



Progress Report

Delivering your Annual Business Plan 2025/26

Quarters 1 & 2



**Renmark
Paringa
Council**

Love where you live



Acknowledgement of Country

Renmark Paringa Council acknowledges the First Peoples of the Murray and Mallee region as the traditional custodians of the Renmark Paringa area, and acknowledges their cultural and spiritual connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Image: Artist Shila Giles, located at the Bookmark Creek Inlet Regulator

From the Chief Executive Officer

I am pleased to present the Renmark Paringa Council Progress Report for Quarters 1 and 2, 2025-26.

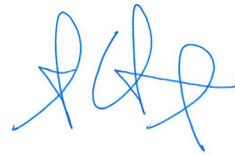
This is the first report of its kind for Council, and it builds on our ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability embedded in our Annual Business Plan.

The report summarises our performance over the past six months and tracks our progress in delivering the services and priorities we set for the year.

It provides an overview of our core functions, services, capital projects and key initiatives, highlighting achievements and noting any significant matters during the quarter.

It will help showcase the vast range of services our Council provides for the community, and illustrates the many ways we ensure Renmark Paringa is a place where we can love where they live.

It is one of the ways we are improving how we share performance information with Elected Members and our community. I trust you will find the content valuable and informative.



Tony Siviour

Chief Executive Officer



What is the Progress Report?

A Progress Report is a way for us to keep the community updated on how we're going delivering the services and projects we've committed to in the *2025/26 Annual Business Plan*. It's snapshot of what we've achieved so far, what's still in progress, and how all of this is helping us move toward the bigger goals identified in our Strategic Plans.

Community Vision

We strive to protect and enhance our region as it is a unique place, underpinned by a rich heritage and enviable river lifestyle.

We are proud to share and nurture this natural beauty, welcome visitors and drive growth and investment to sustain our vibrant community long into the future.

We lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives, with a commitment to support and respect each other and our environment. Together, we're building a brighter future.

Community Aspirations

Our community vision for Renmark Paringa is to leverage our unique attributes and address our challenges, supported by these four aspirations as identified in our *2024 - 2034 Community Plan*:



Liveable

A safe and welcoming place to live and enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle.



Leadership

A Council that is a trusted partner that delivers what it promises in an efficient and effective way.



Prosperous

A place that attracts, retains and supports talented people, underpinned by diverse regional industry, tourism and access to infrastructure and housing.



Environment

A place that is resilient to the effects of extreme weather, protects its river and flood plains, is green and limits its impact on the natural environment.

Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS)



Progress July - December 2025

437

septic tanks desludged

164ML

of treated wastewater
used to irrigate open
space and gardens

Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS)

Senior CWMS Operator Greg Haynes was recently nominated for the Water Industry Operations Association of Australia - Operator of the Year Award, a prestigious honour recognising operators responsible for water, sewer, or recycled water systems, as well as treatment plants.

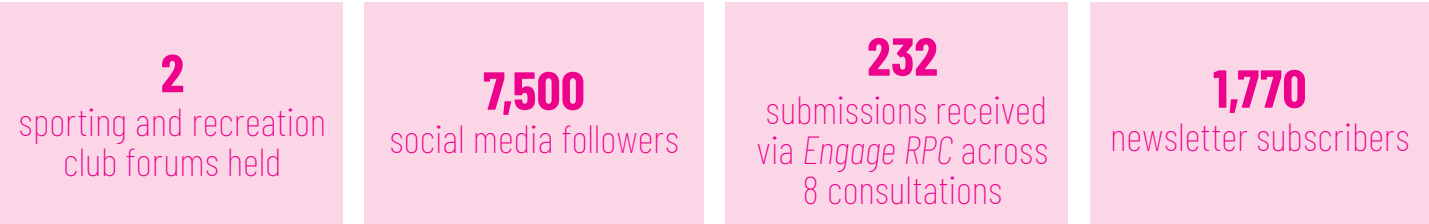
Nominations are submitted annually by water authorities and companies, with the award celebrating those who demonstrate exceptional performance, initiative, and attention to detail in their roles. This year, Greg was short-listed as one of the top three operators nominated for South Australia, a great achievement.



Community Services



Progress July - December 2025



Cemetery Services

Council's [Renmark Cemetery History Trail](#) booklet was updated ahead of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Association of South Australia (CCASA) forum held in Renmark in October 2025.

