



DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PETERBOROUGH NEWSLETTER



COUNCIL

Council Office is located at 2
Telford Avenue Peterborough SA
5422
Open 9:15am to 4:30pm

Upcoming Council Meetings

21st September 2026
19th October 2026
16th November 2026

RUTH WHITTLE

Message from the Mayor

Our move forward.

As previously discussed, the Council has a requirement to report on a monthly basis to the Minister for Local Government, outlining our Council Financial Position and ways in which we plan to move to a Budget Surplus position by the Financial Year 2027/28.

In her reply, the Minister has acknowledged the public consultation on the draft 26/27 Annual Business Plan and the steps we are undertaking which should enable Council to progress towards long-term financial sustainability.

At a recent visit by the Minister, Councillors raised concerns re mental health services and suicide rates, Road conditions and repair costs and discussed the varying ways in which we are seeking to sustain the operations of the CWMS.

The Minister thanked council for meeting with her in July and the discussions and questions both she and council had during the afternoon.

150 Celebrations

I commend the Committee of the '150 Celebrations' that will take place over the long Weekend in October. The programme is extensive, many people are involved and many visitors are expected. A great many buildings will be open and celebrating milestones, a grand gala dinner is being prepared, exhibitions will be available, and a new book is being launched. Please take the time to find out what you may be able to add to the weekend, please plan to attend the various events and help Peterborough and District celebrate this milestone.

Details are available on the Web Page or from Judy Evans, Janet Fielding or Evie Oras.

HENRY INAT

Message from the Acting CEO

The past three months have been a busy period for Peterborough District Council, with a great deal happening across our organisation and throughout the community.

This newsletter provides an opportunity to share some of the activities, projects and initiatives that Council has been progressing, and I encourage residents to take the time to have a read and see what Council, our staff and members of our community have been working on.

It has also been a challenging few months for Council. Our financial position and the need to achieve long-term financial sustainability remain a key focus.

There is a strong commitment across Council to contribute to this work, identify practical solutions and develop a clear pathway that will enable Council to strengthen its financial position over the coming years.

Importantly, Council is not working through these challenges in isolation. The Peterborough community has a strong sense of pride in the district and in what makes the area such a special place to live, work and visit. There is a genuine desire across the community to see the best for Peterborough and to ensure that the district has a positive and sustainable future.

While there have undoubtedly been some difficult and turbulent times in recent periods, I am hopeful that with greater stability, constructive engagement and agreed ways forward, we can achieve positive outcomes for Council and the community.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our elected Members and Council staff for their contribution, commitment and professionalism during what has been a demanding period. The work of Council is broad and often occurs behind the scenes, and the commitment of our people to continuing to deliver for the community is appreciated.

There is still much work to do, but there is also a real opportunity to build on the work currently underway and to move forward together with a clear focus on the future of the Peterborough district.

I look forward to continuing to work with Council Members, staff and our community as we pursue that objective.



COUNCIL UPDATES

2026–27 Annual Business Plan & Budget Adopted

Council has now completed the 2026–27 Annual Business Plan and Budget process following an extensive period of community consultation.

Thank you to everyone who attended our public consultation sessions, completed a survey or provided a written submission. Council received 79 responses to the Community Services and Budget Consultation Survey, along with further feedback and submissions from members of the community.

The feedback provided Council with valuable information about the services our community values, areas where residents would like to see improvements and the challenges facing our district.

Council recognises that decisions regarding rates, services and expenditure directly affect our residents and ratepayers. The final budget seeks to balance the need to maintain essential services and infrastructure with the longer-term financial sustainability of Council.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to have their say.

Roads & Infrastructure

Maintaining Council's extensive road network continues to be a major focus of our works program.

Council is responsible for a significant network of sealed and unsealed roads across a large geographic area, and maintaining these assets requires ongoing investment and careful prioritisation.

Works continue across the district, including resheeting of unsealed roads, with funding through programs such as the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Program assisting Council to undertake important road improvements.

Our outdoor team continues to work across the district delivering road maintenance and other essential infrastructure works.

We appreciate the community's patience while these works are undertaken.

Peterborough Swimming Pool – Planning for the Future

Over recent months, Council has been working through options for the future operation of the Peterborough Swimming Pool.

Following an Expression of Interest process, Council has been exploring opportunities for greater community involvement in the operation of the facility.

Council understands the importance of the swimming pool to local families and the wider community. At the same time, we need to ensure that the way Council facilities are operated is financially and operationally sustainable.

Work will continue towards establishing arrangements for the future operation of the pool, with further information to be provided to the community once arrangements are finalised.

Stay Up to Date

There is plenty happening across the District Council of Peterborough.

For the latest Council news, community notices, road updates, events and other important information, keep an eye on Council's Facebook page and website.

We also encourage residents to attend Council meetings and stay involved in decisions affecting our community.



