwellings have been submitted for planning consent for the Yarmouth Street facing sites, 1 being for 42 dwellings, the other for 25 dwellings. Both applications are yet to be determined.	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session

<p>Liveable</p> <p><i>+ Our Organisation</i></p> <p><i>+Sustainable financial management</i></p>	<p>Planning for future growth and changes to the population</p>	<p>Sport and recreation facilities</p> <p>Long term financial sustainability</p>	<p>I strongly oppose the amount being spent on a basketball stadium, when no state funding has been given. Why has one facility been given so much of ratepayer income? And why are you misleading the public in social media posts (touting this as a win due to minimal federal funding)? Will this increase our rates over the next few years?</p>	<p>This is about meeting demand. Basketball is one of the fastest growing sports in Australia and the City of Marion. It will replace the existing Norfolk Road stadium, which is over 60 years old and no longer fit for purpose.</p> <p>While federal funding has been acknowledged in social media posts, those posts have not been misleading. The project has been celebrated as a whole, not due to the funding received. It is important to note that more than 80 per cent of respondents supported the concept designs during community consultation. This project has been carefully planned and is already included in our long-term financial plan.</p>	<p>13 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
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4.2 Sustainable: feedback topics relating to City of Marion’s Sustainable Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Strategic Priority	Feedback topic	Community feedback <i>(verbatim)</i>	Council response <i>(if required)</i>	Feedback method and date received
Sustainable +Liveable	Protect, restore and manage +Safe and active city	Tree maintenance	<p>The trees in Dover Court are an absolute mess. The leaves are coming off at the moment and they are making such a mess that they are blocking all the drains and the footpaths not allowing the flow of water when it rains. They are hit every week with Cleanaway, resulting in branches all over the road and then when you drive over them, they fling up and chip your car. The trees need to all be cut right back because in the winter with the winds etc, the streets are littered with boughs broken off. Dangerous. Please allow enough money for the gardening team to address all trees in Dover Court, Dover Gardens, to be cut right back.</p>	<p>We understand the concerns raised regarding leaf litter, blocked drains, fallen branches and the impact this may have on residents and road users, particularly during periods of high winds and seasonal leaf drop.</p> <p>As part of our ongoing maintenance programs, we will arrange for the trees in this area to be inspected by the appropriate team. Any pruning works identified as necessary will be undertaken in accordance with Australian Standards to ensure the long-term health, safety and structural integrity of the trees. While trees can be pruned to manage safety and maintenance concerns, they cannot be excessively cut back beyond accepted arboricultural practices.</p> <p>We will also review the current street sweeping program to consider placing additional focus on this area during peak leaf fall periods to help manage debris accumulation, drainage concerns and general street presentation.</p>	1 May 2026 Making Marion

<p>Sustainable <i>+Our Organisation</i></p>	<p>Protect, restore and manage <i>+Sustainable financial management</i></p>	<p>Environmental initiatives Trees</p>	<p>Refer to mail submission from City of Marion resident listed in Item 5.4 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to budget allocation for environmental initiatives and tree planning.</p>	<p>Refer to Item 5.4 of this feedback report.</p>	<p>15 May 2026 Email</p>
<p>Sustainable</p>	<p>Protect, restore and manage</p>	<p>Tree planting</p>	<p>More trees! It's great to read that tree planting will continue</p>	<p>Council continues to add trees and plants to beautify, cool and add natural shade across the City. We have set a target to increase our urban tree canopy by 20% from its existing level of 12% by June 2029. To achieve this, we are planting over 2,800 trees in 2026-27.</p>	
		<p>Waste reduction</p>	<p>I'm concerned that you're still using plastic coffee lids (pancake kitchen). It was identified the lids are compostable and only red and yellow bins nearby. Need a green compostable bin.</p>	<p>We can confirm the takeaway coffee lids used at Pancake Kitchen are BioPak compostable lids. Council is committed to environmentally sustainable practices and we acknowledge the importance of having appropriate disposal options available. We will review the current bin arrangements at the site, including the potential need for organics disposal options and improved signage.</p>	<p>7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session</p>
<p>Sustainable <i>+Liveable</i></p>	<p>Connecting to the natural environment <i>+Accessible and multiuse places and spaces</i></p>	<p>Open space</p>	<p>Refer to written submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport listed in Item 5.2 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to projects within the Davenport area.</p>	<p>Refer to Item 5.2 of this feedback report.</p>	<p>12 May 2026 (Emailed letter)</p>

<p>Sustainable</p> <p><i>+Liveable</i></p>	<p>Building resilience to climate change</p> <p><i>+Sustainable design and living</i></p>	<p>Open space</p>	<p>Energy efficiency programs to help residential households. Similar to city of Charles Sturt supporting the community to have assessments completed on their home</p> <p>We could do with assisting the most vulnerable by providing them with energy efficiency audits providing long term savings to our local residents</p>	<p>Council has approved a Sustainable Living Incentives program. From 2026-27 this program will include financial incentives for energy audits and home energy efficiency upgrades not covered by existing State or Federal Government program.</p>	<p>14 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
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4.3 Community: feedback topics relating to City of Marion's Community Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Strategic Priority	Feedback topic	Community feedback (verbatim)	Council response (if required)	Feedback method and date received
Community	A welcoming and friendly city	Programs	I love the matinee performances at the Theatre – it is really important to me they continue to run during the day, as I can't drive at night.	We are pleased to advise that matinee performances will continue to be part of the Theatre program. Council is committed to ensuring our arts and cultural experiences remain accessible and inclusive for everyone in our community, including those who prefer or rely on daytime performances.	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session
		Events	Great events I take the kids to Touch a Truck every year	Touch a Truck is one of our favourite community events, showcasing the big machines that maintain our beautiful city. Touch a Truck is back on 1 October 2026.	
Community <i>+Our Organisation</i>	Strengthening networks of support and lifelong learning <i>+Sustainable financial management</i>	Reconciliation	All money spent on First Nations needs to be scrapped completely. Your virtual signalling waste of money upsets all non Labor voters	Council's Strategic Plan 2024-2034 highlights its commitment to partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and to learn and share traditional land management practices. Council has had a Reconciliation Action Plan for several years. Each Plan is renewed after time, and the community are consulted to provide opinion on the Draft Plan. Overall, there is community support for a Plan.	1 May 2026 Making Marion
	Strengthening networks of support and lifelong learning <i>+Valuing contribution</i>	Programs and services Customer satisfaction	Would be great to include a suggested age bracket for the programs and guides	We will provide this feedback to our programming teams in the Libraries and Community Centres as we continue to refine our program guides. We aim to make our programs as inclusive as possible and we encourage broader community participation by not specifying age ranges, however if there is an age restriction or specific age ie VR program where	5 May 2026 CCC drop-in session

