

PIRIE VOICES

Shaping our future, together

The Pirie Voices Opportunity

Port Pirie is a small city on the east coast of the Spencer Gulf in South Australia, 223 km north of Adelaide with a population of around 14,000. Port Pirie is the largest city and the main retail centre of the Mid North region. The city's economy is dominated by one of the world's largest lead smelters operated by Nyrstar, also producing silver, copper, acid, gold and various other by-products. Key industries for Port Pirie are health care and social assistance, farming, manufacturing and energy.

Officially launched in September 2025, Pirie Voices is the start of a community-led approach to fundamentally change the ways we solve problems and pursue opportunities in Port Pirie and surrounding communities. It has emerged from a shared interest across the community in driving our own agenda and not waiting for others to decide, acknowledging that change happens when the people most affected are part of driving it. We want a future shaped by those who know Port Pirie best - the people who call it home, work here, or depend on it. Like many communities this isn't always the case.

Through the support of local people, organisations and partners, Phase One of Pirie Voices has focussed on hearing from our community. Over the first 12 months we have been working towards hearing from 1,000 people to understand what matters most so any plans or actions will be guided by the community, for the community - so we decide and take action together.

We have now exceeded 1,000 voices and we're looking to what's next. Phase Two will be setting an agenda for change and then acting on it, and as we do - growing a robust network of partners and community members with the capabilities to make this change.



Our Ways of Working

As Pirie Voices moves into the next phase, how we work together will be just as important as what we choose to work on. These ways of working guide how we collaborate, build partnerships, make decisions and take action as a community

Community-led
Every step of the way we make sure the people of Port Pirie and surrounding communities are driving change.

Great team work
We connect and grow local leaders ready to change systems for the better.

Strong Collaboration
Through joining forces and using what we have better, we'll see new opportunities and overcome old barriers. A diverse group of influential partners are the foundation for the changes we want to see.

Shared priorities
We are working across community to develop a shared sense of what's important to work together towards and who and how this is going to happen.

Learning as we go
The change people want will need creativity, innovation and understanding what works elsewhere. We're supporting understanding what the issues are and learning about what's working and what isn't.

Our Cycle of Change



ESTABLISH
Form the leadership group, build foundations, listen to the community and understand priorities.

SHAPE A SHARED AGENDA
Grow leadership, host conversations, and agree on what matters and what to act on.

TEST &LEARN
Try new approaches, experiment, learn from others and from what works locally.

SCALE WHAT WORKS
Grow and strengthen what's working, influence others, expand impact.

EMBED & SUSTAIN
"It's how we do things around here" - new ways of working become the norm.

Listening. Learning. Acting. Adapting. Together.

A Shared Committment to Phase Two

Pirie Voices did not emerge from a crisis or external intervention. It has grown from within the Port Pirie community itself – from a shared belief that the people who live, work and contribute here should play a stronger role in shaping the decisions and opportunities that affect our future.

Pirie Voices has moved from an early concept to a coordinated initiative that has supported community conversations across the region. Together, we have built the foundations for a new way of working – one that places community voice, collaboration and shared learning at the centre.

As Phase One is achieved, the focus now shifts to what comes next as we share what we have heard through the 1,000 Voices and work with our community and partners to shape priorities, opportunities and the approaches needed to support them.

Phase Two will focus on setting an agenda for change and acting on it, while continuing to grow the team and partnerships needed to support this work. This includes strengthening community leadership, creating opportunities for more people to step forward and contribute, and building the coordination and collaboration needed to support action across the community.

We recognise that the change our community is seeking will take time. While Pirie Voices has begun with short-term resourcing, the work ahead is longer term.

Pirie Voices has always been grounded in learning as we go. Phase One has been closely monitored and evaluated, helping us understand what is working, what we are hearing from the community, and how the initiative can continue to grow. This commitment to reflection, learning and adaptation will continue to guide our approach in Phase Two.

Through shared commitment, strong collaboration and community leadership, we can continue building the partnerships, capabilities and action needed to support the future our community is beginning to shape.

