

Message from the Acting Mayor

It has been an honour to lead the elected body through the 2026/27 budget deliberations. This budget reflects our recently adopted 2026 – 2030 Community Vision Plan, the Long Term Financial Plan and our asset management strategies.

Balancing competing priorities has been challenging, particularly given the ongoing cost-of-living pressures facing our community. In response, Council has focused on protecting core services, renewing our asset base and advancing key strategic projects where funding allows.

Rates and external funding make up almost all of Council's revenue. This year's budget includes an average rate increase of 6.56% (comprising 4.2% CPI (inflation), 1% growth, and a 1.36% rate net increase). While keeping rates as affordable as possible, we will continue to strongly advocate to State and Federal Governments for increased grant funding to support innovation and long-term sustainability.

Our focus remains firmly on the community, and now more than ever before, we need to make appropriate investment for the benefit of future generations and the incoming elected body who will take the reins next year following the postponement of local government elections.

I sincerely thank Elected Members and staff, particularly our outgoing Interim Chief Executive Officer Myles Somers, together with our business and community representatives who have contributed to the development of this budget. Council, together with our incoming Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon, look forward to working closely with you over the next year to achieve effective outcomes for the Coorong district.

Acting Mayor
Jonathan Pietzsch



Funding the Annual Business Plan

Annual Business Plan & Budget Summary Report 2026/27

\$15m
Rates

\$20,122
Investment Income

\$232,242
Other Income

\$126,995
User Charges

\$209,037
Statutory Charges

\$114,089
Reimbursements

\$5.9m
Grants and Subsidies



Key achievements for 2025/26

Enhancement of existing assets was a key focus in 2025/26. The list below includes a number of key projects delivered.

- 1 Construction of *Changing Places* accessibility toilet block
- 2 Removal of 8 hectares of pest pines - Meningie Parkland
- 3 Intersection safety upgrade – Fulwood Avenue & Northcott Terrace
- 4 Acquisition of new public toilets within north-west parking bay
- 5 Re-sheeting of Deepwater and Taunta Hut Roads
- 6 Sealing of Carcuma Road (stage two)
- 7 Bulrushes restoration project
- 8 Upgrade to cemetery perimeter fencing and gate installation
- 9 Partnership with Coomandook Area School for student-led traffic surveys
- 10 Installation of battery-operated swimming pool cover
- 11 Reconstruction and line marking of Railway Terrace car park
- 12 Upgrade Town Hall stage staircase and hand rails
- 13 Installation of six new banner poles – Apex Park & Becker Terrace
- 14 Resheeting of Buccleuch North Road
- 15 Resheeting of Jabuk South Road
- 16 Finalise switchover to SA Water drinking water scheme
- 17 Taillem Bend Growth Precinct development and planning
- 18 Upgrade Town Hall amenities
- 19 Narrung Road shoulder rehabilitation and renewal
- 20 Standpipe upgrades (Cooke Plains, Meningie, Sherlock, Taillem Bend, Tintinara and Wellington East)



Our priorities for 2026/27

A similar theme will be carried into 2026/27, whereby the renewal of assets dominates the capital works program. Some of the key identified projects for 2026/27 are as follows:

- 21 Liaison with State Government for construction of new school community library
- 22 Stormwater pit reconstruction at bakery entrance
- 23 Replacement of rubberized soft fall at playground
- 24 Renewal of facilities at works depot
- 25 Relining of CWMS pump chamber
- 26 Renewal of Narrung jetty
- 27 Resheeting of Moonee Hills Road
- 28 Resealing of Tynan Road



Coorong Civic Centre
 95-101 Railway Terrace, Taillem Bend
 P 1300 785 277 E council@coorong.sa.gov.au
 Read the full plan at www.coorong.sa.gov.au



2026/27

Budget at a glance

	2025/26 Budget (\$,000)	2026/27 Budget (\$,000)	Year on Year Change (\$)
Operating Budget			
Operating Revenue	21,116	21,625	509
Operating Expenses	21,384	22,290	906
Surplus/Deficit	(268)	(664)	(396)
Amounts received for new or upgraded assets	0	0	0
Net surplus/deficit	(268)	(664)	(396)
Capital Budget			
Renewal/replacement	6,286	6,871	585
New/upgraded	515	530	15
Total Capital Expenditure	6,801	7,401	600

Adopted Rates Summary (excluding fixed charge)

Land Use/Locality	Total Capital Value	Rate	Revenue to be raised
Residential	1,000,920,916	0.002630	2,632,422
Commercial – Shop	11,144,745	0.003155	35,162
Commercial – Office	1,405,181	0.003155	4,433
Commercial – Other	113,460,285	0.003155	357,967
Industry – Light	5,487,276	0.003155	17,312
Industry – Other	6,107,821	0.003155	19,270
Primary Production	3,590,357,195	0.002235	8,024,448
Vacant Land	89,292,800	0.004339	387,441
Other	31,631,929	0.002629	83,160
Bulk Handling Zone	13,488,100	0.007499	101,147
			11,662,762

Rates Assistance

Rate Capping Rebate

Council offers rate relief to help eligible ratepayers manage the impact of increases in general rates. Property owners whose general rates increase by more than 15% compared with 2025/26 may apply to have their increase limited to 15%, subject to eligibility. Full eligibility criteria and exclusions are in Council's Rate Capping Rebate Application Form and Rating Policy. Rate capping relief is not available in some circumstances, including where a rate increase results from property improvements, changes in land use, changes in ownership or rezoning. Applications must be lodged and received by 30 September 2026.

Hardship Provisions

Ratepayers who experience difficulties meeting their obligation to pay an instalment of rates are encouraged to contact Council.

Postponement of Rates for Seniors

Eligible senior card holders can apply to Council for the postponement of rates on their principal place of residence.

Single Farm Enterprise

If your farm comprises a single farm enterprise under the Local Government Act 1999, you are eligible for the treatment of land as a single farm enterprise for the purposes of imposing one fixed charge. To apply for single farm enterprise status please visit our website or email council@coorong.sa.gov.au. Applications close 31 December 2026.

For further information on Rates Assistance

Please email council@coorong.sa.gov.au

2026/27 Service Charges and Levies (per rateable assessment)

Community Wastewater Management System (Occupied-per property unit)	\$780
Community Wastewater Management System (Vacant)	\$749
Non-Potable Water Supply (Peake)	\$399
Kerbside Waste Collection (three bins)	\$323
Regional Landscape Levy rateable assessments within the Murraylands, Riverland & Limestone Coast Landscape Boards	Varies