

COUNCILS IN FOCUS

Councils in Focus

The Councils in Focus website is a snapshot of our state's local government sector. It will bring together a range of information about your local council's services, operations and performance in one place and will help you gain a better understanding of how your council works.

Before Councils in Focus launches in the second half of 2021 we would like your comments and feedback about the website and the information that it will enable you to see.

What will Councils in Focus show?

It's really important that ratepayers know where their council rates are going and what they are spent on. The Councils in Focus website will allow you to search for any council and access a range of information on:

- **How councils receive revenue** — what rates they charge, what grants they receive and other sources of funding.
- **What councils spend their money on** — key services such as roads, libraries, waste management and other functions
- Each council's **financial position and performance**.

You will be able to see **change over time** (proposed to be a 5 year period) so that you can see how your council's revenue and expenditure has changed, and **compare** to similar councils and state-wide averages.

[COUNCILS] IN FOCUS

Search



Home About the Data Find a Council Guide to Councils FAQs / Help Contact Us



Find a council

Search or use your location to find a council

Find a council

Search

Use my location

Find a council using a map

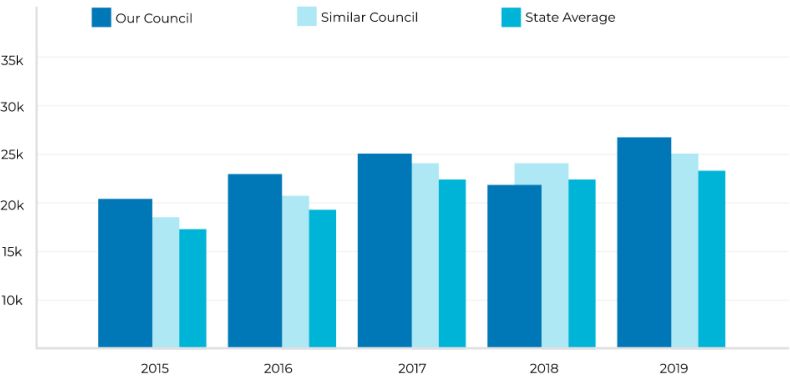
Use the zoom controls to find your council



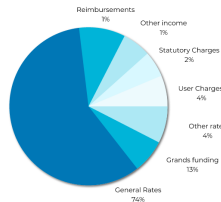
Roads and Transport

Majority of council spend is on maintaining and building infrastructure for roads

Roads makes up **18.97%** of the total expenditure. There are **1,514kms** of roads of laneways, which is made up of **1049kms** sealed, **465kms** unsealed roads and roads and **58 bridges** and culverts.



Council Revenue



Revenue Compared

	Council 2019	Similar Councils	State Average
General Rates	74%	72%	66%
Grants Fundings	13%	8%	14%
Other Rates	4%	3%	6%
User Charges	4%	11%	8%
Statutory Charges	2%	4%	2%
Other Income	2%	4%	2%
Reimbursements	2%	4%	2%
Legal and other costs recovered	2%	4%	2%



Government of South Australia
Attorney-General's Department

What sort of information will be available?

Councils in Focus will provide detailed information for each of South Australia's 68 councils over a five year period, and enable you to compare your council to a similar council, and to councils across the State, on:

- **How councils are funded**—including amounts received from rate, fees and charges, grants provided to council and other sources.
- Specific information about amounts received from **rates**, including **general rates and different rating categories** and information that shows rate changes in relation to the change in the number of rateable properties in a council over time.
- **Financial performance**—consistent measures of each council's investment in asset management, level of indebtedness and operating position.
- **Council expenditure on:**
 - **Roads and transport**—including seal and unsealed roads and other transportation, such as bridges and footpaths.
 - **Waste management**—including rubbish, green waste and recycling
 - **Environmental services**—including street cleaning, stormwater and coastal protection.
 - **Libraries and cultural services**
 - **Community support and services**—including heritage, public order, family and children's and aged care services, and community support.
 - **Recreation**—including sporting and recreation, parks and gardens, and boating facilities and jetties.
 - **Regulatory services**— including health inspections and dog and cat management.
 - **Economic development**—including regional development, local business and tourism.
 - **Business undertakings**—including car parking, tourism accommodation, community wastewater management and quarries.
 - **Council administration and governance**

Why is this information important?

Councils are responsible for more than just taking your bins each week. They provide a wide range of services, infrastructure and facilities to help support the wellbeing of everyone in their community. To do this, councils have to make decisions about how much their ratepayers need to contribute through rates and other charges.

Every year, your council will make these important decisions about the money they will spend on services, and the rates they will charge to pay for this. Councils in Focus will help you get a better understanding of what your council does and how it is spending its money, to help you engage with your council as it makes these decisions.

Council says

The website will also allow each council to provide their views and comments on their information, in a '**Council says**' section. Councils might include some clarifying information or context around the decisions they make that determine their spending and their revenue. Councils will also be able to use the website to better understand their performance in comparison to other councils.

How would I use the site?

- You might be interested in how much your council spends on a particular service — for example, waste management.
- You can search for and find your council on the website, and then go to the page that shows this service.
- The page will show you how much your council spends on this service and how that compares to other councils, using a consistent 'measure' as well as a total.
- In this example, this will show how much your council spends on waste management as a total amount. It will also show an amount your council spends per household and per tonne collected, and compare this to similar councils and the state average.
- The website will also show how these numbers may have changed over the past five years — whether your council is spending more or less on this service over time.
- Your council may also choose to add some comments in explaining this information — for example, why it spends more or less on waste management per household than similar councils (it may provide more green waste services); or why this may have changed (it may have introduced additional hard waste services).

Where does this information come from?

The data for Councils in Focus will be sourced from several places, including:

- the detailed information that councils provide to the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission every year.
- each council's annual business plan and budget.
- other authoritative sources, including the Office of the Valuer-General and the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

This information above is generally released on an annual cycle. The information on Councils in Focus will be updated when new information becomes available.

Have your say

Visit the YourSAy website to:

- leave a comment on the discussion board
- complete our short survey.

The consultation is open until **16 July 2021**.