				participants need to be 10+ we will include that information.	
Community	Strengthening networks of support and lifelong learning		We really value Storytelling Time	We are pleased to hear you value our libraries and appreciate your positive comments about our programs.	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session
			Would be great to always have toys available. I.e. always leave the Lego left out vs. put out on weekends or school holidays	We will provide this feedback to our programming team in the libraries. We have a number of toys that are accessible across our 3 branches for free play however some of these toys, including the lego, are also used in programs during term time and aren't always available. Great news is that more toys are being added, and a play kitchen at Cove will be available shortly and we'll discuss the option of lego / duplo for that site as well.	5 May 2026 CCC drop-in session
			Business Hubs - really value the Cove and Glandore space for running a small business. The spaces provide a great way to stay connected with like minded people and hold meetings	Thank you for your feedback. The City of Marion's business hubs at Tonsley, Glandore and Hallett Cove provide flexible spaces where local businesses, start-ups and professionals can work, connect and grow. They support collaboration, reduce barriers for small businesses, and help strengthen the local economy	5 May 2026 CCC drop-in session
			Business Hub - often see many people come together and use the communal kitchen and space, it's valued and used frequently		
			Business Hubs - It is appreciated that the hubs are located across the city, which provides really good opportunities to use flexibly with other activities needed from different ends of the city		

		Library and programs are great	We are pleased to hear you value our libraries and community centres and appreciate your positive comments about our services and staff.	5 May 2026
		I really love the library, I couldn't live without it		CCC drop-in session 7 May 2026
		I really enjoy the library		MCC drop-in session
		The library staff are great.		
Contribute to health and wellbeing	Health and wellbeing initiatives	The funding allocation to health and community care seems low (1%) - suggest council consider additional initiatives addressing the needs of older rate payers / residents.	<p>Whilst Council is no longer delivering aged care services funded through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (Federal Government funding) post 30 June 2026, we are still committed to exploring and implementing options to support older community members to live well in the City of Marion. We certainly recognise there is a growing demand for this. Most recently we have endorsed a new Ageing Well Information Service for 12 months to enable residents to directly access expert knowledge regarding relevant council services, technology and volunteering through to how to access services they need regardless of the provider (e.g. private, state, commonwealth). We will also continue to run our Community Bus service, and review this in 2026/27 to maximise this service to better meet community needs.</p> <p>While the 1% seems low for that category, support is represented in many other areas as well including extensive programs in our libraries and community centres, many specifically designed for older residents. We also have plans to create more accessible spaces through buildings upgrades and open space</p>	9 May 2026 Making Marion

				improvements, benefiting the whole community, and will certainly include a particular focus on ageing population needs. These are shown as costs in different categories.	
	Contribute to health and wellbeing <i>+Strengthening networks of support and lifelong learning</i>		Continue social bus trips for the elderly	The City of Marion will continue to provide bus trips for our older residents as part of the Council run Community Bus program. Information about bus trips can be accessed by calling 8375 6821 or available online www.marion.sa.gov.au/services-we-offer/community-bus . Currently this is focussed on local shopping, however in 2026 we will review the service and include consideration of social trips – thanks for sharing this idea.	11 May 2026 Making Marion
Community <i>+Our Organisation</i>	Contribute to health and wellbeing <i>+Core services done well</i>	Resident rebates	Firstly, I'm overall a big fan of the services Marion council provides - good work. I'm just wondering why Marion Outdoor Pool still costs for residents, even though 15% of our rates go to paying for it already? That's well over \$1000 I've paid towards it before I ever set foot inside! Can you please look into lowering or eliminating the cost for residents?	The Marion Outdoor Pool is one of Council's most valued community facilities, attracting more than 150,000 visitors during the 2025–26 season. Council remains committed to keeping fees as affordable as possible, including through resident discount programs. The 15% rates contribution referenced supports a broad range of community facilities and services across the City of Marion, including the Outdoor Pool, sporting facilities, property management and facility hire services — not solely the Pool itself.	13 May 2026 Making Marion
		Animal management and waste	It is really frustrating when people place dog poo in my household bins. The other week someone put it in my green bin after it was collected. It	Dog owners are responsible for immediately removing and properly disposing of their dog's waste when in public places, as outlined under the Dog and Cat Management Act. As specified in the City of Marion's Animal Management plan, Council provides	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session

			would be great if something more could be done to prevent this.	<p>compostable dog waste bags at several reserves to support responsible pet ownership and continues to promote awareness of these responsibilities within the community.</p> <p>Council may investigate complaints relating to dog owners who fail to appropriately dispose of dog waste. Residents are encouraged to report ongoing issues where possible, including details such as the location, time and any identifying information that may assist with investigations.</p> <p>Residents using other resident's household bins is a civil matter, and cannot be managed by Council.</p>	
Contribute to health and wellbeing <i>+Sustainable financial management</i>	Balance of spending	<p>The City of Marion in their rates operational costs allocated \$1 in \$100 to Health and Community Care (aged care services, community buses.) This is disappointing as the population of 60+ residents for the City of Marion is 25%. Other services have allocations ranging from \$31 to \$4. There is a proposed \$1.6m for fleet vehicles. What will these vehicles be used for? Hopefully to take the elderly residents to medical appointments etc. More needs to be allocated for the elderly within the Draft Plan. There are plans for new Sports Centres, Parks, Pool etc but there is also a need for the elderly</p>	<p>We are committed to exploring and implementing options to support older community members to live well in the City of Marion. This includes a new Ageing Well Information Service from 1 July 2026 for 12 months to enable residents to directly access expert knowledge regarding relevant council services, technology and volunteering through to how to access services they need regardless of the provider (e.g. private, state, commonwealth). This is a new service, as we have recognised the need to increase our 1:1 support for our ageing population. We will also continue to run our Community Bus service (2 x 12 seater buses running up to 5 days a week), and review this in 2026/27 to maximise this service to better meet community needs, particularly our ageing residents and what this will include what fleet vehicles are</p>	<p>20 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>	

			<p>to be looked after as they are ratepayers too. Hopefully the City of Marion will take this into account when saying they want to support residents to remain connected. Look forward to voting in November.</p>	<p>required to do this. Council proposes to invest \$1.6m in its overarching fleet replacement program to support the continued delivery of important services to the community. This includes replacing key vehicles that help keep streets clean, green and well maintained.</p> <p>While the \$1 in \$100 seems low for that category, support is represented in many other areas as well including extensive programs in our libraries and community centres, many that are specifically designed for older residents. We also have plans to create more accessible spaces through buildings upgrades and open space improvements, benefiting the whole community, and will certainly include a particular focus on ageing population needs, and these are shown as costs in different categories.</p>	
			<p>With pressures of life increasing in an unexpected rate, people are experiencing declining wellbeing especially as it affects families. I will suggest the council provide protective factors for families as a critical part of the budget.</p>	<p>Council recognises that family wellbeing is influenced by a range of social, economic and community factors, and that early support, connection and access to safe, inclusive spaces can help strengthen family and community resilience.</p> <p>Council offers a range of free and budget friendly programs through our four Community Centres. The program guide is available online at https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/venues-and-facilities/community-centres/programs</p> <p>Our three library branches provide a variety of programs and activities and further information is</p>	<p>21 May 2026 Making Marion</p>

