

Submission	Subject	Comments Received	Received
1	Footpaths	in the past I and my wife (who passed away last year) have made verbal request to lord mayors about the need for a footpath in Stuart terrace I note that no recent plan have even mentioned any footpath projects let alone the state of footpaths that do exist. Although my wife confined to wheelchair for long walks was able to use her wheel chair i always had to attend because the unevenness of most existing paths let alone us having to share the road on Stuart terrace with quite busy vehicular traffic. At present my ability to walk long distance have also been affected and deciding to use a wheel chair to pick up my car from the crash repairers on the other side of town (St Andrews Terrace). What a saga where there were foot paths they were far from uniform . Sometimes good concrete often crusher fine in poor condition and weird sloping angles with very difficult egress and entry points (where they existed at all) with respect to angle and change in angle where the kerb met the road. My journey became a night mare and was cut short to a friendly lady who stopped and transported me the rest of the distance. I vowed not to repeat the experience. What i am trying to say is for the aged and infirm a thorough study should be made of the footpaths in town especially in the older side parts of town	28/05/2025 17:57
2	Footpaths	There should be more expenditure on footpath upgrades. \$215 000 for the whole city is not enough considering that many residential streets are still lacking a paved footpath. Third Avenue for example has no paved footpath. Kiama Avenue has no paved footpath between Sinclair Street and Elizabeth Street and it is safer to walk on the roadway along there rather than attempt to navigate the uneven surfaces on each side of the road. It's not as though these are new housing developments. The council has had over sixty years to get these footpaths properly surfaced. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg. There are lots more streets around town that are overdue to get a paved footpath at least on one side of the roadway if not both sides.	28/05/2025 18:11
3	Street Trees	I would like to see a considerable amount of expenditure dedicated annually to the progressive planting of new street trees throughout the city especially along the residential streets that are currently devoid of any trees on the footpaths. Street trees provide shade in summer and serve to cool down the neighbourhood during hot weather in addition to making the landscape more attractive to the eye. A lot of the residential streets in Port Lincoln are just plain ugly due to the absence of street trees. The same goes for most of the streets in the central business district - some more trees there would do a lot to make the CBD less ugly.	29/05/2025 16:15
4	Boundary Road Port Lincoln	This road was supposed to be in 2025 Budget - when will work commence?	1/06/2025 13:23
5	Waste Service Charges	See Attachment Doc 75964	26/05/2025 11:54

Mayor and Councillors
City of Port Lincoln SA 5606

26 May 2025

Via email : Subject - Waste Service Charge and Recycling Service Charge

Dear Mayor and Councillors

In May last year I wrote to Council staff about opting-out of the Waste Service Charge and Recycling Service Charge because waste and recycling services are not used at our property. I handle all wastes and recyclables myself as a demonstration of the capacity of a household to send zero waste to dump (commonly called "landfill") and also demonstrate how recyclables are best sorted at the source. Accordingly I proposed that the "service charges" (in 2023/2024 it was \$356.45) not be included in our 2024/2025 rates notice. I also said that those charges would be committed to "revegetation and biodiversity projects".

I miscalculated the result of my intentions.

The email response I received from the General Manager Corporate and Community was disappointing, as it mostly referred to Sec. 155 in the Local Government Act and the ability for Council to raise a service charge. The response also stated;

"As the waste and recycling service is provided at your property, the service is available for you to use.

In terms of the Act and Council Resolutions, this is the determining factor, and not whether a ratepayer chooses to use the service or not.

We are therefore unable to remove the charges as requested."

Sec 155 states that Council "**may** impose a service charge", not "must" or "shall". Council has an option that can be reinforced by a policy setting.

Furthermore, even though the service is "available to use", the question arises about whether that implies it **must** be used. By placing a charge on a property that appears to be at the discretion of Council (i.e. "may"), does that also imply a compulsion? I do not think so. And furthermore, this charge is counterproductive to Council's own *Waste Resources Management Strategy*.

