CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS 2003 – JULY 2026

#	Date	Item Title	Confidential Order Details	Item being kept confidential - Agenda/ Attachment/ Minutes	Reason regarding retention or recommend-action to release	Resolution Regarding Action	Last Review Date	Next Review Date	Date Released	
299	1 December 2025	Confidential Item: Allocate 2026 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients	Section 90 (3) (o) Order 1. Pursuant to Section 90(3)(o) Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that all members of the public except the Chief Executive Officer; General Manager Strategy; General Manager Planning and Community Services; General Manager Infrastructure and Environment; General Manager Corporate Services; and the Minute Secretary be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 18.1 Allocate 2026 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients. The Council is satisfied that pursuant to Section 90(3)(o) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda item is information relating to proposed award recipients before the presentation of the awards. The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the disclosure of this information may compromise the Council's position if the identity of the recipients is revealed prior to the official presentation of the awards. 3. Section 91(7) Order Pursuant to Section 91(7) That having considered Agenda Item 18.1 Allocate 2026 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients, in confidence under 90(2) and 3(o) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act orders that the report and minutes be released with the award recipient names and description redacted to be retained in confidence until the announcement at the 2026 Awards Ceremony.	The report and minutes be released with the award recipient names and description redacted to be retained in confidence until the announcement at the 2026 Awards Ceremony.	The Council is satisfied that pursuant to Section 90(3)(o) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda item is information relating to proposed award recipients before the presentation of the awards. The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the disclosure of this information may compromise the Council's position if the identity of the recipients is revealed prior to the official presentation of the awards.	The report and minutes be released with the award recipient names and description redacted to be retained in confidence until the announcement at the 2026 Awards Ceremony.		Within 12 months	*Report and Minutes released on website 6 November 2026*	

RELEASED

18. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

18.1 REPORT TITLE: CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: ALLOCATE 2026 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

DATE OF MEETING: 1 DECEMBER 2025

FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/156026

Key Contact Rebecca Jeisman, Civic Governance Officer

Manager/Sponsor Sue Miller, Team Leader Risk and Governance

Executive Alison Hancock, General Manager Strategy

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Community Plan 2044:
The following objective from the Community Plan 2044 is relevant to this report: Objective 11 Volunteer Support and Recognition: deliver, facilitate and support a diversity of volunteering opportunities and celebrate our volunteers for their valuable contributions.

Annual Business Plan:
N/A

Purpose:
To present to Council for endorsement the recommendations of the Australia Day Assessment Panel for the 2026 Citizen of the Year Awards.

Summary – Key Issues:
1. The Citizen of the Year Awards is an annual recognition program facilitated by the Australia Day Council of SA and delivered by participating Local Government Authorities.
2. In August 2022, Council resolved to establish an Assessment Panel to make confidential recommendations to Council to determine the successful nominees for the Citizen of the Year Awards.
3. The Panel met on 25 November 2025 to assess the 23 nominations received and recommends four nominees be awarded a Citizen of the Year Awards and two be recognised as highly commended.

Recommendation:

Section 90 (3) (o) Order

1. **Pursuant to Section 90(3)(o)**

   Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that all members of the public except the Chief Executive Officer; General Manager Strategy; General Manager Planning and Community Services; General Manager Infrastructure and Environment; General Manager Corporate Services; and the Minute Secretary be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 18.1 Allocate 2026 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients.

   The Council is satisfied that pursuant to Section 90(3)(o) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda item is information relating to proposed award recipients before the presentation of the awards.

   The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the disclosure of this information may compromise the Council's position if the identity of the recipients is revealed prior to the official presentation of the awards.