Thank you to our residents, ratepayers, businesses, community organisations and volunteers for continuing to make our district a great place to live, work and visit.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Did You Know?

There is a lot of work happening behind the scenes at Council that isn't always visible.

Over the past few months Council has been:

- reviewing services and expenditure as part of the 2026–27 budget process;
- pursuing State and Federal grant opportunities;
- progressing road and infrastructure works;
- working with community groups regarding Council facilities;
- supporting planning for Peterborough's 150th celebrations;
- working through future arrangements for the Peterborough Swimming Pool;
- reviewing future tourism and Steamtown opportunities; and
- supporting planning for upcoming community events, including the Christmas Pageant.

Council's focus continues to be on delivering essential services, maintaining our assets and finding sustainable ways to provide the services and facilities our community values.

Working to Secure More Grant Funding

One of Council's priorities is to maximise the amount of external funding brought into our district.

Over recent months, Council has continued identifying and applying for State and Federal Government grant opportunities for community facilities, infrastructure and other projects.

Grant funding provides an important opportunity to deliver projects that may otherwise need to be delayed or funded entirely by Council and our ratepayers.

Council will continue actively pursuing suitable funding opportunities as they become available.

Christmas Pageant Planning Underway

Christmas might still seem a little way off, but preparations are already underway for the Peterborough Christmas Pageant. Council is working with the relevant groups to make this a success.

Work is progressing on the necessary event and traffic management arrangements to help ensure the pageant can be delivered safely for participants and spectators.

Community events such as the Christmas Pageant rely heavily on the enthusiasm of our local clubs, organisations, businesses and volunteers.

Peterborough is Turning 150!

Planning is underway for a very special milestone, Peterborough's 150th celebrations.

Our town has a rich history, shaped by the railway, agriculture, local businesses, community organisations and, most importantly, generations of people who have called Peterborough home.

Council is working with the relevant groups, through planning for the celebrations, including events, activities and the arrangements required to safely bring our community together.

There will be plenty more information to come.

We look forward to celebrating 150 years of Peterborough with you!



Steamtown & Our Tourism Future

Peterborough's railway history is an important part of our identity and remains one of our greatest tourism assets.

Council has continued reviewing options for the future delivery of the Steamtown visitor experience, including investigating alternative tour models and ways to provide visitors with greater flexibility in how they experience the site.

This work includes considering how tourism services can be delivered in a way that provides a quality visitor experience while also being financially sustainable for our community.

Council will continue investigating opportunities to promote Peterborough, encourage visitors to spend more time in our district and support our local businesses.

Looking After Our Community Facilities

Council manages and supports a wide range of buildings and facilities across the district, many of which are used or managed in partnership with dedicated community committees and volunteers.

Over recent months, Council has continued reviewing arrangements for a number of community facilities to ensure responsibilities for maintenance, insurance, safety and day-to-day operations are clearly understood.

Our community facilities are valuable assets, and Council appreciates the enormous contribution made by the volunteers and committees who help keep them operating.

Past Events

Local Students Bring Stories to Life Through SALA Exhibition

The creative talents of Peterborough High School students are on display this month as part of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival.

The exhibition, titled “Read Between the Lines,” features visual artworks created by Peterborough High School students, inspired by their favourite books and the stories they carry with them.

The exhibition provided an opportunity for local students to showcase their creativity while encouraging visitors to explore the connection between literature, imagination and visual art.

“Read Between the Lines” was being held at the Peterborough School and Community Library on Queen Street and was open to the public throughout August.

The SALA Festival celebrates the work of visual artists across South Australia, and this local exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to support and celebrate the creative achievements of Peterborough’s young people.



ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Ruth Whittle OAM — Mayor
Email: mayor@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8651 2318
Mobile: 0438 891 903

Cassandra Chambers — Deputy Mayor / Councillor
Email: cr.chambers@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8651 3051
Mobile: 0417 605 010

Kim Miller — Councillor
Email: cr.miller@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8651 4218
Mobile: 0428 514 218

Graham Mercer — Councillor
Email: cr.mercer@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8651 2165
Mobile: 0429 911 824

Michael Burford — Councillor
Email: cr.burford@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8650 3286

Neil Hucks — Councillor
Email: cr.hucks@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Mobile: (08) 8651 2316

Teena Martin — Councillor
Email: cr.martin@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Mobile: 0484 235 788

Russell Sleep — Councillor
Email: cr.sleep@peterborough.sa.gov.au
Mobile: 0428 376 914

Fun Fact

Did you know? Peterborough was once one of the only places in Australia where three different railway gauges met — broad, standard and narrow gauge. This made Peterborough an incredibly important railway junction, with passengers, freight and even livestock having to be transferred between trains of different gauges.

It's one of the reasons Peterborough has such a strong railway identity today!  Peterborough's railway history is central to its identity, and the three-gauge junction also shaped how passengers and freight moved through the town.