

General information on the City of Onkaparinga for prospective candidates

Introduction

Our city is the largest metropolitan council in South Australia and is home to more than 173,000 people.

Our city covers 518 square kilometres including 31 kilometres of coastline.

Our strategies center on planning for the long term with regular input from our communities. We place emphasis on innovation, community engagement and sustainability.

The landscape of our city is varied, including the hills and coastal land, rural farmland, suburban blocks, light industrial uses and vineyards. We provide many services to our residents which include libraries, community centers, open spaces, waste collection, graffiti removal and water management.

Composition of the Council

The City of Onkaparinga is made up of six wards — Mid Coast, Knox, Pimpala, Thalassa, Southern Vales and South Coast.

There is a total of 12 Councillors, with two councilors representing each ward.

The principal member of Council is the Mayor, who is elected by the community.

This structure came into effect at the November 2018 Council elections following a representation review undertaken in 2017.

Revenue and expenditure

The City of Onkaparinga's budget is one of the largest in the state. We have budgeted to spend \$193.1m on operating activities, which includes depreciation, and \$57.5m on renewal and new & significant capital works. Our total cash expenditure budget including loans and reserve movements is \$218.16m.

The total rate revenue increase for 2022–23 is 4.7 per cent in line with CPI.

COUNCIL ELECTION INFORMATION 2022

Council and committee meetings and informal briefings

Council meetings are currently held once a month on a Tuesday commencing at 7pm. A number of special Council meetings are also held each year. There are currently four Committees of Council as well as the Council Assessment Panel.

Meeting statistics for 2021-22 are presented below:

Meetings for 2021-22	No. Held	Current membership (as at August 2022)
Council (including Special)	22	12 Elected members
Strategic Directions Committee	10	12 Elected members
Audit and Risk Committee	7	2 Elected members 3 Independent members
Australia Day Awards Committee	1	3 Elected members 2 Community members
CEO Performance Management Committee	2	11 Elected members
ICT Project Steering Committee	4	3 Elected members 2 Independent members
Council Assessment Panel	11	1 Elected Member 4 Independent members

In addition to the above formal meetings, informal briefings and workshops are held throughout the year. In 2021-22 we had 21 evening sessions which covered topics such as the budget process, brand refresh, Waste Recycling Strategic Management plan, Coastal Tourist Drive, City-wide Heritage review and Reconciliation Action Plan.

Examples of other responsibilities and activities elected members undertake include:

- Reading and preparation for meetings
- responding to enquiries from the community
- representing Council and/or providing a point of contact on external bodies
- attendance at community group and forum meetings
- attending presentation nights (e.g. local community and sporting groups or a council presentation night)
- attending civic and Australia Day ceremonies, citizenship ceremonies and ANZAC Day ceremonies.

From time to time members may also take part in bus tours looking at major projects within the city and attend training (as per the elected member induction and Learning and Development Program) and conferences.

For members who are very active in the community the hours can be equivalent to, or more than, a full-time role.

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