				<p>available at https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/venues-and-facilities/libraries/whats-on</p> <p>We also offer free or budget friendly school holiday programs and have committed to ongoing funding for our low cost Coinda Café which operates out of Coinda Community Centre.</p> <p>We recently endorsed a new Ageing Well Information Service for 12 months to enable our ageing residents to directly access expert knowledge regarding relevant council services, technology and volunteering through to how to access services they need regardless of the provider.</p> <p>Council will continue to consider initiatives that respond to emerging issues affecting our community including cost of living pressures.</p>	
Community	Valuing contribution	Clear materials	Draft Plan - I went online and the first question asked if I'd read the Plan – it took me 20 minutes to read it, but I thought it was really great.	<p>Thank you for taking the time to read the Draft Annual Business Plan in detail. Council appreciates hearing that you found the Plan informative and accessible. Considerable work goes into preparing the document and presenting Council's priorities, services and financial plans in a clear and transparent way for the community.</p>	<p>7 May 2026</p> <p>MCC drop-in session</p>
			Draft Plan is too long to read	<p>Council appreciates that the Draft Annual Business Plan contains a significant amount of information and may feel lengthy for some readers.</p>	<p>7 May 2026</p> <p>MCC drop-in session</p>

				<p>Council aims to provide clear and transparent information about its services, projects, finances and priorities to support community understanding and participation in the consultation process. Feedback such as yours is valuable and will be considered as Council continues to review how information is presented and communicated to the community.</p>	
<p>Community <i>+Our Organisation</i></p>	<p>Valuing contribution <i>+Planning for future growth and changes to the population</i></p>		<p>There seems to be a distinct lack of action for our ageing population in Hallett Cove. There are no nursing homes, or retirement villages or areas of land put aside to accommodate this growing concern in Hallett Cove. There are also no plans for a Hydro Therapy pool at Hallett Cove which is very much needed by the Aged and Disabled rate payers.</p>	<p>Council recognises the importance of supporting our ageing population and ensuring our community has access to appropriate services and facilities. Matters such as nursing homes, aged care accommodation, retirement living and specialist ageing supports (e.g. Hydro Therapy pools) are generally not managed or funded by local government and are primarily the responsibility of the Commonwealth and State Government agencies or private providers.</p> <p>While Council does not directly deliver these services, we continue to advocate to the relevant authorities and service providers on behalf of our residents to highlight community needs, including those in Hallett Cove, and have done this very actively throughout the changes in the Aged Care Act that came into place last year.</p> <p>Council is putting in place a 12 Month Ageing Well Information Service to better support our ageing population with getting access to the right information at the right time, and other services specifically designed for our ageing population continue (e.g. Community Bus, Community Centre and Library</p>	<p>18 May 2026 Making Marion</p>

Programs, Library at Home, etc.) and are offered within the Trott Park area to support residents. These are shown as costs in different categories.

Council is also about to commence the preparation of a long-term growth plan which will explore our housing and infrastructure needs for our future population. This will include our ageing population and their specific needs as a cohort. This plan is a requirement of the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan by the State Government. This Plan will examine what actions, if any, Council can pursue to support and facilitate the accommodation and servicing needs of older community members of Council's southern suburbs of Hallett Cove, Sheidow Park, Trott Park and Marino.

4.4 Our Organisation: feedback topics relating to City of Marion's Our Organisation Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Strategic Priority	Feedback topic	Community feedback (<i>verbatim</i>)	Council response (<i>if required</i>)	Feedback method and date received
Our Organisation	Core services done well	Appreciation and service satisfaction	Maesbury Circuit resident stated council are doing a great job and look after this area well. Keep up the good work	Thank you for the feedback, this will be passed onto the staff that work in the area.	7 May 2026 MCC drop-in session
			City of Marion is a great council		
			Great work! Keep doing what you're doing!		
Our Organisation <i>+Community</i>	Sustainable financial management <i>+Valuing contribution</i>	Rate increase	This survey is useless and I don't agree with rate rise	Refer to Item 5.1 of this feedback report	7 May 2026 Making Marion
		Managing finances	Refer to email submission from City of Marion resident listed in Item 5.1 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to financial management.		30 April 2026 Email
Our Organisation <i>+Liveable</i>	Sustainable financial management <i>+Accessible and multiuse places and spaces</i>	Facility upgrade design Construction industry pressure	Not everything council decides to build needs to be spectacularly designed (ie why spend so much money on assets such as the Marino community centre). Simple construction with emphasis on value for money would be much preferred. Please also consider that works the council funds will reduce the available pool of trades	Council recognises the importance of delivering facilities that are fit for purpose, financially responsible and aligned with community needs. Value for money remains a key consideration in Council decision-making that balances functionality, durability, accessibility and long-term community benefit. Council also acknowledges the current pressures facing the construction industry including workforce availability and housing demand. This is considered as part of the planning and procurement approach.	7 May 2026 Making Marion

			to work on housing, likely contributing to the high cost		
		Balance of spending	House holds are being asked to stop spending, prioritise what we spend on and try to minimise usage in order to stretch our budgets and help bring down inflation. The buck does not stop with just residents, YOU also should stop spending. Times are tough means you have to be an example of restraint and pause or hold projects like a new basketball court until such a time as it will not further stretch everyday citizens. I know you will laugh this off while you make \$500,000 a year just to decide better ways to take our money but as a resident in this council I thought you should know that the the actions youve proposed to not pass the pub test.	<p>Council understands that many households are experiencing financial pressure and appreciates the strength of feeling expressed regarding cost of living impacts and rates affordability.</p> <p>In preparing the draft Annual Business Plan, Council carefully considers how to balance affordability with the need to maintain essential services, renew ageing infrastructure and invest responsibly in community facilities that support current and future residents.</p> <p>Major projects and infrastructure upgrades are assessed through long-term planning processes and community consultation, with investment decisions considering community need, asset condition, usage, external funding opportunities and long-term benefits to the community.</p> <p>Council remains committed to managing ratepayer funds responsibly and seeking to keep rate increases as low and manageable as possible while continuing to deliver services and infrastructure relied upon by the community.</p>	<p>7 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
		Balance of spending Cost pressures	<p>Less spending, more paying down debt/saving, cheaper council rates especially for people on a disability pension/centrelink/pensioners.</p> <p>Once again I write for you to stop</p>	<p>Council understands that many people in our community are experiencing financial pressure from rising living costs and appreciates the concerns raised regarding rates affordability. Prioritisation is important when preparing the draft budget, including</p>	<p>3 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>

