

# COMMUNITY SAFETY DISCUSSION PAPER 2019



# Acknowledgement of Country

City of Adelaide tampendi, ngadlu Kurna yertangga banbabanbalyarnendi (inbarendi). Kurna meyunna yaitya mattanya Womma Tarndanyako.

Parnako yaitya, parnuko tappa purruna, parnuko yerta ngadlu tampendi. Yellaka Kurna meyunna itto yaitya, tappa purruna, yerta kuma burro martendi, burro warriappendi, burro tangka martulyaiendi.

Kumarta yaitya miyurna iyangka yalaka ngadlu tampinhi.

City of Adelaide acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kurna people living today. And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.

You can also listen to this acknowledgement at:  
[cityofadelaide.com.au/your-community/culture-history/welcome-to-country](http://cityofadelaide.com.au/your-community/culture-history/welcome-to-country)





# Message of Introduction

The Safer City Policy 2013–2017 is due for review and this paper is the first step in its development. This discussion paper updates Council's Community Safety discussion paper of 2011, reviewing crime and community perceptions of safety data to identify opportunities and challenges.

Whilst Adelaide is already a safe place to live, work, and play, the Safer City Policy aims to increase perceptions of safety, work alongside our community and partners to reduce crime, and promote Adelaide as a safe and welcoming city for all.

Adelaide was recently ranked one of the world's top 10 'Most Friendly' and 'Most Liveable' Cities. The Global Liveability index, published annually by The Economist, ranks global Cities based on their stability, healthcare, culture, environment, education and infrastructure. Adelaide has been listed in the index's top 10 for seven consecutive years. Stability and safety were prominent factors, with Adelaide enjoying relatively low crime levels. Crime data from the Adelaide CBD and North Adelaide supports this, revealing a 50% decline in crime in the CBD since 2002 (2016, Justice Policy and Analytics Unit, Attorney General's Department).

In terms of social behaviour, the Adelaide community is considered to be polite. We line up in orderly queues at bus stops and conform to a series of unspoken community norms. This suggests a high standard of social amenity and normative standards. Community members will usually reinforce these standards if people do not comply. For example, it is not unusual for members of the public to advise smokers that they are smoking at a non-smoking area of a café.

Note: The Safer City policy 2017–23 will not address Homelessness<sup>1</sup>, Dry Areas; Environmental Health<sup>2</sup>, Climate Change, Emergency and Disaster Management or Road Safety. These areas will all be addressed by other policy or strategy areas of Council.

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<sup>1</sup> State Government Homelessness and Housing Strategy is currently being developed for completion in July 19.

<sup>2</sup> To be addressed by the Public Health Plan.



# What is safety? Unpacking the definitions

## Community safety definition

In the context of this Discussion Paper; safety is the ability to pursue domestic, social and economic life without fear or hindrance of crime or disorder. Building and maintaining community safety requires a whole of community approach with residents, visitors, businesses and all levels of government working together to support a safe and inclusive environment for all.

Our aspiration is for a well-designed City that meets the diverse needs of a growing number of residents and City users in ways that create strong and welcoming neighbourhoods and places. We will create public spaces and streets that are active, safe and well-designed and that provide direct pedestrian and cycling links to shops, public transport and open spaces. We aim to continue to build upon Adelaide's global reputation as a welcoming and dynamic City full of diverse and rich experiences.

## Working together

Community safety is a complex issue and no one agency is able to tackle this issue alone. Governments, communities and businesses at all levels need to be collaborative and actively engaged to create safe communities. Council collaborates with a wide range of stakeholders to implement strategies for improving safety in our City and community. The State Government has a strong role to play in relation to safety through its responsibility for law and order, public housing, health and public transport.

SA Police have a leading role in crime prevention, detection and perceptions of safety within the community. Council acts as a leader, advocate, facilitator, capacity builder, partner and promoter in addressing identified community safety challenges. Council utilises both situational and social crime prevention approaches to address community safety issues in the City and North Adelaide.

Council develops and implements a range of targeted community safety initiatives and supports with other stakeholders including SA Police and other agencies to achieve safer outcomes for the community. Community members are increasingly taking a more active role in community safety, including through identifying and leading community projects that increase perceptions of safety.





