

# Thalassa Ward Councillor Report



August 2025

Prepared by Thalassa Ward Cr Marion Themeliotis. If you have any local issues, you would like me to follow up on or require any assistance with Council, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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## **Happy Valley Sports Park – Signage Update**

In response to community feedback, Council reviewed traffic signage at Happy Valley Sports Park earlier this year particularly around concerns about vehicles turning right from the oval area.

As a result, we'll be replacing the existing one-way sign at the culvert crossing with a larger, more visible version to help improve driver awareness and safety. Installation is set to be completed by 30 September 2025.

We'll monitor how effective the new signage is before deciding whether pavement arrow markings are needed. This step-by-step approach helps ensure the right solution without over-marking the area.

We appreciate your patience and will continue to monitor traffic behaviour at the site to keep everyone safe.

## **Have Your Say: Draft Economic Growth & Tourism Strategic Plan 2025–2030**

We are planning for a stronger local economy and a thriving visitor destination and we want to hear from you!

Engagement is now open until Tuesday 12 August on our draft Economic Growth & Tourism Strategic Plan 2025–30.

View the draft and share your feedback:

<http://yoursay.onkaparinga.sa.gov.au/economic-growth...>

This draft plan sets our direction for the next five years, focusing on:

- Supporting local business growth
- Attracting visitors and investment
- Creating vibrant, liveable destinations

	<p>👉 We're especially keen to hear from local businesses, community members, and stakeholders across the region. Your insights will help shape the final strategy before it's presented to Council for adoption.</p> <p>Please share through your networks every voice helps build a stronger Onkaparinga.</p>
<p><b>New Rules for E-Scooters and Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs) – Now in Effect</b> 🚲</p>	<p>Effective 13 July 2025, South Australia has introduced new statewide regulations for e-scooters and other personal mobility devices (PMDs) and they represent a major shift in how these devices can be used in public spaces.</p> <p>✓ Key Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riders aged 16+ can now legally use PMDs on footpaths, shared paths, bike lanes, and many local roads</li> <li>• Helmet use is mandatory, and riders must display a flashing light at night or in low light</li> <li>• Speed limits apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10km/h on footpaths and shared paths</li> <li>• 25km/h on roads ≤50km/h or bike lanes ≤60km/h</li> </ul> </li> <li>• No licence or registration required</li> </ul> <p>❗ Where PMDs are not allowed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas with 'no bicycle' or 'no wheeled recreational devices' signage</li> <li>• Public transport</li> </ul> <p>(Local councils may apply to restrict PMDs in specific areas if safety concerns are identified.)</p> <p>🚧 Council's Role:</p> <p>While SA Police will enforce the new laws, councils remain responsible for managing where PMDs and fleet-operated e-scooters can operate within their boundaries. Fleet e-scooter operators must now apply for permits to continue or expand services with councils setting clear conditions on where and how they operate.</p> <p>📝 What's next:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State Government will review the new laws within 12 months</li> <li>• The LGA will consult councils on the real-world impact especially around pedestrian safety</li> <li>• Our Council will stay engaged and keep you updated on any changes or local impacts</li> </ul> <p>🎥 Learn more and watch SA Police's explainer video: <a href="http://sa.gov.au">sa.gov.au</a></p> <p>📄 Read the full fact sheets and updates on PMDs and e-bikes via THINK! Road Safety As this space continues to evolve, Council will remain committed to designing and managing safe, inclusive, and future ready infrastructure for everyone.</p>
<p><b>Happy Valley Sports Park – Stormwater Update</b></p>	<p>Following concerns raised, Council's Civil Maintenance team met on site to assess drainage near the northern goal square.</p> <p>✓ On 3 July, we completed a clean and camera check of the stormwater infrastructure in the adjacent car park.</p>

- Silt and debris were removed
- No structural defects were identified

 A follow-up engineering assessment has found that while the current system is functioning, it does not meet our current service standards for storm events. The system includes a 600mm x 600mm grated pit connected to the creek via a 225mm pipe, with standard 100mm kerbing throughout the car park.

 **What's next?**

To improve performance during heavy rain, we're recommending:

- Installing additional stormwater pits
- Upgrading to a larger diameter pipe
- Considering an overflow route for extreme weather

These works have been entered into Council's Project and Capital Works Program, where they will be prioritised using our Resource Prioritisation Document (RPD). Given the risks identified, we expect this project to be rated as high priority for delivery within the next five years, subject to budget approval.

We thank the Happy Valley Football Club for their cooperation and look forward to delivering improved infrastructure for the community.