Community Development

Consultations	Contributions
Jane Eliza Development	20
Jarrett Memorial Gardens Playground Renewal	53
Alan Coulter Recreation Centre	82
Riverland Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP)	52
Council Facilities Review	15
2025/26 Renmark Paringa Council Annual Plans	6
By-Laws	0

Council's Community Development team led the Jane Eliza Development hydrology communications, producing clear FAQs, maps and diagrams, and coordinating media and stakeholder messaging.

Initial consultations were held to shape the Riverland Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP). Two workshops were held in Renmark with strong attendance.

Council supported the advancement of the Preventive Health project, including a local needs analysis and stakeholder interviews to shape priority actions.

Through the Riverland's Connected and Active Communities (CAC) Officer, we delivered the Riverland Recreation, Sport & Leisure Expo, supporting participation, club visibility and inclusive community activity.





Progress July - December 2025

19,607
library visits

1,802
attendees at school
holiday events

37,833
physical and
digital loans

2,000
people attended
October Riverfront
Markets

Library Services

In August, the library celebrated Book Week 2025 with an under the sea theme to promote this year's theme 'Book an Adventure'. Throughout the week, 515 children from 26 classes across four local primary schools visited the library.

The October Library School Holiday Program saw a record number of bookings and attendance. Over 1000 bookings were received and all 19 programs booked to capacity and waitlisted.

Members of the Libraries Board, including the Director of the State Library, Director of Public Library Services, Manager of Public Library Technology Systems and representatives from LGA visited the library in October and met with the Mayor, CEO, elected members and library staff for the SA Regional Libraries Board Tour. It was a rare and wonderful opportunity to discuss regional library operations and raise challenges and highlights regarding the library service with key stakeholders.

One of Australia's most loved historical fiction authors, Darry Fraser, visited the library in December to present a free event to avid readers in the community about her latest historical novel *The Adventuress of Albany*.

Events

The Events Team delivered the October Riverfront Markets over the long weekend with 2,000 people in attendance. Two events were also delivered as part of the Christmas on the Murray Festival; *Sandscapes* and a *Sip Taste and Shop Night*.

Featuring a customised hand sculptured mural and a range of fun sand activities, *Sandscapes* was held at the Taylor Riverfront Precinct attracting over 1,000 attendees on what was a very hot day. The event concept shows opportunity for growth and development.

Non-cash funding support totalling \$11,771.50 was approved for eight events through the Event Sponsorship Program.



Economic Development



Progress July - December 2025

20,802

visitors through the
visitor centre

1,429

RV park bookings

\$91,651

visitor centre
retail sales

5

stakeholders supported
to invest in the district

Jane Eliza Development

As part of Council's ongoing advocacy of the Jane Eliza Development, Council staff engaged with 14 community groups, schools, businesses and sporting clubs, reaching approximately 300 community members. This face-to-face engagement approach was identified as an effective method to build community trust and deliver information directly to community members and stakeholders about the development and broader growth across the Renmark Paringa district. The engagement generated positive feedback and reinforced the development's importance as a driver of economic growth, supporting investment, employment and long-term sustainability in the region.

Dry dock open for houseboat maintenance

Council has worked with private industry to support the opening of the Renmark dry dock for the service and maintenance of houseboats. The Riverland houseboat community now have access to critical maintenance services which are managed by Smooth Flow Group.

Tourism and visitor services

With three states on school holidays concurrently, as well as several events and visiting groups coming through the region saw an increase of 12%, or 548 people, visit the Renmark Visitor Centre in October, making it the busiest October since 2018!

Council's RV Parks have also seen increased demand with an additional 203 nights booked at the sites from July to December, resulting in a 9% increase in occupancy.

Tourism and events staff continue to work collaboratively with Destination Riverland on key tourism items. In 2026, visitor centre staff will be key contributors to the development of a *Destination Management Plan* for the Riverland region.





Progress July - December 2025



Waste Transfer Station

Renmark's Waste Transfer Station (WTS) serviced 1,673 customers for the reporting period. More than 55% of customers are using the WTS to dispose of waste streams other than landfill.