# Demographics

The City of Adelaide is home to 24,000 residents and 313,000 daily visitors. The City covers 16 square kilometres including a green belt of Park Lands. Both Council and the State Government are keen to increase residential growth further and have set targets of 28,000 by 2020 and 50,000 by 2040.

The City of Adelaide has a high international student population (27% of residents are in the 18–24 year old age group; and approximately 19% of our resident population are International students), contributing to the high proportion of residents that were born overseas (40.7%).

Over thirty percent of City residents speak a language other than English at home, with the most frequently spoken languages other than English being Mandarin and Cantonese.

The city population is heavily weighted toward younger residents with 18 to 34 year olds comprising more than 40% of the city population. There is a low proportion of children living in the city which is reflected in household composition. Single person households dominate (36% of households), 23% are couples without children households and around 12% are either couples with children (8%) or single parent families (4%).



# Data

## Perceptions of safety

Perceptions of safety or perceived safety refers to an individual's subjective level of comfort or safety and their perception of risk. The City of Adelaide undertakes regular City User Profile Surveys to help monitor the demographic, attitudinal and behavioural profile of City users. In each survey City users are asked questions regarding how safe or unsafe they feel in the City. In the 2018 survey, City users were asked about their perceptions of safety at different times of the day and night.

The overwhelming majority of (2000 surveyed) City users felt either very safe or quite safe during the daytime up to 8pm. Around one in four City users said that they didn't come into the City between 8pm to 1am while close to two-thirds didn't visit the City after 1am. Of those who came into the City between 8pm to 1am, three-quarters said that they felt 'quite safe' or 'very safe', slightly lower than reported in 2016. There has been little change in perceptions of safety for City users who come into the City after 1am, with over 70% feeling quite or very safe.

City visitors were less likely to use the City from 5pm onwards compared to other user groups while workers and students were more likely to do so and feel safer in the City later at night. Women were more likely to feel unsafe in the evenings and were also less inclined to come into the City later at night compared to men.

2018	During the day	5pm to 8pm	8pm and 1am	After 1am
Very safe – 2018	77%	41%	18%	9%
Quite safe – 2018	22%	46%	40%	17%
Quite unsafe – 2018	1%	5%	16%	7%
Very unsafe – 2018	0%	1%	3%	4%
I don't use the City at the time – 2018	0%	6%	24%	64%
Felt safe	99%	88%	76%	71%
Felt unsafe	1%	6%	24%	29%

2016	During the day	5pm to 8pm	8pm to 1am	After 1am
Very safe – 2016	75%	40%	15%	9%
Quite safe – 2016	24%	48%	46%	21%
Quite unsafe – 2016	1%	6%	13%	9%
Very unsafe – 2016	0%	0%	2%	3%
I don't use the City at the time – 2016	0%	7%	24%	58%
Felt safe	99%	88%	80%	72%
Felt unsafe	1%	6%	20%	28%