**Have you used  
Council's phone  
or online request  
system?**

10. Questions on notice

10.1 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – CR THEMELIOTIS – RESIDENT REQUESTS

*Resident Requests through Council's Request a Service Online Form, Mail@Onkaparinga, and Service Desk/phone requests.*

1. *How many resident requests has Council received so far this year?*

We have received 59,160 service requests as at 30 May 2025.

2. *Please provide a breakdown of requests received through the Request a Service online form, mail@onkaparinga.gov.au, and the service desk.*

The following table provides a breakdown of all customer requests received.

Request channel	Number of requests
Website	25,585
Phone	22,421
Email	5339
Internal	2145
Snap Send Solve	2044
Front counter	1442
Correspondence (letters)	88
Web chat	67
Social media	29

3. *How long does it typically take for a resident to receive a response, update, or resolution on their request?*

When submitting a request, customers can choose to receive updates via email or SMS. If they opt in, they will be notified when their request is received and once it has been finalised. Staff may also provide additional updates through these channels if required.

4. *How are residents communicated with regarding their request for service?*

Customers are communicated with through the channel they made the request through e.g. email or SMS. Some customers choose not to opt in to receive notifications.

5. *Are there instances where a resident has not received a response to their request?*

If a customer has opted out of receiving notifications, they will not receive any updates. For those who have chosen to receive notifications, system-generated alerts are sent when a request is received and when it is finalised. Due to the high volume of requests received by our teams, there may be instances where a resident does not receive a direct response, when the Customer Relations team are made aware, they will ensure a response or update is provided.

6. *How does Council track requests and ensure they are responded to or actioned?*

Council uses a centralised request management system to log, track, and monitor all incoming service requests. Each request is assigned to the relevant team based on the request type. Most request types have defined service levels for requests to be completed. For example: a damaged bin request has a two business day service level for the bin to be repaired.

## Advocating - Bus Stops

18 June 2025  
Our ref: 6734880/KS



The Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
South Australian Parliament  
[Minister.Koutsantonis@sa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Koutsantonis@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister Koutsantonis

The City of Onkaparinga continues to receive requests from the local community regarding the installation of new bus shelters across our region, and we have been strongly advocating for the Department to fund and deliver this infrastructure to improve accessibility and amenity of the public transport network. We previously wrote to you in 2022 regarding this issue and its importance is further highlighted through it being included this as an item in our Advocacy Plan 2025-26.

Historically, bus shelters were installed by councils in cooperation with the state government on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis, however this agreement was ceased in 2003 by the Public Transportation Board. Following the 2010 election, a Memorandum of Understanding between the state government and Local Government Association was signed, with the state government making funding available on an annual basis to metropolitan councils. This program ended in the 2013-14 financial year however and since then state government funding has not been provided for installation of bus shelter infrastructure.

We note that in 2024, the state government published the Active Travel Design Guide which broadly discusses a decrease in car reliance and integration of public transport infrastructure. In March 2025, South Australia's Transport Strategy was also released by the state government, with a focus on the provision of a public transport system which is safe, connected, accessible and improves community wellbeing.

We also note that the state government is currently completing community engagement on their Public Transport Strategy, which recognises the importance of the public transport network and suggests methods to improve the uptake of public transport in our community. We support the strategic direction of the state government and recognise that the installation of ancillary assets, such as bus shelters, would contribute to these strategic goals.

Though we continue to encourage an uptake in active travel within our community, our position is that bus shelters should be provided by the State Government through the South Australian Public Transport Authority of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, who operate the public transport service.

Following a Notice of Motion presented at the 20 May 2025 Council meeting ([Link to our Agenda and Minutes](#)), we are writing to seek your position and comment on the potential for the State Government to support the funding and delivery of additional, new bus shelters across our community. We would be pleased to work with the Department to identify priority sites for this initiative.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Moira Were'.

Moira Were AM  
Mayor

Copy to Elected Members

**Exciting Update  
BMX IS BACK with a  
State Series at  
Happy Valley  
Sports Park  
Confirmed!**

## **Exciting Update – State Series at Happy Valley Confirmed + More News!**

Hey Happy Valley BMX Club Members,

We're thrilled to share some exciting news!

The club has received official approval from the City of Onkaparinga to host a State Series Round at Happy Valley BMX Track on Saturday, 16 August! This will be a single-day event, as weekend availability around that date was limited due to other scheduled uses of the sports park. The round will be hosted as a joint-club event, and AusCycling is set to release registration details in the next 24–48 hours.