		<p>Rate increases</p>	<p>wasting money and provide cheaper council tax bills, you are not listening, you want our opinions but you do not listen. We do not need to upgrade Glandore Oval, we do not need a new basketball centre. What we need is cheaper council rates.</p>	<p>the need to balance affordability, core service delivery, asset renewal and long-term financial sustainability.</p> <p>The proposed rate increase has been carefully considered to help maintain essential services and community infrastructure, while seeking to keep the impact on ratepayers as low and manageable as possible.</p> <p>Council also has a responsibility to maintain and renew ageing community infrastructure to ensure it remains safe, accessible and fit for purpose for current and future residents. Major projects, including sporting and recreation infrastructure upgrades, have been subject to community consultation and have received community support as part of broader planning and investment priorities. These facilities provide important social, recreational and health benefits to the wider community.</p> <p>Council appreciates your feedback and your participation in the draft Annual Business Plan consultation process.</p>	
		<p>Balance of spending</p>	<p>Refer to email submission from City of Marion resident in Item 5.4 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to the balance of spending and longer-term impacts of major projects.</p>	<p>Refer to Item 5.4 of this feedback report</p>	<p>15 May 2026 Email</p>

Our Organisation	Sustainable financial management	Rates	Why are council rates dependent on the proposed 'value' of your home? Why are they standard across the council region?	<p>Council rates are based on property values because this rating method is set out under South Australian local government legislation and is intended to provide a fair way of distributing the cost of council services and infrastructure across the community.</p> <p>Importantly, Council first determines the total revenue required each year through the annual budget process to deliver services, maintain infrastructure and provide community programs. Property valuations are then used to fairly distribute this amount across all ratepayers. The rate in the dollar is applied consistently across the council area to provide a simple and equitable approach to raising revenue.</p>	7 May 2026 Making Marion
		Balance of spending	<p>Reduce your spending to under the amount you expect to receive, budgeting to spend almost all excess cash is a bad budget and leaves the council vulnerable. The council should not be increasing it's borrowing, this just increases councils cash commitments in the future. In the 2025/2026 budget you had a specific spend and it went over by 10 million dollars. You have budgeted to only leave 4 million dollars in your cash reserve, not very good fiscal policy.</p>	<p>Council acknowledges the importance of maintaining a financially sustainable position and carefully managing both expenditure and borrowing levels. The draft budget aims to balance responsible spending with the need to renew and maintain essential community infrastructure. Council does not seek to hold excessive funds unnecessarily but instead aims to maintain appropriate reserves while investing ratepayer funds back into services and assets that benefit the community.</p>	5 May 2026 Making Marion

	Rates	It's been really positive to see the City of Marion has kept rate rises as low as possible, particularly in comparison to other SA Councils	<p>Thank you for your feedback and recognition of Council's efforts to keep rate increases as low as possible during a challenging economic period.</p> <p>Council remains mindful of the financial pressures facing households and has carefully considered the proposed rate increase to balance affordability with the continued delivery of essential services, infrastructure renewal and community facilities. The City of Marion is expected to remain among the lower rating metropolitan councils in South Australia.</p> <p>We appreciate your engagement in the draft Annual Business Plan consultation process.</p>	<p>7 May 2026</p> <p>MCC drop-in session</p>
	Rates Cost pressures	Cannot believe there is a rate increase in the current climate where people can't afford fuel, food and utilities. Shame on you Marion Council. Disgraceful.	<p>Council understands that many people in our community are doing it tough and feeling the pressure from rising costs. Council is not immune to the same inflationary pressures affecting households and is experiencing significant increases in the cost of delivering services, maintaining community facilities and renewing essential infrastructure assets relied upon by the community every day. The proposed rate increase has been carefully considered to help maintain essential services and community infrastructure, while seeking to keep the impact on ratepayers as low and manageable as possible.</p>	<p>2 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
	Balance of spending Rates	Please decrease prices and maintain rates	<p>Council understands that many households are continuing to experience cost of living pressures and appreciates the concerns raised regarding affordability and rates.</p>	<p>18 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>

				<p>The proposed rate increase has been carefully considered to help maintain essential services and renew community infrastructure relied upon by residents every day, while seeking to keep the impact on ratepayers as low and manageable as possible.</p> <p>Council also remains mindful of affordability in comparison with other metropolitan councils, with the City of Marion expected to remain among the lower rating metropolitan councils in South Australia.</p>	
		Stable budget position	Refer to mail submission from City of Marion resident listed in Item 5.4 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to the stable budget position.	Refer to Item 5.4 of this feedback report.	15 May 2026 Email
Sustainable financial management <i>+Bold, innovative and progressive</i>		Operating expenses, rate increase and economic pressure	Refer to email submission from City of Marion resident listed in Item 5.1 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to the breakdown of operating expenses, rate increase and economic pressure.	Refer to Item 5.1 of this feedback report.	30 April 2026 Email
		Cost pressures	Refer to mail submission from City of Marion resident listed in Item 5.4 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to cost pressures.	Refer to Item 5.4 of this feedback report.	15 May 2026 Email

	<p>Sustainable financial management</p> <p><i>+Core services done well</i></p>	<p>Balance of spending</p> <p>Rates</p> <p>Cost pressures</p>	<p>With the ongoing cost of living pressures, many households are finding it increasingly difficult to manage essential expenses. I would like council to carefully review its current spending priorities and consider whether rates increases can be minimised.</p> <p>In particular, I believe it is important to focus on core services and ensure funds are directed towards essential infrastructure and maintenance. At the same time, I would encourage council to reassess spending on non-essential or lower-impact community programs, with a view to reducing overall financial pressure on ratepayers.</p> <p>I understand community services play a role locally, however in the current economic climate, affordability should be a priority and considered alongside service provision.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this feedback.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Council understands that many people in our community are doing it tough and feeling the pressure from rising costs. Prioritisation is important when preparing the draft budget, including the need to balance affordability, core service delivery, asset renewal and long-term financial sustainability.</p> <p>The proposed rate increase has been carefully considered to help maintain essential services and community infrastructure, while seeking to keep the impact on ratepayers as low and manageable as possible.</p> <p>We appreciate your feedback in relation to community programs. While some community programs may be considered lower priority by some residents, many play an important role in supporting community wellbeing, social connection and inclusion, particularly for older residents and more vulnerable members of the community.</p> <p>Council appreciates your feedback and your engagement in the draft Annual Business Plan process.</p>	<p>4 May 2026</p> <p>Making Marion</p>
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	Financial planning	Refer to email submission from City of Marion resident listed in Item 5.1 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to these topics.	Refer to Item 5.1 of this feedback report.	30 April 2026
	Assets			Email
	Capital works			
	Rates	Refer to written submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport listed in Item 5.2 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to rate increases and community economic pressure.	Refer to Item 5.2 of this feedback report.	12 May 2026
	Cost pressures			Emailed letter
Sustainable financial management <i>+Our people</i>	Rates	My understanding rates as a % of home value are going up but so is the value of homes so you are getting a double increase in income. I think you need to better control expenditure and reduce waste. This would include reduce admin staff, reduce wages and perks paid to senior staff. Perhaps also have a professional board of management like a large company would have and not just elected councillors who may not have appropriate backgrounds or education to oversee a multi million dollar business	Rates and property valuation Council understands community expectations regarding affordability, financial management and accountability. Increases in property values do not automatically result in a corresponding increase in Council's total rate revenue. Each year, Council adjusts the rate in the dollar applied to property values to ensure that changes in property valuations are used to fairly distribute the total rates revenue required across all properties, rather than creating a "double increase" in income for Council. Council remains committed to responsible financial management while continuing to deliver essential services and infrastructure for the community.	2 May 2026 Making Marion