\*adjusted to exclude people who don't use the City at the time

\* percentages have been rounded and may not equal 100

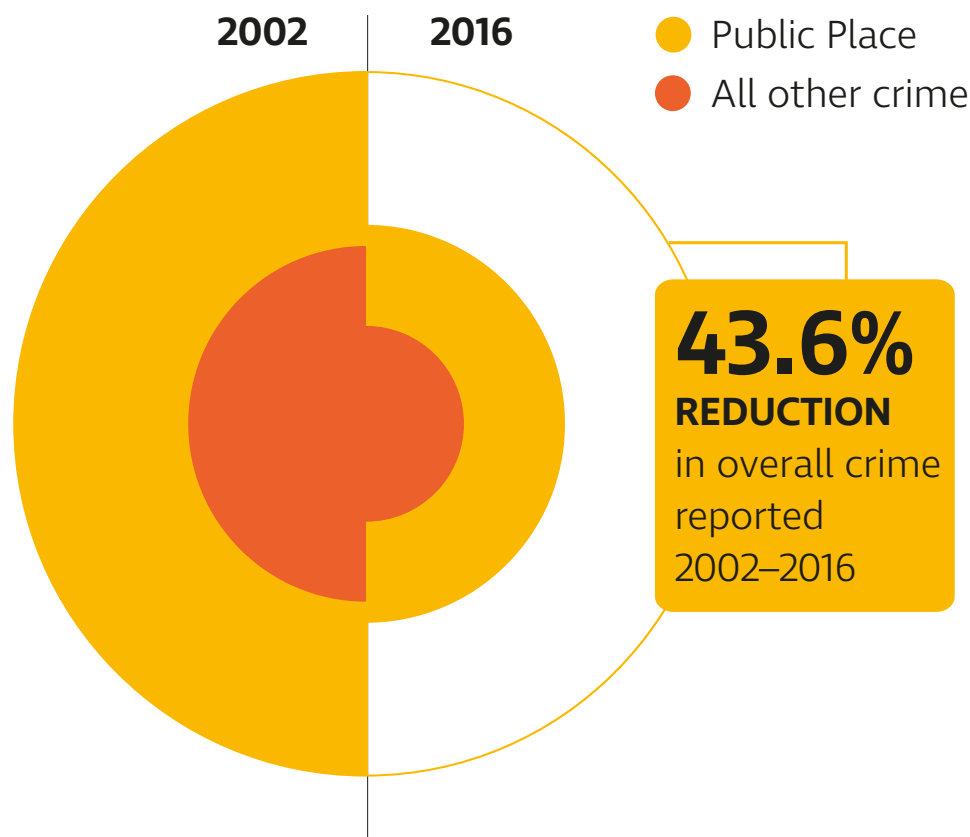
## Longitudinal crime data

Adelaide is a relatively safe City by both national and international standards. Council has access to an existing longitudinal data set 2002–2016 which is currently being replaced by the State Government. While somewhat out of date it provides useful location-based information about data trends.

Crime in Adelaide CBD has declined by 43.6% since its peak in 2002 (i.e. 17,831 in 2002 down to 10,049 total crimes in 2016).

For the purposes of this graph; a public place is any street, square or Park Land in the City. In 2002 there were 8,987 crimes in public space reducing to 4,715 crimes by 2016 (a 47.5% reduction). While a private place would be defined as a residential property or business including licensed premises.

Due to the use of alcohol, a large proportion of crime occurs in licensed premises. In 2002 there were 1,736 crimes reported in licenced premises, reducing to 1,070 crimes by 2016 (a 38.4% reduction).



## Current crime statistics

### Offences against the person (excl. sexual offences) recorded 2012/13 to 2017/18 in postcodes 5000 and 5006 by selected offence categories

Whilst the longitudinal data on the previous page helps us to understand the longer term public space versus other total crime trends the following statistics can help us to understand the shorter term trends.

Offence Level 1	Offence Levels 2 and 3							% difference	
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2012/13 to 2017/18	2016/17 to 2017/18
Offences Against the Person (excl. sexual offences)	<b>Homicide and related offences</b>	4	0	3	1	3	2	*	*
	Murder	2	0	2	0	1	0	*	*
	Other homicide and related offences	2	0	1	1	2	2	*	*
	<b>Acts intended to cause injury</b>	1,505	1,379	1,424	1,382	1,502	1,436	-4.6	-4.4
	Serious Assault resulting in injury	58	48	42	32	47	39	-32.8	-17.0
	Serious Assault not resulting in injury	385	429	401	412	432	453	17.7	4.9
	Common Assault	874	763	837	769	859	797	-8.8	-7.2
	Assault Police	151	111	114	128	144	111	-26.5	-22.9
	Other acts intended to cause injury	37	28	30	41	20	36	-2.7	80.0
	<b>Other offences against the person</b>	140	139	209	147	135	138	-1.4	2.2
	Abduction, harassment and other offences	62	59	83	74	59	60	-3.2	1.7
	Dangerous or negligent acts	9	11	21	13	14	24	*	*
	Threatening behaviour	69	69	105	60	62	54	-21.7	-12.9
	<b>Robbery and related offences</b>	107	90	63	68	65	58	-45.8	-10.8
	Aggravated robbery	75	53	42	39	45	29	-61.3	-35.6
	Non-aggravated robbery	26	32	13	21	18	22	*	*
	Blackmail and extortion	6	5	8	8	2	7	*	*
	<b>Total offences against the person (excl. sexual offences)</b>	1,756	1,608	1,699	1,598	1,705	1,634	-6.9	-4.2

\* % difference not calculated for offence categories where average count over the period is less than 25

This data is derived from publicly available SA Police crime statistics downloaded from [DataSA data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/crime-statistics](https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/crime-statistics). This dataset does not include the following offences: sexual, drug, driving, public order

(e.g. disorderly behaviour) and against justice procedures (e.g. breach of bail). The City of Adelaide's total crime picture over a six-year period (2012/13–2017/18) is showing a small reduction for offences against the person -6.9%; and -3.1% for

total offences against property. There were approximately 91 property offences and 31 offences against the person per week last year.