In more great news, the clubs have also received a permit to commence works on the track and surrounding areas. On Saturday 19 July, we visited the site to assess what needs to be done. While unforeseen access issues at the SW track prevented us from retrieving the compressor, we would not have been able to test the gate system due to electrical faults affecting the nomination hut and start hill. We're pleased to share that the electrical works have now been completed, thanks to the efforts of Scott Zetter and assistance from Matt Smyth. We plan to reschedule a test session in the coming days. A big thank you also to Dave Marsh for kicking off some early track repairs.

In terms of clubroom access, discussions are underway. The Onkaparinga City Concert Band, who now hold the lease on the building, have met with us to discuss our access needs. They are meeting again today (Sunday) and we expect to have more information on this in the coming week.

Additionally, the City of Onkaparinga's Public Engagement process closed on Thursday 17 July at 5pm. We're happy to report strong community support for our return to the Happy Valley track while repairs at the SW track are being resolved. This positive outcome means gates, coaching and racing will soon return to the Southern region, with a calendar of events to be released once final timings are confirmed with Council and the Band. We're also planning a working bee in the coming week to help get the venue ready for State Series and the return of regular activity.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank Cr Marion Themeliotis and Cr Geoff Eaton from the City of Onkaparinga for their strong advocacy and support in putting forward the necessary resolutions to Council to make all of this happen.

There's a lot to look forward to – an exciting time ahead for BMX in the South!

**What an incredible  
outcome for our  
community, 102  
Canberra Drive  
Aberfoyle Park -  
THANK YOU, Tim &  
Lisa!**

It has been an absolute privilege to stand beside my community throughout this journey. Your passion, commitment, and tireless advocacy have been nothing short of inspiring. From late night planning to heartfelt deputations, Tim and Lisa both showed what genuine community leadership looks like.

I was so moved by the result and yes, the tears were very real! 💔 It is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with a united voice and unwavering determination.

To everyone who spoke up, signed the petition, came to meetings, and shared your stories, thank you. This was a true community victory, and I feel incredibly honoured to have played a small part.

I can't wait to see what's next for our reserve. The vision you have for its future is already so powerful, and I look forward to supporting the next chapter.

With heartfelt thanks and admiration to my amazing community.

Cr Marion Themeliotis  
Thalassa Ward, Councillor



**Important Meeting  
at Minton Farm**

We had a key discussion with our LGA President, on our statewide approach to cat management. This is a big step forward bringing together councils, communities, and animal welfare organisations to create positive change for our environment and our furry friends.



<h3>Applying for a grant</h3>	<p>Thinking about applying for a grant?</p> <p>Not sure where to start? We've got you covered! 🌟</p> <p>💡 Check out our free resource: "Grant Writing Made Simple" – a step-by-step guide to help community groups, businesses, and not-for-profits navigate the funding landscape with confidence! 📝</p> <p>From planning your project ✓</p> <p>To applying for a grant ✓</p> <p>To celebrating your success ✓</p> <p>...it's all here.</p> <p>💡 Learn how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Align with funding priorities</li> <li>✓ Set SMARTA goals</li> <li>✓ Build strong partnerships</li> <li>✓ Avoid common mistakes</li> <li>✓ Submit with confidence</li> </ul> <p>📥 Download the guide now:</p> <p>👉 <a href="http://www.onkaparingacity.com/Grants">www.onkaparingacity.com/Grants</a></p> <p>Grants open 21 July 2025 – Let's make it happen!</p>
<h3>Southern Volunteering</h3>	<p>Southern Suburbs Sports Clubs, groups and associations – I am Talking to YOU!</p> <p>Are you looking for VOLUNTEERS to help your club thrive?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Groundskeeper</li> <li>◆ Treasurer</li> <li>◆ Secretary</li> <li>◆ Board Members</li> <li>◆ Bar Staff / Facility Volunteers</li> </ul> <p>Then Southern Volunteering SA Inc is here for YOU!</p> <p>Become a member – it's FREE!</p> <p>Link: <a href="https://svsa.org.au/i-need-volunteers/">https://svsa.org.au/i-need-volunteers/</a></p> <p>Southern Volunteering has already helped local clubs and groups fill vital positions and connect our clubs with the right volunteers.</p> <p>Get in touch today – and don't forget to mention Cr Marion Themeliotis sent you!</p>
<h3>Get up to date information on Facebook</h3>	 <div data-bbox="677 1636 1207 1710"> <p>Cr Marion Themeliotis - Thalassa Ward - City of Onkaparinga</p> <p>255 likes • 349 followers</p> <p><a href="#">Edit cover photo</a> <a href="#">Promote</a> <a href="#">Manage</a> <a href="#">Edit</a></p> </div> <p>Keep up to date with everything happening at Council, through my new Facebook page.</p> <p>You can follow the page here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077458014215">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077458014215</a></p>