Item	Q1	Q2
Mixed (landfill)	41.3%	44.85%
Garden organics	26.29%	21.34%
Scrap metal	14.89%	16.13%
E-waste	4.85%	8.13%
Concrete	5.07%	3.68%
Mattresses	3.16%	3.81%
Clean fill	2.48%	0.88%
Tyres	1.01%	0.63%
Waste oil	0.9%	0.5%

Riverland waste communications campaign

The Murraylands Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) together with the G3 Councils have been collaborating on the development of a communications plan, with the purpose of addressing key findings from the kerbside waste audit completed in 2025.

The major focus for this campaign will be educating the community about changes to the kerbside green waste stream, specifically emphasising that food waste can be placed in the green lid bin. This will be delivered within the framework of the State Government's "Which Bin" campaign.





Progress July - December 2025

36,247

attendances at
the ACRC*

326

current enrolments
in the Swim School

427

ACRC Health Club
members

**Attendances are sourced from the Links computer systems and include all center memberships, 24/7 access swim school classes, sport games/ trainings, hydrotherapy and services sold.*

Belgravia announced as facilities manager

Council finalised a new Management Agreement with Belgravia Leisure for the operation of Council's aquatic and recreation facilities. Council recognises that these facilities are highly valued by our community and play an important role in health, wellbeing and social connection. Concerns had been raised regarding aspects of the working relationship between Council and the operator. The renewed agreement reflects a constructive reset, with a shared commitment to improved communication, clearer performance expectations and greater transparency. The agreement strengthens reporting requirements, clarifies financial and asset responsibilities, and provides a more defined performance framework.

Custom's House Boat Ramp delivered

The Custom's House Boat Ramp has been successfully upgraded through the Department of Environment and Water's Sustaining Riverland Environments Program at no cost to ratepayers.

The new facility features a two metre wide floating pontoon structure together with a widened ramp to support greater accessibility. The carpark was also resealed with extended overflow parking to support the ramp's use during peak times.

This project outlines the commitment from Council to provide high quality recreational facilities that link our community to the natural environment.

Tree planting

All work for Year 2 of the annual tree planting program, in accordance with the *Greening Renmark Paringa Plan*, has been completed. Plantings included 20 *Eucalyptus Torquata* along Twentieth Street between Renmark Avenue and Korinthos Street and 25 *Callistemon* (Kings Park Special- Bottlebrush) along Hopkins Street, Renmark between Nineteenth and Twentieth Streets.



Regulatory Services



Progress July - December 2025

11
dogs rehomed

86
land divisions approved
(additional residential
allotments)

98
development
applications lodged
(dwellings, structures
and improvements)

19
land divisions
approved
(additional rural allotments)

Development and Compliance

To support the leadership aspiration identified in Council's 2024–2034 Community Plan *to be a trusted, efficient and effective organisation*, Council's Regulatory Team has implemented a fully electronic system for issuing expiation notices, including bulk unregistered dog expiations.

This new process enables expiations to be issued within a single day, delivering significant time and resource savings, reducing administrative costs, improving accuracy and consistency, and strengthening compliance with regulatory timeframes and obligations.

Rabbit and fox control

A rabbit baiting program was undertaken at Paringa Football Oval in partnership with the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board. Pindone baits were used with warning signage installed at all entrances. Pet owners were advised of potential risks to dogs and cats, and were encouraged to keep pets away from the oval during the baiting period. Council continues to ensure its ovals and open spaces are maintained at a high standard for safe and ongoing community use.

Council has continued regular inspections at the Renmark Cemetery after identified fox activity in spring. The site remains safe to visit, and Council staff are monitoring and managing the issue with control measures put in place. Council continues to work with the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and neighbouring landholders to address fox numbers in the area.



Progress July - December 2025

17km

road shoulder
maintenance completed

83m

of kerb and
watertable replaced

51m²

of footpath repairs
completed

687 m²

bitumen patch repairs

795

bitumen potholes
repaired

4,791 lm

bitumen edge
break repairs

Establishment of a water and fuel reloading base in Renmark

Working in partnership with the CFS, Council has established a dedicated water and fuel reloading base at the Renmark Airport.

During Fire Danger Season, the CFS activates an Air Operations section to support fire suppression efforts. This includes aerial firefighting (firebombing), transporting crews and equipment, and conducting aerial surveillance.

