

Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority

*Adelaide Hills Council, Adelaide Plains Council, The Barossa Council,
Town of Gawler, Light Regional Council, City of Playford*

KEY OUTCOMES SUMMARY GRFMA Board Meeting – 25 June 2026

Business Case Gawler River Floodplain Flood Management

The meeting noted progress with action to complete the Business Case.

Update on actions to date.

- DHUD and the GRFMA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding enabling the GRFMA to administer funds from both the Commonwealth Disaster Recovery (DRF) grant and its own operational funds.
- The grant agreement between the commonwealth and the GRFMA has now been executed which enables the GRFMA to lodge their first invoice for the DRF grant.
- DHUD are now progressing delivery of the work required to update the Business Case, and actioning engagement of a primary consultant to develop an overarching program of works. This program will integrate several specialised technical inputs to provide the evidence base for future decisions relating to State Government investment. The specialised bodies of work include:
 - Structural analysis of the dam, procured through a select tender process managed by DHUD
 - The Cultural heritage study delivered is being delivered by the GRFMA. A workshop to initiate the study was held 19/6/2026. Participants included KYAC and Ngadjuri Directors, GRFMA, DHUD and the Heritage consultant undertaking the study. An onsite inspection will be undertaken after the workshop. Land holders have been contacted to seek access to the relevant areas.
 - Preliminary levee bank strategy delivered by DEW, as identified in the cabinet note
 - Legal and regulatory review to be facilitated by DHUD- either Crown Solicitors Office (CSO) or law firm pending capacity of CSO
- The acquisition plan for the overarching program of works has been approved and is now live on the Tenders SA [Display Tender DHUD058852](#).
- DEW have confirmed their role in delivering the preliminary levee bank strategy as a specialised input to the Business Case update.
- DEW has partnered with the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority and SA State Emergency Service to develop a flood awareness and preparedness campaign for the Gawler River region. DEW and SES have now developed materials for the Community flood awareness and preparedness campaign for distribution by the councils. DEW ran a stakeholder workshop with the councils, DHUD and SES on the 21st May 2026. A further meeting is scheduled for June 2026 to progress finalisation of the program material and publications. A community information drop in flood awareness and mitigation event will be held at Gawler 29 July 2026 to support both the Gawler River flood awareness campaign and the State-Wide Flood Hazard Code Amendment consultation.
- The [State Planning Commission](#) has prepared the draft State-Wide Flood Hazard Code Amendment to update flood hazard mapping and planning rules across the state, based on new and updated flood studies and modelling. This is currently out for public consultation through YourSAy [Updating South Australia's flood hazard mapping and planning rules | YourSAy](#)
- SA Water has been engaged to provide support in the procurement of the structural analysis of the dam.
- Structural analysis scope being prepared, expected to market later in late June- will be an input into later stages of main consultant work. Targeted engagement with consultants specific to work requirements.

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Audit and Risk Committee Membership Appointment

Mr Vincent (Vince) Rifter (City of Playford) was appointed to the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority Audit and Risk Committee until the next periodic Local Government elections, expected in April 2027. Mr Malcolm Herrmann's (Adelaide Hills Council) appointment was extended to the same date.

Achievements Against the 2025/2026 Annual Business Plan

The Statement of Achievements Against the Annual Business Plan 2025/2026 was received.

Draft Statewide Flood Hazard Code Amendment

The GRFMA Executive Officer will provide feedback to the Draft State-Wide Flood Hazard Code Amendment.

Financial Report and GRFMA 2025/2026

The financial report as of 31 May 2026 provided a cash at bank balance of \$201,526.03 with internal cash lending for CAD offset of \$ 331,589,072.

Annual Business Plan 2026/2027 and Budget

Members noted and discussed the Notice of Dispute given by the Light Regional Council regarding the Draft GRFMA Budget 2026-2027 and the status of discussions between the GRFMA and the Light Regional Council aimed at resolving the dispute.

The meeting unanimously resolved the following dispute resolution proposal:

1. The GRFMA will include appropriate annual expenditure and income provisions in the Long-Term Financial Plan to anticipate significant maintenance costs, including dam safety reviews and related plans.
2. The GRFMA will request Constituent Councils to initiate a complete review of the Authority's Charter, pursuant to Local Government Act 1999 Provisions applicable to Subsidiaries—Schedule 2, s19, with particular focus on, but not limited to:
 - i. Dispute resolution mechanisms
 - ii. Clarification of purpose
 - iii. Financial definitions and cost allocation methodologies
3. In recognition of 1 and 2, above, seeks the Light Regional Council to withdraw its Notice of Dispute and urgently approve a financial contribution of \$26,991 to the operational cost component of the 2026-2027 GRFMA Draft Budget.

Letter of Appreciation

A letter of appreciation is to be sent to Mr. Greg Pattinson in recognition of his long and extensive contribution to the GRFMA Board and GRFMA Audit and Risk Committee.

Schedule of Meetings

The 2026 schedule of ordinary GRFMA meetings, each commencing at 9:45am, is:

- Thursday 20 August 2026, Town of Gawler
- Thursday 15 October 2026, Adelaide Plains Council
- Thursday 10 December 2026, City of Playford