

## Buy local to be more of a priority

Andrew Hough

South Australian firms will be given first preference and buying local products made a priority under proposed changes governing formal City Council tenders.

The council will tweak its policies around its \$140 million annual procurement spend that will force staff to first determine if goods or services are available within South Australia.

Under the "buy local" plans, which have been endorsed by a council committee, companies bidding for city work would also be compelled to outline how many jobs and labour hours they can provide.

While the council sources almost 90 per cent of its goods and services from South Australian-based organisations and almost 40 per cent from CBD firms, the new "industry participation policy plan" aims to boost that figure.

The new policy is based on feedback from local businesses and council suppliers and an analysis of its invoices and accounts payable postcodes. Members of the council's finance and business services committee backed the move at a meeting on Tuesday night before a formal vote by councillors next week.

A staff report, presented to the committee meeting, admits that while its procurement spending had a "very high percentage" of firms with local addresses, it was unable to accurately outline what benefit it provided.

"Labour and capital are important drivers of economic contribution," the report states. "Increasing the use of both local labour and capital ... should lead to the local economic contribution of procurement spending being maximised."

# Stony faces looking down at us from above

Look up while strolling past the city's old buildings and it's likely you'll see a stone-carved face or creature staring back at you. Known as gargoyles (decorative waterspouts) or grotesques (any caricature-style human/animal faces), the decorations are a glimpse into times gone by. **David Brown**, director of specialist conservation and heritage practice BB Architects, says grotesques go back to medieval times. "Initially, back then, they were to ward off evil spirits ... by the time they got to Adelaide they were essentially decoration for entertainment, or making a statement." He says such pieces are missing from modern-day architecture. "We live in an age of not using applied decoration - who's going to pay for it? Back then it was part of culture to add that extra layer of decoration because they didn't know any different. We don't see anything like that these days." That's why we pounded the pavement to check out what we've still got. Here's your guide to the grotesques and gargoyles of the city.

### Pilgrim Uniting Church, 12 Flinders St

The architect behind this Revival Gothic-style church loved his pet squirrel so much he had it immortalised in stone. Robert George Thomas, who brought his furry friend with him from England, suggested to the stone carver Samuel Peters that a squirrel be introduced into the design of the central pillar. A copy of the squirrel is also carved into the church organ. The church was built in 1867.



SOPHIE PERRI

with the birds. An exact replica of this building - grotesques and all - is in Hobart.

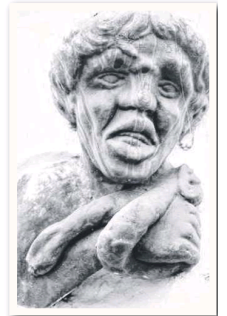
### Beehive Corner, 32 King William St

The home of Haigh's had a \$700,000 facelift in the late '90s, so the golden bee that sits atop the building is a replica of the original. The solid aluminium bee was made by Fine Cast from a mould designed by the late Shaw Hendry. Attached to an iron base, the bee is gilt in 23-carat gold. The 1897 building is named after a drapery shop called The Beehive, which occupied the site during the 1840s.



### Adelaide Gaol

There are 10 twisted stone faces on this Victorian Gothic-style building. This is typical of the era, says Adelaide Gaol Preservation Society president Penny Wilkinson. "It was typical of gothic buildings to have these grotesques on them as protection from evil spirits ... as you can see the faces are not pretty and are meant to be frightening to ward off the spirits." The carvings can be seen on the towers and main gate. Wilkinson says the Gaol, built in 1840, went way over budget back in the day and led to the downfall of Governor Gawler. "He wanted it done fast so they were paying the workers high wages to do it - at one stage they were getting one pound a day, normally what they got for a week. The governor was recalled back to England as a 'please explain'. What ended up saving SA's bacon was the discovery of copper in 1842." Each grotesque, carved in Adelaide Hill quartzite, is believed to have cost £300 at the time.



### Mayfair Hotel, 45 King William St

Lions and eagles watch over the city from the Mayfair Hotel, formerly known as the Colonial Mutual Life building. The building, constructed by father and son architecture firm Hennessy and Co (the inspiration behind the name of Mayfair's rooftop bar), opened in 1934. Also on the building are owls, fish and other carvings with more of a human-like appearance. Mayfair Hotel general manager Martin Radcliffe says most people comment on the lions (matching the Mayfair's logo) and the eagles, which are super close to the rooftop bar. It's a little like sharing cocktails



### Fowler's Lion Factory, 68 North Tce

The stone lion of the old Fowler's Lion Factory is a 1988-built copy of Melbourne stonemason John Patrick Jackson's original carving, which was taken by the Fowler Family when it sold the business in 1982. The factory was built in 1906.



### Espresso Room, 57 North Tce

We spotted this face staring down at us while on a coffee break last week, but no one seemed to know of its origin. It remains a mystery.



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