The new reloading base is designed to enhance these operations by providing a strategic location for water and fuel resupply. The base comprises of two 22,500L poly tanks, with an infeed line to replenish water as required and one 20ft shipping container for CFS fire suppressant chemical and equipment storage

This facility will significantly improve CFS response times during fire emergencies. Depending on the scenario, water bombers, being either fixed-wing aircraft or Black Hawk helicopters, can be quickly deployed to affected areas across the Riverland region.

Previously, the nearest dedicated reloading bases were located in Lameroo and Murray Bridge.

Road maintenance

The Depot Team have completed 17 km of shoulder work on Lindsay Point Road. Excessive shoulder soil has also been cleared on Twentythird Street, Renmark to maintain safe road conditions and protect road pavements.





Progress July - December 2025

1,075

customer action
requests lodged

4,125

phone calls received
at the Civic Centre

4

new citizens welcomed

23.5%

of ratepayers paid in
full to 31/12/2025

Roll out of *RPC HQ*

A new internal staff communications platform, *RPC HQ*, was rolled out. The system provides a central source for organisational updates and information, supporting staff to stay connected and informed across all work locations.

Renmark Paringa Council participates in financial sustainability program

Renmark Paringa Council was selected by the Local Government Association of South Australia to take part in the Pilot Program of the LGA Financial Sustainability Pilot Program. Council undertook two separate reviews into the application of Fees and Charges, and the Staffing and Service Capacity of Council. This program concluded in November with a series of recommendations, reviews, reports and policy amendments presented to Council.

Some key highlights of this review were the drafting of Fees and Charges and Waiver Policies to establish a clear framework around the setting of fees and charges and a review of control structures around managerial reporting.

The report revealed that Renmark Paringa Council undertakes 310 different services, 70 of which are legislated (eg. rates, animal management), 179 are primary discretionary (eg. cemeteries, recreation) and 61 are secondary discretionary (eg. events, grant funding).

ICT disaster recovery resilience and capability enhancement

Council's disaster recovery technology has been reviewed and processes are in place to improve organisational resilience. The enhancements provide increased protection against data loss, reduced risk to critical business information, and faster system recovery in the event of a disruption, supporting business continuity and minimising operational downtime.



Services Operating Expenditure

Function	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Variations*	YTD Expense	% Expended
Community Wastewater Management System	\$2,276,457	\$2,357,381	\$80,924	\$1,470,301	62%
Community Services	\$1,539,709	\$1,552,070	\$12,361	\$606,561	39%
Culture	\$1,012,374	\$1,020,953	\$8,579	\$502,848	49%
Economic Development	\$960,302	\$1,060,415	\$100,113	\$547,132	52%
Environment	\$4,253,697	\$4,179,057	-\$74,640	\$1,852,419	44%
Recreation	\$3,902,544	\$3,919,829	\$17,285	\$1,915,936	49%
Regulatory Services	\$1,118,549	\$1,137,378	\$18,829	\$484,813	43%
Transport	\$4,989,629	\$4,928,243	-\$61,386	\$2,429,499	49%
Council Administration	\$1,433,014	\$1,445,375	\$12,361	\$633,645	44%

*Budget variations are as result of approved and pending Q1 and Q2 budget reviews.