2. **That Council endorses the recommendations of the Australia Day Assessment Panel and that the following nominees be awarded a 2026 Citizen of the Year Award or Highly Commended Award:**

Citizen of the Year	***Lyndall Schliebs*** *For outstanding and continued service to the community through volunteering.*
Highly Commended Citizen of the Year	***Brett Johns*** *For leadership and service to the sporting community through volunteering*
Young Citizen of the Year	***Jasmine Connellan*** *For leadership and advocacy in the care and preservation of wildlife and environment.*
Highly Commended Young Citizen of the Year	***Justin Hill*** *For leadership in youth development and activities.*
Award for Active Citizenship	***David Richardson*** *For dedication and leadership in and for the local community.*
Community Event of the Year	***Mount Barker Parkrun*** *For excellence in event delivery and sustained provision of community and well-being outcomes.*

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Section 91(7) Order

3. Pursuant to Section 91(7)

That having considered Agenda Item 18.1 Allocate 2026 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients, in confidence under 90(2) and 3(o) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act orders that the report and minutes be released with the award recipient names and description redacted to be retained in confidence until the announcement at the 2026 Awards Ceremony.

Background:

1. Council recognises that vibrant communities are driven by motivated, empowered residents. The Citizen of the Year Award program provides Council and community a mechanism to show its appreciation to residents and groups for their contribution to strengthen social capital.

2. The Citizen of the Year Awards are presented annually by the Australia Day Council of South Australia. Mount Barker District Council then facilitates local promotion, nomination assessment and selection as well as award presentations.

3. The purpose of the Citizen of the Year Awards are to celebrate and recognise the outstanding contribution made by individuals or groups to their local community.

4. Nominations are open all year round for submission to four award categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Award for Active Citizenship and Community Event of the Year.

5. At the Council Meeting on 1 August 2022, Council resolved to establish an Assessment Panel to make confidential recommendations to Council to determine the successful nominees for the Citizen of the Year Awards. The following positions were appointed to the Assessment Panel:
    a. The Mayor
    b. A Council Member chosen by the Mayor on a rotating basis; and
    c. The General Manager Planning and Community (or such employee delegated by the CEO).

Discussion:

6. The Australia Day Council of South Australia sets a state-wide campaign window from 1 October to 16 November 2025 for Councils to locally promote the 2026 Citizen of the Year Awards.

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7. Council's 2025 Citizen of the Year Awards communication plan used a range of platforms with the primary goal to motivate community members to complete a nomination by the deadline of 16 November 2025.

8. Council received a total of 23 nominations to the four categories of the 2025 Citizen of the Year Awards. The breakdown for each category was:
    a. Citizen of the Year – 9
    b. Young Citizen of the Year – 2
    c. Active Citizenship – 6
    d. Community Event of the Year – 6

9. The 2026 Awards Assessment Panel comprised of:
    a. Mayor David Leach
    b. Cr Janette Size
    c. Natalie Armstrong, General Manager Planning and Community

10. After the deadline for submissions, Council's Civic Governance Officer conducted a preliminary check to ensure the eligibility of the nominations. All 23 nominations were then individually and independently assessed by panel members against the criteria provided by the Australia Day Council of SA.

11. The Panel met on 25 November 2025 to consider the individual assessments and selected a nominee in each award category to present to Council as the successful recipient.

12. Awards will be presented during Council's Civic Citizenship and Award Ceremony held on 26 January 2026 where the Australia Day Family Fun Day hosted by Wallis at Auchendarroch House is scheduled to follow.

13. All nominees to the 2026 Citizen of the Year Awards will be formally invited to attend Council's civic ceremony.

14. Following the announcement, Award recipients will be promoted locally on Council's social platforms and media outlets invited to engage in their own coverage. Raising the profile of the recipients assists to build awareness of the Awards and calibre of nominations in pursuing years.

Community Engagement:

Informing only	Following the announcement at the 2026 Awards Ceremony, Citizen of the Year Award recipients will be listed on Council's website and social media platforms.

Policy:
Nil

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Long Term Financial Plan:
N/A

Budget:
Council's Australia Day Citizenship and Award Ceremony is budgeted for within Council's operational budgets.

Statutory/Legal:
Council has administered the Awards in accordance with the requirements outlined by the Australia Day Council of SA.
Council's participation in the Awards is at the discretion of the Mayor.

Staff Resource Requirements:
Council's facilitation of the awards and delivery of civic ceremonies are resourced within existing staff allocations.

Environmental:
N/A

Social:
The Citizen of the Year Award and civic ceremony have a positive impact on health, wellbeing and social inclusion for all people who live, work, study and socialise in our community.

