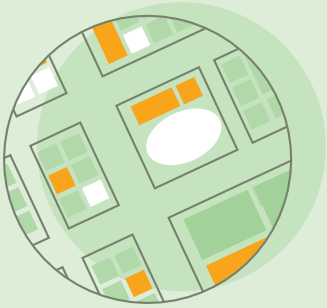
01



Council Services

The range of services provided by your local Council is decided in response to the needs and priorities of your community. Councils provide a wide and diverse range of important services. Services can vary greatly from one Council area to another depending upon the area's location and size, geographic features, development and growth patterns, its population profile and community expectation.

This is the first of four fact sheets – Fact Sheet 2 looks at how services are arranged and funded, Fact Sheet 3 the rating system and Fact Sheet 4 valuations.

Local Government Association of South Australia

It's a typical Sunday – you've been down at the **beach** swimming and walking along the **foreshore**, and are heading home, riding along the **roads** and **bike-path** when you decide to call into your local **library** to use the **internet** and borrow some **books** and **CDs**. That afternoon you watch a game of footy at the local **oval** after having a **BBQ** with a few friends as the children play on the **playground** in the nearby **park**, and walk home on **footpaths** under the **street lights**.

Most of the activities for the day involved the use of facilities maintained or provided by the **local Council**. Many more essential services provided by Councils such as **stormwater drainage** are virtually invisible.

The 68 Councils in SA together spend around $1 billion a year, about half of which goes on roads and drainage, waste collection, disposal and recycling, recreation and cultural activities and on library and information services.

What Councils must do

Mostly Councils decide what services they will provide locally. However, there are some services that Councils are required to provide by legislation. These include:

- planning and development services, including building safety assessment;
- some environmental health services, such as ensuring standards are maintained in public swimming pools;
- fire prevention (some building inspection, and some bushfire prevention planning functions are a duty, others are discretionary);
- dog management; and
- some administrative requirements, such as preparing and implementing strategic plans for the area, maintaining an office, employing a Chief Executive Officer and supporting the elected Council.

What Councils do by choice

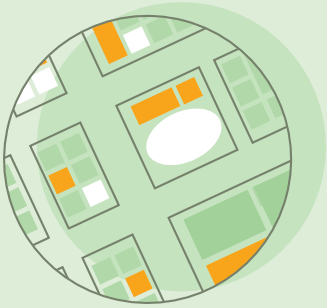
Other services provided and activities undertaken or funded by many Councils in SA include:

- Immunisation
- Libraries
- Control of public nuisances
- Monitoring of unsanitary conditions
- Control of pest animals and plants
- Food safety inspections

THIS IS ONE OF FOUR FACT SHEETS

01	Council Services
02	Funding Council Services
03	About Council Rates
04	Valuations

01



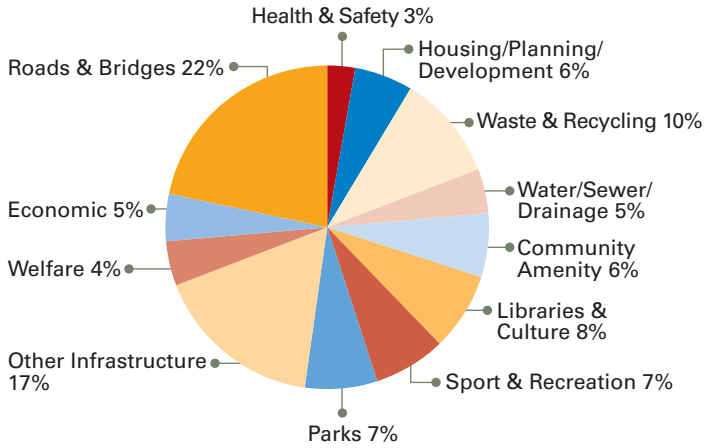
Local Government Association of South Australia

Council Services

- Local Roads
- Footpaths
- Stormwater drainage & reuse
- Parks and gardens
- Street lighting
- On street parking
- Traffic management
- Reserves and picnic areas
- Recreation facilities and centres
- Ovals
- Public swimming pools
- Rubbish collection and disposal
- Recycling
- Information services
- Free internet in libraries
- Community centres
- Skate parks
- Community development programs
- Arts and cultural programs
- Online services
- Community services such as Home and Community Care
- Employment/Training Programs
- Economic Development
- Tourism information and support
- Community buses
- Environmental management
- Festivals and events
- Youth Advisory Committees
- Caravan Parks
- Cemeteries
- Wetlands
- Local Museums and Heritage support
- Coastcare and Dunecare projects
- Business support
- Local Area Water Catchment Plans
- Landcare programs
- Dry zones
- Aged care
- Cycling tracks
- Crime prevention
- Community leadership and advocacy
- Community Wastewater Management Systems (CWMS)

Whether a service is a legislative requirement of Councils, or is provided by local choice, the Local Government Act requires that a Council is "responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of individuals and groups within its community…" and that it must "…seek to ensure that Council resources are used fairly…" (Section 8, (b) and (h)).

Council Expenditure Areas



Source: ABS 1999/00

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