Key Initiatives and Capital Projects



On Pause



Yet to commence



In progress



Complete

Function/ Service	Key Initiative/ Capital Project					Status	% Complete	Comments
Community Wastewater Management System								
Community Wastewater Management System	Undertake renewal of common effluent drains in accordance with the IAMP.			✓			15%	Preparing tender documents due to be released for tender by 23 January 2026.
	Continue planning for the replacement of the Patey Drive Pump Station.			✓			15%	Commence asset ownership negotiations with current land owners.
Community Services								
Cemetery Services	*Cemetery Expansion – Niche Wall Addition				✓		25%	Materials have been procured and contractors have been engaged for installation. Works due to commence early April 2026.
Community Development	Update the Renmark Paringa Council website to be more user-friendly and accessible for our ratepayers and community members	✓			✓		50%	Ongoing review of all pages on current site has commenced.
	Disability Access and Inclusion Review - Participate in the State Government Disability Access and Inclusion Review to ensure our community infrastructure and services are inclusive and accessible for the entire community.	✓			✓		25%	First round of consultation completed for a Riverland Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.
Culture								
Library Services	Continue to deliver the much-loved School Holiday Program.	✓					75%	July, October and December programs successfully delivered.
	Undertake building remediation work at the Renmark Paringa Library in accordance with the IAMP.	✓		✓			75%	Canterlever awning to be installed. Finalisation of works to the rear of the building yet to be finalised.
Event Services	This year will see a program of events, encompassing the Renmark Riverfront Markets, Australia Day celebrations and the community-led Renmark Christmas Pageant.	✓	✓				50%	October Riverfront Markets and Christmas on the Murray Program (<i>Sandscapes</i> and <i>Sip, Taste and Shop</i>) delivered.
Community Facilities	Replace air-conditioning components at the Renmark Paringa Community and Civic Centre, in accordance with the IAMP.	✓		✓			50%	Materials have been procured by contractor. Due for installation mid-March 2026.
	Council will conduct a review of its facilities to better understand the needs of community and sporting groups.	✓			✓		100%	Meetings held with community groups to discuss future plans and aspirations. As part of this process, leases have been reviewed and renewed/ altered as appropriate.

* New capital project post Business Plan Adoption

Function/ Service	Key Initiative/ Capital Project					Status	% Complete	Comments
Economic Development								
Economic Development Services	Support the Jane Eliza Development to help deliver tourism benefits, assist in the housing crisis and address houseboat mooring requirements.		✓				25%	Hydrology study released in August 2025. Advocacy has continued with community and to State and Federal Government.
	Continue to support PIRSA's feasibility study for a freeze dry facility.		✓				0%	PIRSA are seeking additional funding for business case. PIRSA have identified the Sustainable Communities Program as a funding source.
	Investigate opportunities to maximise the return on underutilised assets.		✓		✓		50%	Investigations are underway on six sites identified for potential sale.
Environment								
Waste Transfer Station	Investigate opportunities to achieve a 'user pays' model for waste transfer station services.			✓	✓		100%	Price adjustments have been made, moving the service closer to a genuine user pays model and reducing the reliance on general rate revenue to subsidise operations.
Infrastructure Services	Participate in the River Murray Levee Bank Advisory Committee to advocate for improved management and maintenance outcomes for flood levees within Renmark, Paringa and Lyrup.			✓	✓		50%	As a stakeholder of this committee, staff have been meeting with State Government representatives throughout 2025. Progress so far has included development of a statewide database for flood levees and drafting of a statewide policy for the management of levee systems.
Asset Management Services	Deliver the Asset Management Improvement Plan, with oversight from the Asset Committee.			✓	✓		50%	Improvement plan on track. Overall progress reports have been provided to the Asset Committee.
	Conduct condition assessments for the stormwater, building and transport asset classes, in accordance with the IAMP and accounting standards.			✓	✓		25%	Tender evaluations complete.
	Update Stormwater Management Plans for Renmark and Calperum Industrial Estate		✓	✓	✓		75%	Management Plan development is significantly underway with models being completed. Community consultation released.
Waste Management	Advance key priorities from the MRLGA Regional Waste Strategy in collaboration with regional partners, focusing on community education to improve bin use, enhance resource recovery, support a circular economy, and manage rising costs.			✓	✓		50%	The MRLGA and G3 Councils are collaborating on the development of a communications plan, addressing key findings from the kerbside waste audit in 2025. This will be delivered within the framework of the state government's "Which Bin" campaign.