Risk Assessment:
The Awards utilise Council's Australia Day civic ceremony event as the platform for the formal presentation to recipients. In recent years, communities across South Australia have expressed mixed support for Australia Day and associated celebrations. Promotion of the Australia Day event may give rise to some negative feedback conflicting with the purpose of the Awards. Promotion of the Awards and recipients will encourage minimising references to Australia Day and focus on 'Citizen of the Year' title, category and recipients.

Asset Management:
N/A

Conclusion:
The Assessment Panel have considered nominations for the 2026 Citizen of the Year Awards program against the Australia Day Council of SA's set criteria. The recommendation to award recipients is provided to Council for endorsement.

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Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council

Meeting Date	2 December 2024	CM Reference	DOC/24/167211
Title	Allocate 2025 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients		
Purpose	To present to Council for endorsement the recommendations of the Australia Day Assessment Panel for the 2025 Citizen of the Year Awards.		

Meeting Date	4 December 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/155619
Title	Allocate 2024 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients		
Purpose	To present to Council for endorsement the recommendations of the Australia Day Assessment Panel for the 2024 Citizen of the Year Awards.		

Meeting Date	12 December 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/154766
Title	Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award Nominations		
Purpose	To present to Council for endorsement the recommendations of the Australia Day Assessment Panel for the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards.		

Meeting Date	1 August 2022	CM Reference	DOC/22/90429
Title	Australia Day Awards Assessment Panel		
Purpose	To appoint positions to the Assessment Panel which will make confidential recommendations to Council to determine the successful nominees for the Citizen of the Year Awards.		

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18. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

18.1 REPORT TITLE: CONFIDENTIAL ITEM: ALLOCATE 2026 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS
DATE OF MEETING: 1 DECEMBER 2025
FILE NUMBER: DOC/25/156026

Moved Councillor Voogt that Council:

Section 90 (3) (o) Order

1. Pursuant to Section 90(3)(o)

Pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council orders that all members of the public except the Chief Executive Officer; General Manager Strategy; General Manager Planning and Community Services; General Manager Infrastructure and Environment; General Manager Corporate Services; and the Minute Secretary be excluded from attendance at the meeting for Agenda Item 18.1 Allocate 2026 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients.

The Council is satisfied that pursuant to Section 90(3)(o) of the Act, the information to be received, discussed or considered in relation to this Agenda item is information relating to proposed award recipients before the presentation of the awards.

The Council is satisfied that the principle that the meeting be conducted in a place open to the public has been outweighed in the circumstances because the disclosure of this information may compromise the Council's position if the identity of the recipients is revealed prior to the official presentation of the awards.

Seconded Councillor Jones CARRIED
OM20251201.32

Moved Councillor Westwood that Council

2. Endorses the recommendations of the Australia Day Assessment Panel and that the following nominees be awarded a 2026 Citizen of the Year Award or Highly Commended Award:

Citizen of the Year	***Lyndall Schliebs*** *For outstanding and continued service to the community through volunteering.*
Highly Commended Citizen of the Year	***Brett Johns*** *For leadership and service to the sporting community through volunteering*
Young Citizen of the Year	***Jasmine Connellan*** *For leadership and advocacy in the care and preservation of wildlife and environment.*

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Highly Commended Young Citizen of the Year	***Justin Hill*** *For leadership in youth development and activities.*
Award for Active Citizenship	***David Richardson*** *For dedication and leadership in and for the local community.*
Community Event of the Year	***Mount Barker Parkrun*** *For excellence in event delivery and sustained provision of community and well-being outcomes.*

Seconded Councillor Szilassy CARRIED
OM20251201.33

Moved Councillor Voogt that Council:

Section 91(7) Order

3. Pursuant to Section 91(7)

That having considered Agenda Item 18.1 Allocate 2026 Citizen of the Year Award Recipients, in confidence under 90(2) and 3(o) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Act orders that the report and minutes be released with the award recipient names and description redacted to be retained in confidence until the announcement at the 2026 Awards Ceremony.

Seconded Councillor Jones CARRIED
OM20251201.34

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