

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1

GET INFORMED

Find out who your council members are

- Visit your council's website and familiarise yourself with your local elected members.

Visit your local council

- Reach out to your local council to arrange a visit or attend a council meeting.
- Watch your council meetings online. Some councils record their meetings; you can watch them live or at a later date.

Find out what items are being discussed in the next meeting

- Visit your local council's website, to view the upcoming agenda.
- Sign up for your council newsletters to get regular updates.
- Follow the council on social media to see current highlights.

2

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Share your initiative, issue or idea

- Visit your council's website and find the email address of your chosen elected member. This could be any of the councillors or the mayor.
- Share your thoughts with one or more elected members via email. If you're not sure who to email, try researching to find out who might share an interest in your topic.
- Bonus! Ask your teacher if you can invite an elected member to your school to hear about your class's initiatives, issues or ideas in person.

Participate in community consultation

- Find the items that are up for consultation on the council website.
- Research and discuss the item.
- Contribute your opinions to the consultation process.

Start a petition

- Think about an initiative, issue or idea you would like to champion.
- Go to your council's website and see if they have a template you can use.
- Write a request and fill out petition form.
- Get your petition out there! You want to get as many names, signatures and addresses as possible of people in your community who support your cause.
- Finalise your petition and submit it to your council.

Give a deputation

- Get familiar with the items in the upcoming meeting from the meeting agenda.
- Ask permission from the mayor to speak at the next meeting – each council has a different process.
- Prepare for your deputation by writing notes on what you would like to say – you will have 5 minutes to speak.
- Present your initiative, issue or idea to the council.

Supported by



Local Government Association of South Australia



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Join a youth committee

- Many councils have a committee comprised of young people, specifically to discuss items related to young people in your community.
- Find out if your council has a youth committee and information on how to join on your council's website. You may need to apply for the position.
- If your council does not have a youth committee – maybe that's an idea you can champion?

Vote in your council election

- Enrol with the Australian Electoral Commission – you can do this once you turn 16. If you're not an Australian citizen, you might still be able to enrol. Visit your council's website to find out more!
- Find out about the next local government elections. Do you know what year and/or date the next one will happen on?
- Inform yourself about the candidates and issues affecting your council, as the election approaches.
- Vote! Ensure you complete your ballot papers and return them via the post. You must be 18 or older to vote.

Run as a candidate

- Nominate as a candidate for your council at the next local government elections, if you're ready to take on the challenge of being an elected member!
- Find out if you're eligible to nominate and check out the Local Government Association of South Australia and the Electoral Commission of South Australia websites for more information. Remember – you must be 18 or older to nominate.
- Get clear on what you will bring to the role as an elected member, then take your campaign to your community. Good luck!

