

1 Preamble

Council has adopted this policy setting out the objectives that it aspires to achieve within its area. Where Council commits to achieving standards or requirements that are not imposed upon it by statute, its commitment is to endeavour to achieve those standards or requirements within available resources.

The contents and commitments in this policy are not intended to be and should not be interpreted to be any more than a statement of Council's general position and to facilitate its aspirations wherever it is reasonable to do so.

2 Policy purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline Council's approach towards rating its communities and to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) with particular reference to Section 123. Section 123 requires Council to have a rating policy that must be prepared and adopted (as part of the Annual Business Plan) each financial year in conjunction with the declaration of rates.

3 Principles

This Council's policy directions are guided by the three themes that are central to achieving our vision: *People – vibrant and resilient; Place – liveable, connected and green; Prosperity – opportunity, diversity and adaptability*, which are detailed in *Onkaparinga 2035*.

Council's role is to ensure that our communities have continual access to an appropriate range of facilities and services.

In all things we consider if our direction aligns with the principles that define who we are. We believe in:

- putting people first
- enabling equity
- promoting strengths
- working to understand
being resourceful
- encouraging investment
- working strategically towards our vision.

Council must raise revenue sufficient for the purpose of governance, administration and to provide for appropriate goods and services for the community. The goods and services are especially those that would not be provided by private businesses eg infrastructure, street lighting, regulatory and compliance activities.

Chapter 10 of the Act empowers local government to levy rates and charges on land and provides some principles for consideration when developing rating policies. The key principle in levying rates recognises that rates constitute a system of taxation on the community for local government purposes (generally based on the value of land).