		<p>Employment costs</p>		<p>Employment costs Council takes the management of employee-related expenses seriously and closely monitors these costs to ensure they remain sustainable and aligned with service delivery requirements. Increases in employee costs are influenced by a range of factors, including Enterprise Agreement provisions negotiated in line with industry standards, and staffing resources approved by Council to deliver endorsed strategic initiatives and meet growing community expectations.</p>	
		<p>Governance</p>		<p>Governance Council is required to operate within the governance framework established by the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i>, which differs from a corporate board model.</p> <p>Elected members represent the community and make decisions on behalf of residents. Council Members are supported by professional staff with expertise in finance, governance, infrastructure and service delivery, led by the CEO.</p> <p>Councils are also subject to strict financial, audit and governance requirements under the Act, including independent Audit and Risk Committees that include external professionals.</p> <p>Any move to a corporate-style board structure would require changes to State legislation.</p>	

Our Organisation <i>+Sustainable</i>	Sustainable financial management <i>+Protect, restore and manage</i>	Rates concession	<p>Firstly, I strongly believe that the council should be offering a discount on rates to concession card holders. The council should be fully aware on how hard the community, and particularly pensioners are doing it in the current climate. It is time that the council recognises this and gives some financial relief to pensioners. Secondly I applaud the initiative of planting more trees, but I don't believe enough thought is given to where they are put. An example is that in my court the council has plonked in new trees wherever there is a space. No consultation. No consideration of issues caused for bin collection. I think iof I had bent over they would have shoved one up my bum because they thought it was a new space. Lastly, the current contractor for Waste collection is hopeless. Bins not collected on the correct day. Bins sitting on the road after collection. Never had these issues with the previous provider. Time The council revisited this issue and who provides these services.</p>	<p>Council understands that many households are continuing to experience cost of living pressures.</p> <p>While councils in South Australia do not provide direct concession discounts on rates, Council does offer support options for ratepayers experiencing financial difficulty. This includes flexible payment arrangements through Council's Rates Department, as well as the ability for eligible Seniors Card holders to apply for a postponement of rates on their principal place of residence. Postponed rates remain as a charge against the property and are generally not required to be repaid until the property is sold or otherwise disposed of.</p> <p>Council appreciates your feedback and recognises the importance of supporting vulnerable members of the community wherever possible.</p>	10 May 2026 Making Marion
		Tree planting	<p>Council is committed to increasing urban canopy across the City of Marion to help create cooler, greener and more liveable neighbourhoods. We understand that the location of new street trees can sometimes raise concerns for nearby residents, including impacts on access and waste collection services.</p> <p>To help inform the community about upcoming planting programs, Council undertakes consultation through letter drops to surrounding residents and also places information signage on stobie poles within</p>		

				<p>key streets and local areas prior to planting works commencing. Site selection for new trees is carefully assessed to consider available space, infrastructure, visibility, access requirements and the long-term suitability of the species selected.</p> <p>Council staff are aware of shortfalls in Cleanaway's current service this financial year, and completely agree that this is not good enough. The recent performance issues are primarily due to driver shortages and truck issues within Cleanaway. This has resulted in not all collection routes being undertaken on the designated collection day, particularly organic bins (with Cleanaway collecting all bins the following day).</p> <p>Council staff are actively managing Cleanaway's ongoing performance to ensure they deliver the best service they can to our residents under the current circumstances, and return to meeting their contractual obligations as soon as possible.</p>	
		Waste collection			
<p>Our Organisation <i>+Sustainable</i></p>	<p>Bold, innovative and progressive <i>+Building resilience to climate change</i></p>	Fleet data sharing	Refer to email submission from Sheidow Park resident listed in Item 5.3 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to fleet data sharing.	Refer to Item 5.3 of this feedback report.	<p>12 May 2026 Email</p>
<p>Our Organisation <i>+Liveable</i></p>	<p>Bold, innovative and progressive</p>	Working together	Would like to see better cross-border / cross-government coordination. For example, the pools in City of Onkaparinga, City	We recognise the importance of cross-council and cross-government coordination when planning major works and understand the frustration caused when multiple aquatic facilities are unavailable at the same	<p>5 May 2026 CCC drop-in session</p>

	<i>+Accessible and multiuse places and spaces</i>		of Marion and State Government closed for works at the same time resulting in a bigger gap for Southern residents and visitors	time. Council has been aware of other facility closures and works and where possible will work to avoid closing down facilities at times where others are also unavailable. Unfortunately, there are times where either safety matters require a closure or urgent works need to be programmed to ensure ongoing safety and appropriate levels of service are provided for the community, and this can sometimes unavoidably occur at the same time.	
Our Organisation	Partnerships <i>+Sustainable financial management</i>	Cost sharing	Refer to mail submission from City of Marion resident listed in Item 5.4 of this feedback report to view feedback relating to cost sharing.	Refer to Item 5.4 of this feedback report.	15 May 2026 Email

5. Written submissions (letters and emails)

5.130 April 2026 email of submission from City of Marion resident

(a) Submission from City of Marion resident

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 9:10 PM
To: Electronic Mail <ElectronicMail@marion.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Submission on Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026–2027 City of Marion, South Australia

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

This email is in response to solicitation of consultation

1. Introduction

This submission responds to the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026–27. It acknowledges the City of Marion's efforts to balance increasing cost pressures with service delivery, infrastructure maintenance, and community expectations.

However, given the scale of the council's asset base and ongoing financial pressures, it is critical that the plan demonstrates clear financial discipline, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

The following observations and questions are intended to strengthen the plan and ensure it delivers genuine value to ratepayers.

2. Key Observations

- The council continues to operate in a high-cost environment driven by inflation, construction costs, and wage growth.

- There is an ongoing tension between limiting rate increases and maintaining service levels and infrastructure quality.
- The council manages a substantial and aging asset portfolio, which requires consistent and disciplined investment in renewal.

These factors make it essential that the budget is assessed not just on short-term balance, but on long-term financial sustainability and service outcomes.

