



PIRIE VOICES

Shaping our furture, together

Thank you for being part of the Pirie Voices initiative.

Together, we are committed to listening deeply to our community—ensuring that community members are empowered as decision-makers and leaders of their own future.

You've been invited to participate because of the trusted, respectful relationships you hold within the community. Your experience and connection make you a vital part of this work.

This information will be shared to help us stay aligned in our approach and coordinated in how we engage with the community. To support you, we've gathered a few initial tips and insights to guide our journey.

As we move forward together, we'll continue to build on this and co-create a resource that reflects our shared learning and commitment to the Pirie community.



Why...

Pirie Voices is about putting local people at the centre of shaping Port Pirie's future.

Rather than having decisions made by outside organisations, this community-led movement ensures that the voices of residents guide the changes that matter most, whether social, cultural, or economic.

By empowering people from all walks of life to become Community Conversation Leaders, we're starting a journey of 1,000 conversations, each one a step toward meaningful, lasting change.

How we listen...

We've created a simple tool—the Pirie Voices Placemat—to help guide your conversations.

The questions were developed by our working group to encourage open, respectful, and ethical dialogue.

They're designed to help people feel heard and valued.

Every voice counts...

Our goal is to gather at least 1,000 conversations from across the community.

We want to hear what matters most to people and invite them to be part of the change—as equals, co-designing a future that reflects their hopes and needs.

What we are listening for...

As conversations unfold, we'll be quietly gathering insights and identifying common themes.

These themes will help us understand what's important to the community and where we can focus our collective energy.

Ideas into action...

As big ideas for change emerge, we'll work together to shape them into a shared action plan.

This plan will reflect the community's voice and help us move forward with clarity, purpose, and unity.

Stay connected...

We'll regularly check back in with the community to make sense of what we're hearing and explore deeper insights.

This might happen through community, designed forums, events, celebrations, our website, or other creative ways of staying connected.

Your role is simple, chat and share!

We're inviting you to talk with people in your community—friends, family, colleagues, neighbours—anyone in your network. These chats can be casual and relaxed. The most important part is listening deeply to what people have to say.

There is a Pirie Voices placemat that will guide your conversations. This contains the 5 questions and space to make notes.

Once you've had a conversation, we'd love for you to tell us about it.

There is short online form to capture the communities responses, plus a few extra data question to help us make sure we're hearing from a wide mix of voices across the community. It's quick and easy to complete.

Your input helps shape decisions that matter—so thank you for being part of the conversation!

Asking the Questions...

Please ask each question, we know the wording won't always seem right, we have alternative options on the next page.

This is about capturing the authentic voice of the community, free from unintended influence.

Ensure everyone is responding to the same questions, will allow us to build a cohesive understanding.

Record direct quotes in full sentences whenever possible.

Capturing Conversations...

There are several ways to gather responses, depending on individual preferences.

Some people may prefer that you write down their answers during the conversation.

Others might choose to record their own responses, either on paper or using a device after an initial discussion.

You could use a talk to text app to capture the conversation, but we ask that once you record them into the online form that you delete any files for privacy.

This flexible approach ensures everyone feels comfortable sharing their thoughts.

After the Conversation...

After the conversation ends it is important that there is no identifying information on the placemat or your notes. These conversations are all anonymous and we need to respect people privacy.

If you have noted down peoples responses you need to complete the online form to capture the conversation.

Please keep all placemats and notes for the Pirie Voices Team.

While it would be ideal if the questions were asked as written for continuity of data, we understand that they might not connect with all demographics. We have provided some alternative wording below.

1. What do you think is helping people live a good life in Port Pirie? (Current)

- What do you think makes life better for people in Port Pirie?
- What do you feel supports people to live well in Port Pirie?
- What do you think contributes to wellbeing and happiness in Port Pirie?

2. What are your personal hopes and dreams? (Future/ Vision)

- What goals or plans are most important to you?
- If you could imagine your ideal future, what would it look like?
- What matters most to you when you think about your future?

3. What gets in the way of these hopes? (Barriers)

- What challenges or barriers make it hard to reach your goals?
- Are there things that hold you back from pursuing your dreams?
- What obstacles do you face when trying to move toward your hopes?

4. What hopes do you have for our children and young people? (Next Generation)

- What kind of future would you like to see for our children and young people?
- What are your dreams for how our kids and youth will grow and thrive?
- What do you want for the next generation in our community?
- What kind of opportunities do you want for children and young people here?

5. What action can we take together to make these hopes happen? (Action)

- What steps can we take as a community to bring these hopes to life?
- How can we work together to create positive change for the future?
- What collective actions could help turn our shared dreams into reality?
- What could we work on together to create that future?



Frequently Asked Questions

Who can be involved?

If they live, play, or rely on services in Port Pirie, they are part of our community and we want to hear from them.

The goal is to include diverse voices and perspectives.

What is the time commitment?