Offences against the person (excl. sexual offences) recorded 2012/13 to 2017/18 in postcodes 5000 and 5006 by selected offence categories

Offence Level 1	Offence Levels 2 and 3							% difference	
		2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2012/13 to 2017/18	2016/17 to 2017/18
Offences against property	<b>Serious criminal trespass</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>-19.0</b>	<b>-2.8</b>
	SCT – Non Residence	236	152	148	193	169	172	-27.1	1.8
	SCT – Residence	101	76	129	105	112	101	0.0	-9.8
	<b>Fraud deception and related offences</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>15.4</b>
	Obtain benefit by deception	255	258	286	223	257	289	13.3	12.5
	Other fraud, deception and related offences	33	47	53	48	49	64	93.9	30.6
	<b>Theft and related offences</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>2,816</b>	<b>2,742</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>3,134</b>	<b>3,226</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>
	Receive or handle proceeds of crime	223	221	204	226	214	249	11.7	16.4
	Theft from shop	796	759	725	904	935	909	14.2	-2.8
	Theft/Illegal Use of MV	139	105	109	87	112	101	-27.3	-9.8
	Theft from motor vehicle	306	284	268	275	262	282	-7.8	7.6
	Other theft	1,724	1,447	1,436	1,668	1,611	1,685	-2.3	4.6
	<b>Property damage and environmental</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>-17.6</b>	<b>-4.3</b>
	Property damage by fire or explosion	45	35	24	20	31	18	-60.0	-41.9
	Other property damage and environmental	886	779	716	682	776	767	-13.4	-1.2
	Graffiti	137	130	123	102	113	95	-30.7	-15.9
	<b>Total offences against property</b>	<b>4,881</b>	<b>4,293</b>	<b>4,221</b>	<b>4,533</b>	<b>4,641</b>	<b>4,732</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>

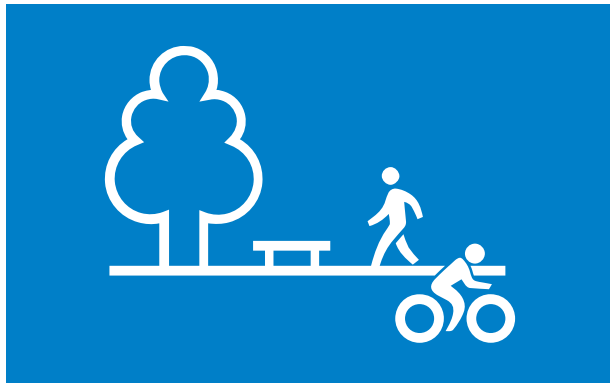
SCT or Serious Criminal Trespass is break and enter non- residence (i.e. business or shop) or SCT residence is break and enter homes. Residential break ins have remained static at 101 or 1.9 break in per week across Adelaide and North Adelaide.

Break in shop is a little higher at 172 or 3 per week. Receive stolen goods is higher at 5 incidents per week. Theft from shop is higher at 17.5 incidents per week.

Theft of (-27.3%) and from (-7.8%) motor vehicles has gone down over the past six years. Graffiti has also shown a significant decrease (-30%); probably due to Council's rapid response to such matters.

# A New Policy; what do we hope this Policy will achieve?

Three potential outcome statements have been developed to guide our approach to Community Safety in the City. These initial discussions will be tested with Council and then further community conversations will set the intention for the next iteration of Community Safety planning and policy development.



## Safe streets, spaces and places

Spaces are welcoming, safe and attractive for people to live, work, recreate and visit. City streets and spaces are well lit and attractive. They feel and are safer. There is improved pedestrian and cyclist safety and a varied night life is reducing alcohol related anti-social behaviour.