3. Key Questions and Considerations

3.1 Financial Sustainability and Transparency

Question:

Does the draft budget reflect a genuinely sustainable operating position, or does it rely on capital funding and accounting treatments to present a balanced outcome?

Consideration:

A clear distinction should be made between:

- Operating results before capital funding
- Operating results after capital funding

This distinction is critical to understanding the true financial position of the council. Persistent underlying operating deficits, even if offset by capital income, may indicate structural imbalance over time.

Recommendation:

Provide a transparent breakdown of underlying operating performance and a multi-year outlook showing how structural balance will be achieved and maintained.

3.2 Rate Increases and Community Value

Question:

How are proposed rate increases directly linked to measurable improvements in service levels, infrastructure quality, or community outcomes?

Consideration:

Ratepayers are more likely to support increases when there is a clear and visible connection to improved outcomes. Without this, increases may be perceived as simply covering rising costs rather than delivering added value.

Recommendation:

- Clearly articulate what residents will receive in return for any rate increase
- Introduce measurable service or asset performance indicators tied to budget allocations
- Communicate tangible outcomes (e.g., improved road condition ratings, faster service response times, enhanced public amenities)

3.3 Capital Works Prioritisation

Question:

What evidence supports that new capital projects are prioritised only when they deliver greater long-term value than asset renewal?

Consideration:

Given the size and age of the council's asset base, prioritising renewal and maintenance is essential to avoid long-term cost escalation and service decline.

There is a risk that new projects, while beneficial, may divert funding away from critical renewal if not rigorously assessed.

Recommendation:

- Demonstrate a clear prioritisation framework for capital allocation
- Provide transparency on the proportion of spending allocated to:
 - Maintenance
 - Renewal
 - New/upgraded assets
- Ensure new projects are supported by robust cost-benefit analysis and long-term financial impact assessments

4. Strategic Perspective

The long-term strength of the City of Marion's financial position will depend on three core principles:

1. Structural financial discipline – ensuring operating revenues sustainably cover operating costs
2. Outcome-based budgeting – linking expenditure to measurable community benefits
3. Asset-first investment strategy – protecting and optimising existing infrastructure before expanding it

Embedding these principles consistently will strengthen both financial resilience and community trust.

5. Conclusion

The Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026–27 reflects a thoughtful attempt to navigate a challenging financial environment. However, strengthening transparency, accountability, and prioritisation will significantly improve its effectiveness.

Addressing the questions raised in this submission will help ensure the plan delivers not just short-term balance, but long-term value for the community.

Submitted by:

[REDACTED]

Resident Marion City Council and Ratepayer

(b) Staff response to submission from City of Marion resident

Thank you for your detailed submission and observations regarding the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026–2027 (Draft Plan).

Council acknowledges the challenges associated with balancing cost pressures, infrastructure renewal, service delivery and affordability for ratepayers. As noted, Council manages a substantial and ageing asset base, requiring ongoing investment to maintain safe, functional and accessible community infrastructure. The Draft Plan has been developed with a focus on long-term financial sustainability, responsible financial management and maintaining service outcomes for the community. Council appreciates your recognition of these challenges and your engagement in the consultation process.

Council acknowledges the importance of transparency and long-term financial sustainability in financial planning and reporting. Council's financial performance is assessed through a range of measures, including operating results both before and after capital funding, together with long-term financial indicators and modelling. These measures are considered as part of Council's ongoing long-term financial planning processes to help ensure services, infrastructure renewal and financial sustainability can be maintained over time.

The Draft Plan includes funding for the continued delivery of essential services, infrastructure renewal and community facilities, together with investment in projects and initiatives intended to support community wellbeing, safety and liveability. Council also uses a range of service, financial and asset management measures to monitor performance and inform future planning and decision-making. Council appreciates your feedback regarding the communication of measurable outcomes and performance indicators within the Annual Business Plan process.

Council recognises the importance of demonstrating value to the community when proposing rate increases. Council is continuing to strengthen the use of measurable performance indicators and reporting frameworks to better link budget investment with service delivery outcomes, infrastructure performance, and community benefit outcomes. Future reporting will continue to evolve to provide greater transparency around areas such as asset condition, timeliness of service delivery, customer service performance, and delivery of key community priorities.

Council recognises that responsible asset management is essential given the size, value and age of the City of Marion's asset base. Council's Asset Management Plans provide the key evidence base for decision-making by outlining service levels and lifecycle requirements for the operation, maintenance, renewal, creation and disposal of Council assets. These plans are funded through Council's Long Term Financial Plan, which supports long-term financial sustainability and ensures future renewal needs are planned and affordable.

New and upgraded capital projects are not considered in isolation. They are guided by adopted strategic plans, including the Building Asset Strategy, Walking and Cycling Plan, Streetscape Plan, Open Space Plan and Coastal Walkway Plan. These plans identify future asset creation and upgrade priorities across the city, are informed by community engagement, and include budget planning to ensure proposed programs can be delivered in a financially responsible way.

This framework allows Council to balance investment in existing assets with new and improved infrastructure for the community. It ensures capital allocation is evidence-based, aligned to agreed service levels, tested against long-term financial capacity, and focused on delivering sustainable long-term value for the City of Marion.

Council appreciates your observations regarding long-term financial sustainability and the importance of maintaining financial discipline, delivering measurable community outcomes and prioritising investment in existing infrastructure assets. These principles are important considerations within Council's long-term financial planning and asset management processes.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback and for your engagement in the consultation process. The points raised are noted. Council will continue to look for ways to better explain the link between budget decisions, the impacts on service delivery, and value for the community.

5.212 May 2026 letter of submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport

(a) Submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport

Erin Thompson MP
MEMBER FOR DAVENPORT



Dear Mayor Hanna and Elected Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft 2026–27 Budget.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Council for the inclusion of several important projects within the Davenport area.

The open space and recreation works at Matthew Street Reserve in O'Halloran Hill, including irrigation and natural landscaping upgrades, will be warmly welcomed by the local community and provide a significant benefit to residents.

I also note the inclusion of Christopher Grove, O'Halloran Hill, within the roads program. I would appreciate further detail regarding the proposed timing and costings for these works so I can share this information with the community and encourage participation in any future consultation processes.

I would also strongly encourage Council to prioritise repairs and restoration works at the Sam Willoughby BMX Track. As you are aware, I have raised this matter with Council on several occasions, however there has been limited update provided to either myself or the community since February 2026.

The ongoing closure has had a significant impact on the Happy Valley BMX Club and the broader community, particularly local young people and families who rely on the facility. While I understand the tender process is underway, I ask that this project be treated as a matter of urgency and that works commence as soon as practicable. I would also appreciate an updated timeline being provided to both myself and the community at the earliest opportunity.