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education



Local Government Association of South Australia

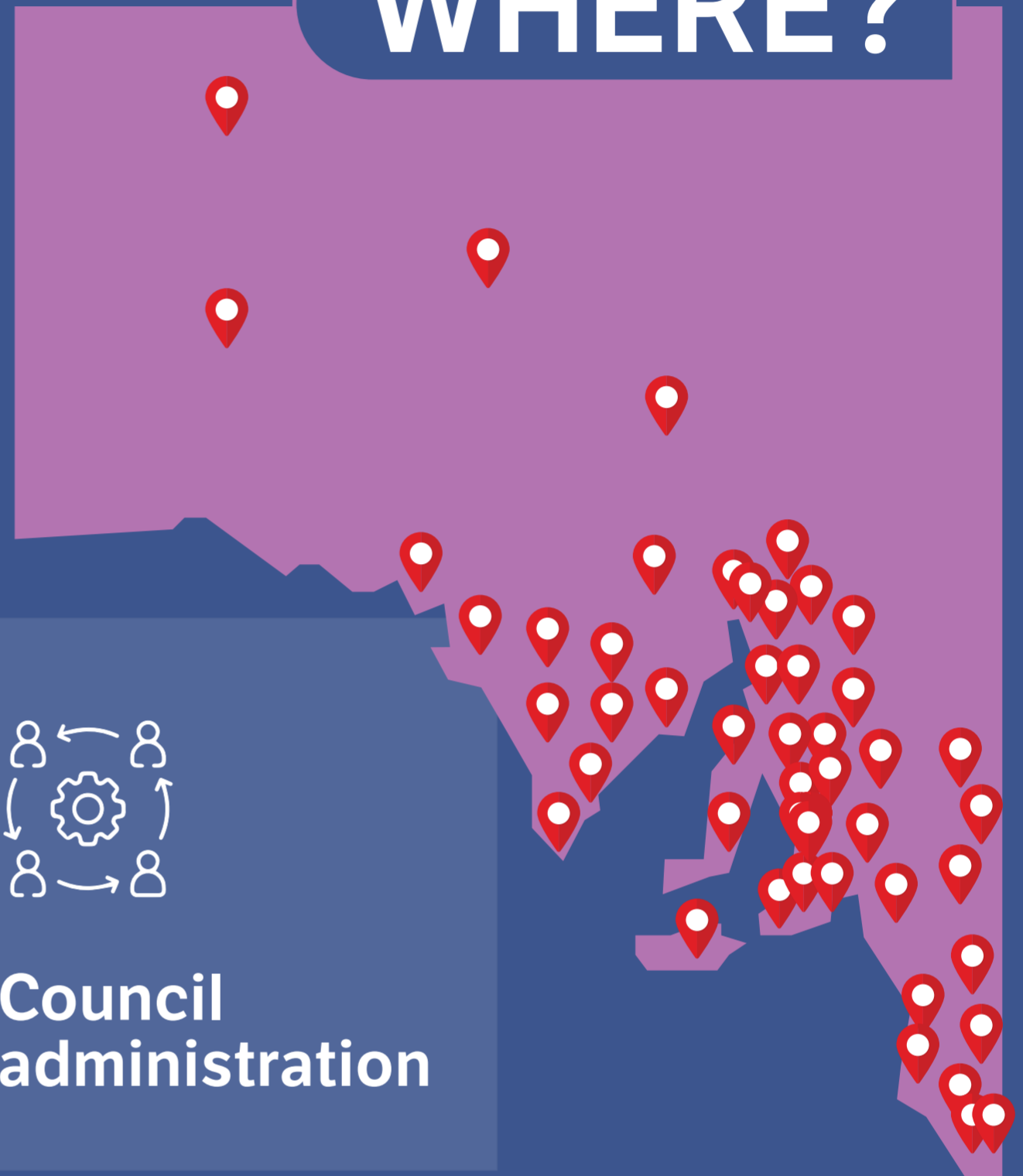




WHAT IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

There are 3 levels of government in Australia: **federal**, **state** and **local**. Local government is concerned with local matters.

WHERE?



WHO IS LOCAL GOVERNMENT?



Community members



Elected members



Council administration

WHAT DO THEY DO?

Local government deals with all the stuff in your community that you enjoy and makes your community, suburb, town, or city unique!

 ROADS	 RUBBISH	 SPORTS GROUNDS	 PARKS	 SWIMMING POOLS	 PET MANAGEMENT	 FOOTPATHS
 COMMUNITY CENTRES	 LIBRARIES	 PARKING	 STREETLIGHTS	 TOWN PLANNING	 LOCAL EVENTS	 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



THE FACES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:



THE MAYOR



- Elected by the community
- The mayor leads the council
- Chairs council meetings
- Represents the council to the broader community

COUNCILLORS



- Elected by the community
- Makes decisions in the best interests of the community
- Represents the community
- Participate in community activities

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- Appointed by the elected members
- Leads the administration
- Implements council decisions
- Responsible for the ongoing operation of council

EXECUTIVE STAFF

The Executive Staff manage a department, responsible for a specific function of the council. There are usually 5 departments, which are:

- Finance
- Infrastructure and Environment
- Community Services
- Planning and Compliance
- Corporate

STAFF

- All the people who work for the council and carry out the decisions made by the elected members



GOVERNANCE OFFICER

- The governance officer works closely with the elected members
- They arrange, record and distribute meeting agendas and minutes
- They support the mayor on the procedures and rules of the meetings

RETURNING OFFICER

- Responsible for the election of the mayor and councillors
- In South Australian local government elections, the returning officer is the Electoral Commission of South Australia
- Acts independently and impartially
- They prepare election materials, distribute ballot papers, count the votes and declare the successful candidates

COMMUNITY MEMBERS



- Community members are the people who live, work, study, participate and are involved in the council area.
- They are the real people in charge – because they get to elect the mayor and councillors, who represent them!