## Strong and welcoming communities

The City of Adelaide and its community including residents, government, businesses, and key organisations actively support the safety and wellbeing for their community. Diversity is both valued and celebrated. Community led capacity building is integral to our collaborative approach which increases perceptions of safety while building community connection and resilience.



## A world-renowned safe destination

Adelaide is known globally as a safe City and all visitors including tourists, and students feel welcome. People are free to work, play, live and recreate without fear or danger of hindrance.

# Safe streets, spaces and places

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## Possible elements:

1. Increasing perceptions of safety of City streets and spaces (ensure footpaths are well lit for pedestrian safety)
2. Activation of spaces
3. Safety infrastructure (CCTV, Managed Taxi Ranks, safer waiting meeting spaces, bollards, public and pedestrian lighting supported by tree trimming to increase light spill)
4. Safety in City and North Adelaide streets and in the Park Lands (Safety Audits and assessments, CPTED advice)
5. Reducing opportunities for crime to occur (not responding to crime; which is SAPOL business)
6. Influencing the design of buildings and spaces to enhance safety
7. Pedestrian and cyclist safety.

## Case Study: (2017/18) Market to Riverbank link

This diverse laneway experience complements the civic importance of the Riverbank and cultural institutions, and the Market District and allows people to meander through the network of small streets and laneways (Bank St, Leigh St, Topham Mall, Bentham St and Pitt St) highlighting the recent resurgence of interest and dramatic increase in small venues in this precinct.

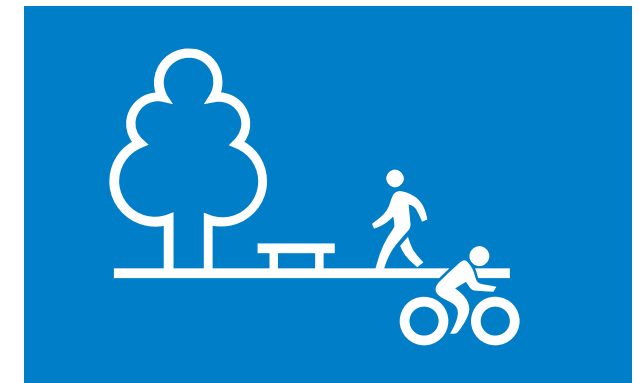
More than 15,000 tourists and locals walk or ride through this link on a daily basis enjoying paved footpaths, a street tree canopy, public art, lighting and street furniture. The design focusses on encouraging people to meet and gather through the provision of informal and formal seating with clear sight lines through the space. The application of comfortable and creative lighting and artwork was used to attract people to spaces and has created greater passive surveillance.

The upgrade of the spaces has also created a sense of ownership from the surrounding businesses that maintain areas adjacent to the space. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design or CPTED is used by Council as a guiding principle in its urban design work, visit [cityofadelaide.com.au/CPTED](http://cityofadelaide.com.au/CPTED)

Designers and Planners use CPTED to guide decision making around suitable designs within

specific community spaces and places to increase perceptions of safety. Public art and creative lighting for example are often used to attract moderating influences into spaces to influence more positive behaviours. CPTED is also considered in the design process to ensure that there is more chance for potential offenders to be seen, monitored or challenged by attracting more activation and greater natural surveillance.

CPTED has a major influence on crime prevention policy and practice in Australia and in other parts of the world. By reducing the potential rewards and opportunities for criminal activity and requiring more effort to commit a crime the likelihood that the area attracts crime is greatly reduced.





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## Possible elements:

1. Harm minimisation strategies (around mass gathering, resilience building and alcohol management)
2. Positive partnerships with key stakeholders and the community
3. Community led safety initiatives
4. Enhancing perceptions of safety for residents and city users
5. Culturally safe and welcoming spaces and events
6. Creative and vibrant night life to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour
7. Positive ambassadors – including Encounter Youth Hindley Street Program (Green Team).

## Case Study: Old Treasury Lane (2018/19):

Council is working in collaboration with residents of a housing estate in Old Treasury Lane, Housing SA and SA Police to address community identified issues in the housing estate. Twenty-eight residents and ten staff (from City of Adelaide, Housing SA and SAPOL) attended a BBQ in December 2018.