In addition, as you are aware, I have previously advocated for upgrades at Peter Court Reserve on behalf of local residents. While Council's minor facility upgrades and signage improvements undertaken in 2025 were well received, there remains strong community support for the installation of a BBQ and shelter at this reserve. I appreciate Council's consideration of this ongoing request as part of the 2026–27 Budget process.

Council has previously advised me that the western end of Matthew Street will be flagged for future installation of additional street lighting and considered in the 26/27 budget. Can you please confirm that this will be included as per your correspondence in October 2025?

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Council's efforts to limit the rate increase to 0.3%. I recognise the challenge of balancing cost-of-living pressures facing residents with the need to continue delivering essential services and infrastructure, and I know this restraint will be appreciated by many within the community.

Thank you again for your work on this budget and for your continued investment in community infrastructure. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,



Erin Thompson MP
Member for Davenport

12th May 2026

Shop 11, The Hub Shopping Centre Taylors Road Aberfoyle 5159
PO Box 1137 Flagstaff Hill SA 5159 | 8270 5122 | davenport@parliament.sa.gov.au



[ErinThompsonMP](#)



[erin_thompson_mp](#)



(b) Staff response to submission from Erin Thompson MP, Member for Davenport

Thank you for your submission regarding the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026–2027 (Draft Plan) and acknowledgement of the work undertaken to prepare the proposed budget. We look forward to working with the community on these projects.

During a recent council-wide road condition audit, it was identified that the road surface within Christopher Grove, O’Halloran Hill had deteriorated. To mitigate further deterioration, intervention works including an asphalt reseal will be undertaken. Whilst Christopher Grove is scheduled to be complete within the 2026-27 financial year, at this stage, there are no confirmed dates for the project. Affected residents will be notified prior to works commencing.

The City of Marion has engaged a Contractor to undertake the remediation works at the Sam Willoughby BMX Track. However, commencing works in the winter months could cause further issues to the track if it rains, which Council is eager to avoid. The option that was endorsed requires significant soil removal to help alleviate future track movement. Council is taking a precautionary approach to remediation, with the aim of preventing similar issues from occurring in the future. We are sincerely thankful for the City of Onkaparinga’s generosity in allowing use of the Happy Valley BMX facility whilst the SWBMX facility has been closed. We are working closely with the Clubs and appreciate the BMX community for their patience while Council works through the remediation process focusing on delivering a long-term solution and helping to prevent similar issues from occurring in the future.

Peter Court Reserve has been identified for future irrigation and natural landscaping improvements, currently scheduled for 2029/30. There are no plans for additional facilities at the reserve at this stage. As part of recent upgrades, new seating, a drink fountain and bike rack were installed at the reserve in 2025.

Council is currently reviewing our Public Lighting Guidelines and Action Plan. This review will include various scenarios for how we upgrade lighting across the city, as required according to priority and non-compliance. The review and scenarios will be presented to Council for its consideration. The upcoming 2026-27 lighting program is yet to be finalised and we are therefore not able to confirm whether Matthew Street will be included in the upcoming program however it is on the list for consideration.

Council recognises the ongoing cost-of-living pressures facing many households and has carefully considered the proposed rate increase in balancing affordability with the need to continue delivering essential services, renewing community infrastructure and investing in facilities that support the community.

Council remains committed to responsible financial management and appreciates the recognition of the importance of maintaining investment in community infrastructure for current and future residents.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback and for your engagement in the consultation process.

5.312 May 2026 email of submission from Sheidow Park resident

(a) Submission from City of Marion resident

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 3:12 PM
To: Electronic Mail <ElectronicMail@marion.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Fleet Replacement Program

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Marion team,

I would like to express my concerns about the Fleet Replacement Program mentioned in the latest Business Plan and Budget 2026-2027 recently issued.

The picture with the article shows two vehicles, both of which appear to be of Chinese origins.

This is a concern since most Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV's) are connected to the internet and have sensors continually detecting and recording sounds (for voice-activated functions), location (for maps and guidance) and video (for reading road signs etc). The data is not all processed in the car but is sent to the company servers for analysis.

Council personnel using these vehicles will be privy to council business, facts, figures and details that should not be available to the general public, let alone a foreign country not known for their rules-based operations.

Chinese manufacturer BYD explicitly states that they will make all data collected by their vehicles available to third parties (CCCP).

This article shares more specifics: <https://www.news.com.au/technology/motoring/motoring-news/dont-want-you-to-know-chilling-warning-issued-for-modern-connected-cars/news-story/d7ff23698898127d92098d97671ccb4e>

It also states that it will "share your information with other organisations whether or not part of our group [including] ... other external parties whatsoever".

Under Chinese Communist Party law, all Chinese-owned companies must make all their data and records available to the party. BYD implies this by insisting users have provided implied permission for "surveillance" for "improper activities".

It would be a simple matter to use the gathered data to determine the details of the vehicle's occupants, especially if they have enabled Apple Car Play or its Android equivalent, since that would correlate the phone's contact database to the driver as well.

Social engineering techniques and techniques such as hacking could then expose council and residents data, not something any of us would wish for.

Some motoring journalists are also expressing concern for the long-term future of several Chinese brands which have been receiving substantial government subsidies to kick-start their penetration into foreign markets. With subsidies now being withdrawn the companies may not survive, leaving buyers with no support for their vehicles, a financial burden Council will surely wish to avoid.



insideevs.com



"Years of hefty government subsidies and a brutal price war have put China's EV industry in a tough spot."

In conclusion, I welcome the attempt to phase out fossil-fuelled vehicles but would strongly advocate for finding a non-Chinese supplier for their replacements.

Kind regards



Resident, Sheidow Park.

(b) Staff response to submission from Sheidow Park resident

While we acknowledge your concerns, Council considers the Australian Government's position on security matters and notes their Protective Security Policy Framework provides no direction on the use or disuse of the BYD or MG brands.

Accordingly, we view the risk is low, and continue to consider a range of factors when purchasing electric vehicles (including ensuring good value for money outcomes for our community, and vehicles purchased are from reputable and sustainable brands).

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback and for your engagement in the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026–2027 consultation process.

5.415 May 2026 email of submission from Member of the Public

(a) Submission from Member of the Public

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2026 3:18 PM
To: Electronic Mail <ElectronicMail@marion.sa.gov.au>
Subject: Fw: Written Submission | City of Marion Annual Business Plan - 15052026

Good afternoon council,

Please find attached my response to the draft annual business plan in the form of a written submission.

Should you require any further information or wish to contact me with queries, please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to your hearing back from you soon.

Have a great weekend ahead.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to partake in a written submission regarding the Draft Annual Business Plan (ABP).

I am writing to share my thoughts on the Business Plan and come to the table with constructive feedback regarding the draft. I'd like to start by thanking the work that has gone into this plan, and to those involved for continuing to progress our council.