* New capital project post Business Plan Adoption

Function/ Service	Key Initiative/ Capital Project					Status	% Complete	Comments
Recreation								
Reserves, Parks and Gardens	Undertake annual tree planting program in accordance with the Greening Renmark Paringa Plan.	✓		✓		✓	100%	Street tree plantings completed on Hopkins St and Twentieth St (Year 2 of planting program).
	Investigate options for riverbank stabilisation at the New Landing Way swimming beach.			✓		↻	15%	Preparing tender documents for design.
Recreational Facilities	Undertake the first stage of surface renewal on the Renmark to Paringa cycleway.		✓			↻	15%	Preparing tender documents. Due to be released for tender in January 2026.
	Deliver an upgrade to the indoor pool filtration and heating plant, at the Alan Coulter Recreation Centre to provide a modern, compliant and energy efficient facility.		✓			↻	25%	Design being finalised of the pool plant room requirements to ensure efficiency and functionality.
	Further investigate improved community facilities within the Alan Coulter Recreation Centre, within the planning for the replacement of the mezzanine floor and roofing remediation.		✓			↻	15%	Contractor appointed. Currently in early stage of the design process.
	Advocate for an appropriate funding model for the development of soccer clubroom facilities at the Steve Poutakidis Sports Ground.		✓			↻	75%	Funding only, letter of support provided.
	Deliver grant funded upgrades to the Renmark Netball Courts lighting and court surfacing to modern standards.		✓			↻	25%	Lighting and resurfacing contractors appointed. Works due to commence early January 2026.
	Undertake planning for the replacement of the playground at the Jarrett Memorial Gardens.		✓			↻	25%	First round of community consultation completed. Contractor appointed. Currently in early stage of the design process.
	*ACRC – Replacement Fitness Equipment		✓			✓	100%	Equipment has been delivered to ACRC and available for use by the community.
Marine and Community Structures	Undertake upgrade of the Bert Dix Park Boat Ramp in alignment with modern standards.		✓			↻	25%	Design is 95% complete.
Regulatory Services								
Development and Compliance	Undertake review of the Animal Management Plan, incorporating improvements requested during the latest Community Satisfaction Survey.	✓		✓		↻	75%	The Draft Animal Management Plan is complete to be tabled in the January OCM requesting Council endorsement for the draft to be released for Public Consultation.

* New capital project post Annual Business Plan adoption.

Function/ Service	Key Initiative/ Capital Project					Status	% Complete	Comments
Transport								
Airport Management	Establish a dedicated aerial water and fuel reloading base for the South Australian Country Fire Service.				✓		100%	Completed late 2025.
Road Maintenance (Sealed and Unsealed)	Undertake road pavement replacement on Industry Road, Twentieth Street and Patey Drive, Renmark		✓				25%	Contractor to commence late April 2026 on Industry Road and Twentieth Street. The Patey Drive detailed design is underway, release procurement for works.
	Pursue opportunities to increase capacity and deliver improved services through agreements with other authorities (e.g DIT).		✓		✓		90%	An opportunity to offer unsealed road maintenance services to DIT has been further explored. This has been costed in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges schedule and presented to DIT for their consideration.
	Conduct road resealing in accordance with the IAMP.		✓				100%	Completed.
	Conduct road resheeting in accordance with the IAMP.		✓				15%	Preparing tender documents. Due to be released for tender in January 2026.
Footpath and Walkway Maintenance	Council will construct a vital footpath connection along James Avenue to Ninth Street to support our active walking community.		✓				15%	Preparing tender documents. Due to be released for tender in January 2026.
Council Administration								
Fleet Management	Undertake plant replacement in accordance with the IAMP.				✓		50%	All plant and vehicles have been procured. Delivery of all plant and vehicles expected to be completed by May 2026.
Strategic Management	Explore opportunities to investigate the feasibility of short-term priorities from the Growth Strategy.				✓		75%	Business case for CWMS network expansion drafted ready to be tabled at the February OCM.
	Finalise and activate the Advocacy Plan to ensure our engagement with other authorities leverages the best outcomes for our community.				✓		75%	Advocacy Plan finalised and stage one to be implemented.
	Review and update risk management, policy and framework. Commence the development of an Operational Risk Register.				✓		25%	LGA facilitated operational risk workshops with staff in November 2025 to inform the Operational Risk Register. Draft Operational Risk Register prepared in December 2025.
Financial Services	Procure the services of an internal auditor.				✓		15%	A detailed internal audit workplan to be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in February 2026..
	Develop a formal Fees and Charges Policy to outline service recovery initiatives.				✓		75%	Two draft policies to be presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in February 2026 for endorsement.

* New capital project post Business Plan Adoption



MERRY XMAS
FROM RENMARK



Contact Details

Telephone	08 8580 3000
Email	council@renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au
Web	renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au
Engage RPC	engagement.renmarkparinga.sa.gov.au

Opening Hours

Monday	9am – 5pm
Tuesday	9am – 5pm
Wednesday	9am – 5pm
Thursday	9am – 5pm
Friday	9am – 5pm

Social Media

	RenmarkParingaCouncil
	RenmarkParingaCouncil

Love where you live