Each conversation can be as brief or as in-depth as people are willing to share. The online form takes about 5 minutes to complete.

Whether you join us for one conversation or a hundred, there's no ongoing commitment—we simply appreciate your time and contribution.

How long do we have to collect conversations?

We're aiming to gather 1,000 conversations over the next six months.

What support is available?

Our Pirie Voices Coordinator is here to support you. If you have questions or need help with the process, just reach out.

What if someone shares something concerning?

If a conversation raises concerns for the person or yourself, please consider reaching out to one of the support services listed below.

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention

☎ 13 11 14 🌐 lifeline.org.au
💬 [Online chat available](#)

Beyond Blue

24/7 support for anxiety, depression, and mental health

☎ 1300 22 4636 🌐 beyondblue.org.au
💬 [Online chat available](#)

13YARN

For Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people
24/7 culturally safe crisis support

☎ 13 92 76 🌐 13yarn.org.au

Kids Helpline

24/7 counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25

☎ 1800 55 1800 🌐 kidshelpline.com.au

What happens next?

The ideas and insights shared in these conversations belong to everyone in our community. We'll make sure to share the outcomes with both participants and the wider public. These contributions will help shape future actions, and we'll keep the community involved as we track progress and continue the journey together.



Community Information

Key issues, demographics, and cultural sensitivities in Port Pirie

Economic Transition

Port Pirie is undergoing a shift toward becoming a Green Iron Hub, aligning with South Australia's Green Iron and Steel Strategy. This presents opportunities for economic growth but also challenges in workforce transition and community adaptation.

Health and Wellbeing

Historical industrial activity has contributed to environmental health concerns, particularly around lead exposure. Ongoing efforts aim to improve public health outcomes and environmental safety.

Youth Engagement and Education

There is a need for increased support in education, training, and employment pathways for young people, especially in light of changing industry demands.

Social Inclusion

Addressing barriers for vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities, culturally diverse communities, and those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, remains a priority.

Population

Approximately 14,000 residents, with a mix of long-term locals and newer arrivals.

Age Profile

A relatively older population compared to metropolitan areas, with a growing need for aged care services and intergenerational programs.

Cultural Diversity

Port Pirie is home to a multicultural population, including significant Aboriginal communities, particularly the Nukunu, Adnyamathanha, and Kokatha peoples.

Cultural Sensitivities

The region, known as Thalpiri Yarta in Nukunu language, has deep cultural significance. It was historically a meeting place for trade and ceremony among Aboriginal groups. Respect for this heritage is essential in all community engagement.

Community Values

Port Pirie values resilience, collaboration, and respect for tradition. Community initiatives should reflect these values and promote inclusive participation.



Conversation Starters

Pirie Voices isn't about rates, bin collection, or potholes. It's about something bigger—the future of Port Pirie. This is a chance for us to come together as a community and talk about what really matters: our hopes, ideas, and the kind of town we want to build for ourselves and future generations. It's an invitation to collaborate, to listen, and to lead change—together.

If people are struggling to answer the questions you could try some of the following:

"If you could wave a magic wand and change one thing about Port Pirie, what would it be?"

Encourages imaginative thinking and surfaces priorities

"What's one thing you love about living in Port Pirie?"

Helps build a positive tone and shared appreciation.

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"If you were describing Port Pirie to someone who's never been here, what would you say?"

Great for drawing out local pride and identity.

"What's your favourite memory in this town?"

Opens up personal stories and emotional connections.

"What's one small change that could make a big difference in our community?"

Promotes practical thinking and shared problem-solving.



Engagement Tips

Ideas for engaging with different age groups and backgrounds

General tips

- Smile, listen actively, and show genuine interest.
- Avoid assumptions—ask open questions.
- Create safe spaces where everyone feels heard and respected.

Children & Young People

- Use fun, visual tools like stickers, drawings, or speech bubbles.
- Keep questions short and playful: “What would make Port Pirie more fun?”
- Let them express ideas through art or games.

Older Adults

- Be patient and allow time for reflection.
- Use clear, respectful language and avoid jargon.
- Ask about their memories and hopes for the future.

Culturally Diverse Communities

- Use simple English and visual aids such as each question on their own.
- Be mindful of different communication styles (some may prefer listening first).

People with Disabilities

- Ask if they need any support or adjustments.
- Use inclusive language and accessible formats.
- Focus on strengths and ideas, not limitations.

Active Listening Skills

- How to show empathy and understanding.
- Techniques like paraphrasing, summarizing, and asking clarifying questions.
- Non-verbal cues: body language, eye contact, tone of voice.

Handling Difficult Conversations

- Staying calm and respectful.
- Redirecting or de-escalating tense moments.
- Knowing when to step away or refer to a professional.

Cultural Awareness & Inclusion

- Respecting diverse perspectives.
- Language tips for inclusive communication.
- Awareness of local Indigenous cultures and protocols.