Pleasingly, our council enjoys a stable budget position, and rate increases that hover around the rate of inflation (or just above). Residential rates are on the lower end of metropolitan Adelaide, and this is always welcomed by ratepayers wholistically. Construction costs, costs of materials, and uncertainty around global conflicts affecting future oil supply must be considered and appear to have been accommodated for in this business plan.

I'm wondering if provisions to increase spending on tree planting, tree canopy health and protection, streetscaping, and environmental sustainability schemes (which I note has modestly increased year on year over the last decade), is going to be considered in the business plan? A 5% expenditure provision could be increased, even slightly, or for future ABP.

What did catch my attention, was the reported \$25 million plus contribution towards the Marion Basketball Stadium, and 38% of expenditure in this years' business plan that comes with it. Let it be known that I am an avid supporter of the South Adelaide Basketball Club and personally have played a lot of social basketball at this venue, as well as heavy involvement at the wider Marion sports complex for over 15 years.

With consideration of wider community support and from the small pocket of engaged residents that have responded;

overwhelmingly, 97% of survey participants support this project. There's no doubt that this upgrade of the stadium is well overdue for its 2,000 members; I also believe in keeping our community facilities in great condition (as any engaged resident should!).

What I do question is council's significant standalone contribution to this project, and with that comes costing questions and how much of the cost council is foregoing using ratepayer money. I fear that this contribution would create many years of interest repayments, and potential debt which reduces councils' ability to look at other significant projects, or to borrow more in the future if required. Does this then result in increasing rates significantly down the line to help with repayments? As listed as a cost pressure to undertake this upgrade, a sustainable budget forecast for generations should be a focus and diligent work to ensure a strong track record of sensible spending remains.

As you would be aware, 38% of council expenditures make up for this project in the upcoming budget. If you take a comparison to another upcoming key project, this redevelopment makes up 20% more spending than the renewal works of the Marion Outdoor Pool; a heavily utilised facility that many ratepayers make use of.

As a suggestion, could council consider lobbying for other avenues of funding from other levels of government, including State Government funding? While I strongly support the upgrades of local facilities, it must be done on balance. A contribution from the State Government, or even as close to 50% of the entire proposal, if tangible, will significantly reduce council's borrowing and interest rate repayment costs over the coming years, and free up vital funds for other key projects in the wider council area.

We do not want to welcome a situation where rates are considerably increased to fund other projects when family budgets

are already stretched thin, and furthermore; do not want a situation where local sporting clubs look to have exclusive funding of this amount towards future projects. This would become the 'spending benchmark' of what our local clubs expect from local government in terms of funding for their clubs.

Lastly, council have recently passed a motion to re-locate the Marion Tennis Club, another welcomed project. Can council advise how much of the \$25 million from the Marion Basketball Stadium will go into this redevelopment or if this includes funding for the wider Marion sports complex redevelopments? There have been significant election pledges for several clubs in the vicinity from other levels of government and understanding if the \$25 million basketball stadium ties into this, or if this is purely a standalone project and comes at additional cost to council would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to submit a written response to the Annual Business Plan. I look forward to hearing back from you soon. If you have any further queries about any of the topics I've raised in this submission, or if I can provide any clarity, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

(b) Staff response to submission from Member of the Public

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2026–2027 (Draft Plan) consultation process. Council appreciates your recognition of the work undertaken in preparing the plan and the importance of maintaining a balanced and financially sustainable approach.

Council remains committed to carefully managing ratepayer funds while continuing to deliver essential services, renew community infrastructure and support the needs of a growing community.

We also appreciate your acknowledgement that the City of Marion continues to maintain comparatively lower residential rates relative to many metropolitan councils, while continuing to invest in services and infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

Council is actively monitoring construction and asset renewal costs in response to ongoing uncertainty surrounding global oil and fuel supply due to international conflicts. Project cost estimates within the Annual Business Plan have been developed to account for anticipated increases in construction and material costs, and Council will continue to explore alternative solutions to manage expenditure while maintaining essential asset renewal requirements.

Council continues to add trees and plants to beautify, cool and add natural shade across the City. We have set a target to increase our urban tree canopy by 20% from its existing level of 12% by June 2029. To achieve this, we are planting over 2,800 trees in 2026-27 across the city.

In addition the City of Marion is excited to fund new community initiatives in the coming year to support locally led environmental sustainability solutions. These programs will help residents take practical action through sustainable living, wildlife-friendly gardens, recycling, and greener local spaces.

Thank you for your suggestion. Council does endeavour to seek State and Federal Government funding opportunities for major and minor projects wherever possible. In many cases, projects are identified and earmarked for future upgrade on the basis that they may proceed with a significant co-contribution, often around 50%, from another level of government. The Marion Basketball Stadium project has received significant funding from the Federal Government.

Council's Long Term Financial Plan has been developed to ensure planned borrowings remain affordable and sustainable over the long term. Forecast debt levels remain within Council's adopted financial targets throughout the life of the plan, with debt servicing ratios forecast to remain well below Council's maximum target range. Current projections also show borrowings peaking in the short term before steadily reducing over time, maintaining Council's capacity to deliver future projects and services without placing unsustainable pressure on future ratepayers.

Council is also planning for renewal works at the Marion Outdoor Pool within the next financial year, recognising the importance and value of this facility to the local community.

Council makes every effort to maximise funding from other sources, including both the State and Federal Government. A 2025 parliamentary inquiry into local government sustainability has highlighted ever-expanding responsibilities, funding gaps and cost shifting as key themes impacting councils. The report noted that federal funding levels alone had nearly halved over the past three decades. In many cases, projects are identified and earmarked for future upgrade on the basis that they may proceed with significant co-contribution, often around 50%, from another level of government. The Marion Basketball Stadium project has received significant funding from the Federal Government.

Council has long-term infrastructure strategies and plans in place that consider community needs, the condition of existing facilities, changes in population and a range of other factors when determining investment in upgrades and renewals.

While some facilities require greater levels of investment than others due to their scale and community use, these costs are considered as part of Council's Long-Term Financial Plan to support responsible financial management and sustainable rates.

The Marion Tennis Club relocation is being co-funded by the City of Marion and State Government. This project has been budgeted separately from the Marion Basketball Stadium project. This relocation is included in Council's Long Term Financial Plan and received significant grant funding from the State Government.

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback and for your engagement in the consultation process.

6. Appendix

6.1 Social Media Outreach Definitions

Impressions	The number of times content was displayed to users.
Reach	The number of unique users that were showed the content. If the same person sees one of the posts three times, the Impressions would be 3 but the Reach metric would be 1.
Engagements	The number of times users engaged with a post during the period. Engagement is seen as the combined number of reactions to, comments on, and shares of a post.
Engagement Rate	Calculated by the total engagements a post received divided by the total number of impressions on that post.
Reactions	Reactions are a type of engagement with Facebook content. They comprise of the total amount of Love, Haha, Wow, Sad, Angry, and Like actions that users made on a post.

7. End document