

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET SUMMARY 24/25



MEANS
THE WORLD

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We share an updated vision with our community to reinforce the City of Charles Sturt as a place to call home and belong, and we partner to achieve this alongside our residents and through the services we provide.

The Annual Business Plan and Budget is shaped each year reflecting our community's current and future needs.

Now more than ever, our community is relying on action to respond to the impacts of climate change and urban heat island effects.

We have built our Budget with an overall rate increase of 6.25% plus new property growth. The rise includes a service level increase to fund the tree canopy project to reach 25% by 2040. We look forward to sharing more about trees and the five new themes in our refreshed Community Vision.

We will deliver Ngutungka Henley, the renewal of the much-loved State Heritage listed Henley Town Hall and Soldiers' Memorial. Ngutungka Henley will provide a modern and inclusive space for the local community.

We will continue to support local businesses, artists and community groups to invigorate our City making it a place for residents and visitors to find value and connection.

We acknowledge that over 24,000 residents in Charles Sturt live with a disability. We will continue to seek ways to practically improve accessibility and inclusion, ensuring those with mental and physical disabilities can participate in all aspects of life.

In this brochure you will find more details about where your money goes and the activities available to you. I look forward to what we will achieve together in the coming twelve months.

Mayor Angela Evans

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Evans".

GROWING OUR TREE CANOPY

Planting trees is an investment in the future of our City. The mature trees we enjoy and benefit from today were planted by those generations before us many decades ago.

Our City is getting hotter, and trees provide shade and cooling benefits, reduce heat-related illness, reflect heat and actively cool and clean the air.

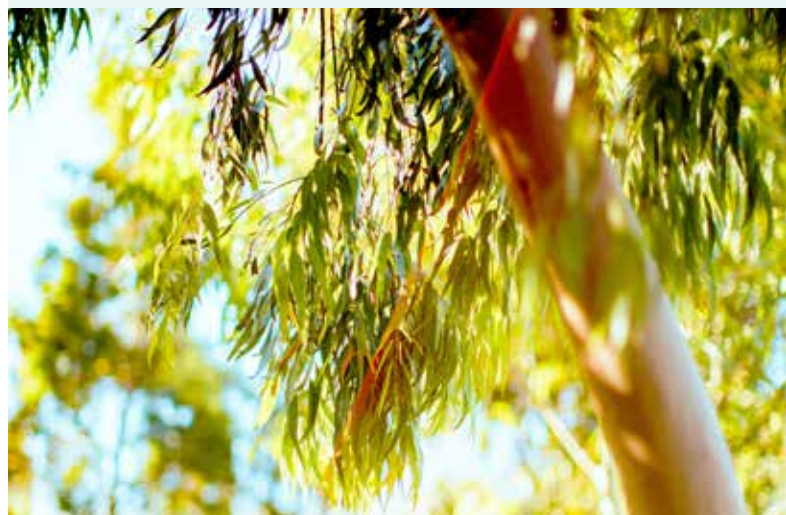
That's why the City of Charles Sturt is acting now through the Budget to provide a pleasant, comfortable place for generations to come.

We will be doubling our tree planting effort with an additional 3,000 planted each year. This is a total investment of \$1.5m in 24/25 on greening and climate initiatives of which \$1.2m is allocated for tree canopy.

The growth in trees will green more open spaces and support biodiversity, which are all key areas of interest for our community. This flagship initiative fits our 'Valuing Nature' theme, and we are committed to making our City greener, cooler, healthier and an even better place to live.

We all have a role to play.

See yours at yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/growing-green



PROJECT SUMMARY

Our City is transforming, and we are constantly investing in developments and infrastructure that will embrace this change while preserving our history and heritage. Highlighted below are some key projects we have brought to you in 2023/24 and some key projects for delivery in 2024/25.

What we achieved in 2023/24

Total of \$8.2m on the completion of Woodville Road



\$150k on Point Malcolm Access Way Upgrade



\$8.5m on West Beach Surf Life Saving Club upgrade, collaboratively funded by Charles Sturt, the Federal Government, State Government, Surf Life Saving SA and West Beach SLSC



\$3.6m towards Pedlar Reserve/Seaton Ramblers Clubroom Redevelopment



\$1m on Freshwater Lake Pipe Construction Project as part of Waterproofing the West



Our objectives for 2024/25

\$1.5m in additional greening and climate initiatives, of which \$1.2 million is allocated for tree canopy.