People talked to each other and staff from each agency in a very positive manner and participated in a discussion focussed around prioritising their safety concerns and more importantly, what role they could play in addressing them. The top four responses were identified as inappropriate carpark use, a gardening project, addressing estate squatter issues and identifying a community representative to liaise with external agencies and residents.

Residents are now working together and with relevant agencies to address them. Two residents received Community Spirit awards from Cllr Robert Simms recognising their long-term hard work for their community. The latest newsletter from the nearby Box Factory Community Centre was distributed to encourage residents to use the centre and participate in activities.



# A world-renowned safe destination

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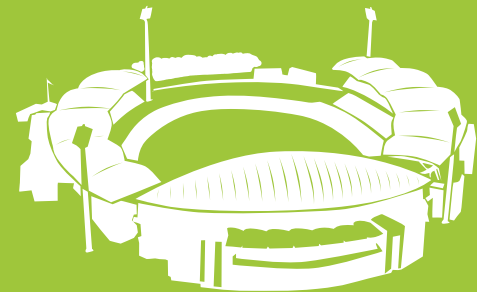
## Possible elements:

1. Ensure visitors feel safe and welcome in Adelaide
2. Promote Adelaide's safety world wide
3. Wellbeing and Resilience programs to support International Students
4. Visitor experience volunteers provide information to support safety and connection with the City
5. On street programs (e.g. Splash) and Park Lands Events activate City spaces and Park Lands areas at all times of the day and night
6. Safety for City users is a consideration of all major projects
7. Resilience building coupled with appropriate use of defensive infrastructure reduces the risk of terrorism to the public.

## Case study: Creatively wrapped bollard project – Adelaide Oval

Adding its own colour to the cityscape is 'Creatively Wrapped' – a 2017/18 community-led public art project which resulted in 22 temporary safety bollards being decorated in unique art designs. It was the idea of local artist Frances Lewis who saw public art as a way for the community to collaborate creatively and bring a lighter feel to places where these important pieces of City safety infrastructure had been installed. Community members were invited to attend workshops to help create the initial design concepts.

"Most came along to try their hand at creating designs and meet people, with a few – including new arrivals from overseas – looking to practice their English in a friendly relaxed setting," said Frances. "Between us, lots of ideas were discussed around themes of appreciation for nature, love for family, community, multiculturalism and peace." From their designs, Frances created six final designs, with four covering the bollards in front of Bailletti Sports in Grote Street and four applied to the temporary 22 blue bollards at Adelaide Oval.



# Policy Principles

## The way we will work:

### Inclusive

All people feel comfortable and welcome in public space.

### Respectful

All community members have the right to feel safe and respected for who they are.

### Shared responsibility

Working with the community encouraging residents, business, Government and key organisations to take action to support safety and wellbeing for their customers and the community.

### Harm-minimisation

Harm minimisation acknowledges that some people in societies will use alcohol to excess or other drugs and therefore incorporates practices which aim to prevent or reduce related harms.

This approach supports vibrancy and activity while reducing risks to the public. It acknowledges that all members of the community have the right to walk safely and easily within the City, feeling welcome, safe and free from harassment.

## Process

**2017**

Safer City Policy due for review

**December 2018**

Form internal strategic reference group  
Define safety and identify policy level themes

**January 2019**

Develop Discussion Paper  
Draft Committee Report

**April 2019**

Community consultation

**March 2019**

Engage key stakeholders on Draft Policy and Action Plan  
Safety Audits

**19 February 2019**

Committee Report with Discussion Paper

**May 2019**

Refine Draft Policy and Action Plan

**4 June 2019**

Committee Report on Draft Policy and Action Plan

**11 June 2019**

Policy and Action Plan to Council for endorsement



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover: (top) Rundle Mall Camera.  
(middle) North Terrace Precinct.  
(bottom) Whitmore Square couple.

Page 1: Elizabeth Close & James Cochran, *Portrait of Steve Goldsmith*, 2018. Wright Street, Adelaide.  
Image courtesy the Artists, and Goldsmith Family.

Page 2: Rundle Mall Shoppers.

Page 3: Community volunteers building a BMX track.

Page 4: Historian Hotel.

Page 11: Community meeting.

Page 12: Decorated bollards by artist Frances Lewis.

Page 14: Peel Street night life.



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