I have chosen not to use the service, but I am penalised accordingly.

Given that you may now be in budget discussions, I request that consideration be given to the proposal outlined later in this letter.

Before I do so, I wish to advise that our rates (Residential + Fixed Charge) increased by nearly 16% from 2023/2024 to 2024/2025. I know that there was a change from Site Value to Capital Value, but an increase of that size is on the edge of unfairness. I chose not to object. But like Council, my household constantly strives to reduce costs and wastes, and waste minimisation practices and personal responsibility are part of our endeavours.

In September 2024 I contributed to the then *Draft Waste Resources Management Strategy 2025-2029*, together with the *Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-2034*. As one who has worked in local government for more than 10 years in two states, and has consulted in the waste management sector over a period of decades, I am always looking at solutions in waste minimisation that can be transferred to where it counts - at the household scale.

Thus in my contribution on the *Waste Resources Management Strategy* I offered a suite of actions that would have benefited the *Strategy*. One action was the Resin 8 process that I mentioned in a recent submission to you on the proposed Master Plan.

I also mentioned in my contribution how the *Eyre Peninsula Waste and Resources Strategy 2023-2033* contains a number of misalignments that have carried through to Council's own *Strategy*.

I was not successful in producing any change.

In August last year I conducted an “All about plastics” event at our household property as part of Eyre Bioregional Permaculture Group’s monthly events. This is the type of event that needs to be run periodically for the general community and the aspiration is for it to be conducted at the proposed Environment Centre. I demonstrated how to identify plastic types and methods of dealing with plastic wastes. We all know that plastic waste is an insidious local, national, and global problem.

The constantly overflowing household garbage bins I see on the streets of my neighbourhood every week prior to collection are a constant reminder that any education about waste minimisation is not working. No doubt it would be very exasperating for Council and staff, but the fact is that our household is subsidising this offensive behaviour. I informed Council staff last year that education and information are critical elements and I was concerned about the low funding allocation in the *Strategy*. I hope you will consider a significant increase of a budgetary allocation towards waste minimisation in your present budget deliberations.

Unfortunately, I have not discovered actions in Council’s *Waste Resources Management Strategy* Action Plan on waste minimisation at the household scale, including incentives for individuals and community groups, personal responsibility, and neighbourhood collective actions.

It is noted that approximately 1 tonne of waste is generated per person per year in Port Lincoln (ref. figures in the *Strategy*), of which about 0.8 tonnes/p/year are sent to “landfill”. Although our household property handles all wastes, by way of illustration, consider that at \$80.50 per tonne landfill charge, this implies that our household of two people is saving a Council cost of \$129 per year.

Now back to the service charge, which at our property is \$379 for 2024/2025. Our property is ostensibly being charged \$379 for Council to save \$129.

I am not seeking reimbursement of the charge but a **re-direction** by Council of that sum to environmental initiatives that support Council’s *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2025-2034*.

Would you please consider this important matter? Surely it can’t be too difficult.

If one household can beat the roadside garbage collection service, then surely there are many others. And Council should be encouraging that, not disincentivising it.

Re-directing the funds would not only align with Council’s Goal “Minimising waste” in the *Environmental Sustainability Strategy*, it would also be a community incentive that would be appropriate to be included in the *Waste Resources Management Strategy*.

I offer the following options for your consideration;

- contribute the funds to the proposed Eyre Peninsula Environment Centre for community education and demonstration purposes, and/or
- contribute the funds to native plant ecosystem revegetation and/or restoration work

I also urge Council to identify other households that undertake voluntary waste minimisation and personal recycling and that do not use the waste service, thereby allowing the pooling of the service charge for the common good.

Should you wish to discuss this request, I would be pleased to do so.

My final appeal is this - please do not believe that alternatives about water management do not exist or are too difficult. They do exist.

I await your reply and I wish Council all the best in its waste minimisation endeavours.

