

Town of Gawler

2026 - 2027 Annual Business Plan & Budget Summary



Our Community Vision:
A liveable, cohesive, active, innovative and sustainable community

Mayor's Message

Gawler is continuing to grow, and with that growth comes both opportunity and responsibility. As more people choose to call Gawler home, Council needs to keep investing in the things our community relies on every day – roads, footpaths, sporting facilities, parks, community spaces and the infrastructure that supports our way of life.

The 2026–2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget is about getting the fundamentals right. It may not be a Budget full of headline-grabbing projects, but it is a responsible and practical Budget focused on the core services and infrastructure our community expects Council to deliver well.

That matters, because good financial management now helps put the next Chamber in a stronger position to consider future investment in larger projects and new opportunities for Gawler. This year's Budget includes investment across a range of important community assets and infrastructure projects. Some of that work is about maintaining what we already have, but it is also about making sure Gawler is well placed for the future.

Importantly, this Plan has been informed by community feedback. Not every suggestion can or should be adopted, but the consultation process has helped Council better understand the priorities, concerns and expectations of our community.



There is always more work to do, but this Budget gives Council a solid and responsible plan to keep moving Gawler forward while protecting the things that make our town such a great place to live, work and visit.

Mayor Nathan Shanks

Through the Budget, Council funds a broad range of services, facilities and infrastructure for the community, including:



Major Projects Planned in 2026-2027

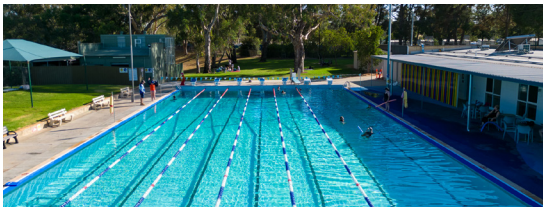
Gawler Town Centre Structure Plan

A comprehensive strategy guiding the future use, development, and building design within Gawler's heritage streetscape. This strategy will build upon and refine existing plans, to create a clear vision.



Gawler Aquatic Centre

Council is investing \$1.35 million over two years in renewal and improvement works at the Gawler Aquatic Centre to help keep this important community facility safe, accessible and enjoyable for all.



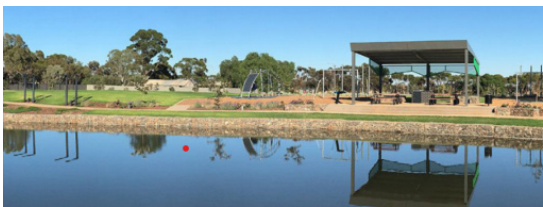
Enhancing Town Presentation Program

Council is investing in a stronger in-house horticulture service to help keep Gawler's streets, verges and reserves well maintained, safe and visually appealing for the community.



Aspire Estate Walking Connection

Council is investing in safer and more accessible walking connections through the Aspire Estate Walking Connection. This project will include a new DDA-compliant shared path and lighting.



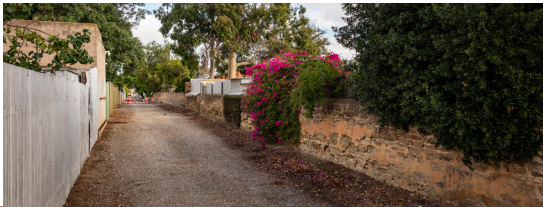
Finniss Street Renewal

Council will renew Finniss Street, between Reid Street and Porter Street, within the Church Hill Heritage area, to address deteriorated infrastructure while maintaining the heritage character of this important precinct.



Glenelg Lane Upgrade

Council is investing in the upgrade and sealing of Glenelg Lane, Gawler South, transforming an unsealed urban road into a sealed local street with improved drainage and road conditions.



Payment options and support

Council offers a range of payment options to help ratepayers manage their payments. If you would like to discuss payment options or are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact us early so our team can help.

