

Media Release

13 August 2026



Barunga West CEO Resigns

Barunga West Council Chief Executive Officer Mark McDonald has tendered his resignation, effective Wednesday 12 August 2026, following his short time serving in the role.

Mayor Leonie Kerley said Council acknowledged Mr McDonald's contribution during his time with Council and thanked him for his service to the Barunga West community.

"We wish Mark all the best for his next venture and thank him for his time with Council," Mayor Kerley said.

Council has appointed Acting Manager of Corporate Services Stewart McLaren as Acting Chief Executive Officer from Thursday 13 August 2026, until an Interim CEO is available.

Mr McLaren first joined Barunga West Council in 2022, following 16 years with the City of Adelaide Council. In his current role as Acting Manager of Corporate Services, he brings significant local government experience and a strong understanding of Council's operations.

Council is confident Mr McLaren will provide steady leadership during the transition.

To support the Acting CEO during this period, Council has once again engaged Lino Di Lernia to provide advisory and project support services. Mr Di Lernia has been closely involved in the Fisherman Bay Freeholding Project and brings senior executive experience across infrastructure, planning and corporate governance.

Council will provide further updates as the transition progresses.

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