Continued frequent verge cutting during the spring period at \$2m



\$5.2m towards the new Ngutungka Henley (Henley Library and Community Centre), totalling \$11.2m



\$27.2m towards roads, footpaths, lighting, and stormwater upgrades



\$16m on sporting clubs, property, and open space projects

\$2.5m to supply and install solar panels/batteries on Council buildings to maximise benefit from a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)



\$613k in grant funding to support community and business initiatives and economic development



OUR COMMUNITY VISION

The Community Plan 2040 is our aspirational plan that sets the vision for our community and organisation. Every day, we work towards the five new key pillars decided upon with the collective help of our community. These are:



**LOCAL
NEIGHBOURHOODS**



**VALUING
NATURE**



**VIBRANT
PLACES**



**CONNECTING
AND BELONGING**



**OUR TRANSFORMING
CITY**

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

What makes living in our City so special? What do you enjoy?

Scan the QR Code to visit our Community Vision portal and share your stories.



FINANCES AT A GLANCE



Rates	\$138.8m
Statutory Charges	\$5.0m
User Charges	\$4.3m
Grants and Subsidies	\$13m
Borrowings	\$11.5m
Other Revenues	\$2.6m



Governance	\$4.4m
Corporate Services	\$25.1m
Public Health and Safety	\$4.9m
Libraries and Community Services	\$16.5m
Planning and Economic Development	\$8.4m
Open Space and Property	\$40.0m
Infrastructure	\$43.1m
Fleet	\$9.0m
Waste Management	\$15.5m
Water Management and Environment	\$6.2m
Loan Servicing	\$2.1m

BUDGET SNAPSHOT

6.25%

plus new property growth.
Total rates levied is a...

\$98.87 p.a. or
\$1.90 per week
increase in rates for
the average
residential ratepayer
that delivers...

\$94m

Core Operating
Services

\$3.9m

Additional
Annual Operating
Initiatives

\$52.4m

Capital Works
Projects

Core Operating Services: Parks and Reserves, Roads and Pathways, Planning and Development, 5 Library Services and 7 Community Centres, Waste Services

Capital Works Projects: Projects: Roads and Path works, Sporting Club upgrades, Public and Street Lighting

Additional Annual Operating Services: Business Support Programs, Greening Our City, Events and Festivals

RATE RELIEF OPTIONS



Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship can call us to organise a payment arrangement specific to their financial circumstances.



There is an automatic cap that limits rates increases to 12.5% for residential ratepayers.



If you are rated vacant land for 2024/25 and you are building a home you intend to live in for at least 12 months from completion, you may be eligible for a Residential Construction Rebate. Applications must be received before 30 June 2025.



Ratepayers who hold a seniors card will be eligible to postpone any amount in excess of \$500. Interest will accrue on postponed balances.



Community organisations occupying land for health and community services, religious purposes and educational institutions may be eligible to a rebate varying from 25% to 100% and can apply online.

Rate relief may be subject to further criteria. Contact us on 8408 1111 to discuss your options or refer to charlessturt.sa.gov.au/raterelief for eligibility criteria and application forms.

RATES INFORMATION AND PAYMENTS

Rates can be paid in full by 1 September or in 4 quarterly instalments due 1 September, 1 December, 1 March and 1 June using a number of payment methods as outlined on the rates notice. Under the Local Government Act 1999, rates not paid by the due date are automatically charged fines and penalty interest. More information at charlessturt.sa.gov.au/rates

To help save on carbon emissions, you can opt to receive your rates notices digitally. For more information on how to get your notice via email, visit charlessturt.sa.gov.au/ezybill

Rates are a property tax where the amount each ratepayer contributes is based on their relative property values. The Council determines the cost of the services and infrastructure it will provide and then levies the amount of rates needed to

provide those services and infrastructure after allowing for other revenue sources.

To determine the rate in the dollar and amount each ratepayer contributes, Charles Sturt purchases valuations from Office of the Valuer-General. If you do not agree with their valuation of your property contact the Office of the Valuer-General within 60 days of receiving your annual rates notice by phone 1300 653 346 or email OVGObjections@sa.gov.au

The Regional Landscape levy is a State tax. Under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, Councils are required to collect the levy on all rateable properties on behalf of the State Government. Enquiries should be directed to the Green Adelaide Board by phone 8463 3733 or at landscape.sa.gov.au