Further Information

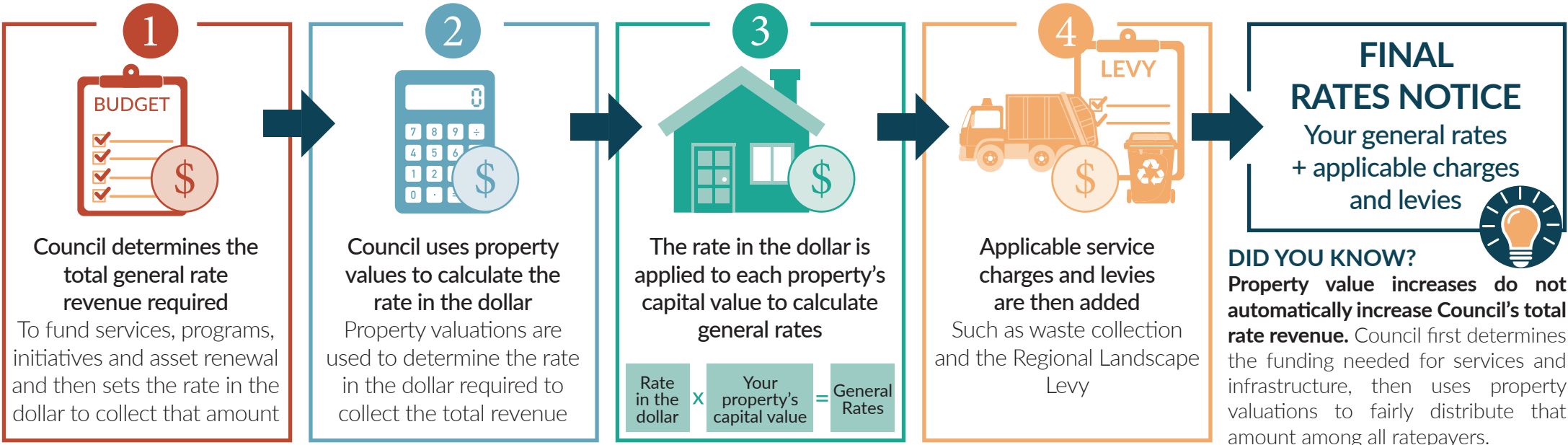
The full 2026-2027 Annual Business Plan and Budget provides more detailed information about Council's objectives, services, projects, budget, rating structure and financial management approach.

Gawler

Town of Gawler Administration Centre
43 High Street, Gawler East SA 5118
PO Box 130, Gawler SA 5118
Phone: (08) 8522 9211
council@gawler.sa.gov.au
www.gawler.sa.gov.au



How Rates are Set and Shared



Rates for 2026-2027

For 2026-2027, Council will collect \$32.6 million in general rates, an increase of \$1.2 million from the previous year. The average increase for residential ratepayers is \$89 for the year, while the average increase for commercial ratepayers is \$378 for the year.

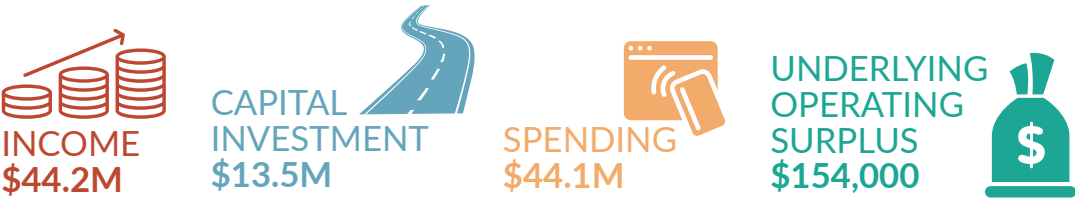
Council has carefully reviewed cost pressures, and worked to minimise the impact on ratepayers. The adopted Budget provides for a 4.3% increase in general rate revenue.

- The increase is made up of:
- 3.3% to maintain existing services and respond to cost increases
 - 1.0% to support new initiatives and asset renewal

Budget Overview

The 2026-2027 Budget supports Council's ongoing focus on long-term financial sustainability, including the delivery of sustainable operating surpluses, responsible debt management narrowing the renewal infrastructure gap and the capacity to invest in future service and infrastructure needs.

Council is forecasting:



Where Your Rates Go

For every \$100 paid in rates, the breakdown of expenditure is as follows:



Assessment of 2025-2026 Objectives and Achievements

Council has progressed the objectives set out in the 2025-2026 Annual Business Plan and is on track to return to an operating surplus, in line with the adopted budget and long-term financial sustainability objectives. The projects below highlight Council's broader delivery of services, infrastructure renewal, community programs initiatives during 2025-2026.

