



Notice is given that a Meeting of Council will be held on:

Date: Monday, 16 September 2024

Time: 3.00pm

Location: Loddon Shire Council Chambers, Wedderburn

AGENDA

Council Meeting

Order Of Business

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OPENING COMMENT

This meeting is being recorded and audio streamed via the Council website and Facebook.

1 OPENING AFFIRMATION

“We, the Councillors of the Loddon Shire, declare that we will carry out our duties in the best interests of the community, and through collective leadership will maintain the highest standards of good governance.”

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

“The Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are gathered and pays its respects to their Elders both past and present.”

3 APOLOGIES**4 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

File Number: FOL/19/45615
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the Minutes of the following meetings as previously circulated to Councillors:

1. Council Briefing of 27 August 2024
2. Council Meeting of 27 August 2024
3. Council Forum of 10 September 2024.

REPORT

This report seeks Council confirmation of Minutes from the August 2024 Council Briefing and Council Meeting, and the September 2024 Council Forum as previously circulated to Councillors.

6 COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS**6.1 RECORD OF COUNCIL AUSPICED MEETINGS**

File Number: 02/01/001
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm records of the following as detailed within this report:

1. Council Briefing 27 August 2024
2. Council Forum 10 September 2024.

Rule 35 of Council's Governance Rules requires a record of meetings conducted under the auspices of Council to be presented to the next available scheduled Council meeting for confirmation that must include:

- a) a record of which Councillors and officers attended the meeting;
- b) a summary of the matters considered in the meeting; and
- c) a record of any conflicts of interest disclosed by Councillors and officers and any Councillors or officers that left the meeting whilst a matter that their conflict of interest related to was being discussed.

Section 3 of the Governance Rules defines meetings conducted under the auspices of Council to mean a meeting of the kind described in section 131(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 and includes a meeting which:

- a) is schedule or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- b) is attended by a majority of Councillors;
- c) is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- d) is not a Council meeting or delegated committee meeting.

This report seeks confirmation of the following Council auspiced meetings as detailed within this report:

1. Council Briefing 27 August 2024
2. Council Forum 10 September 2024.

Meeting details	Briefing
Date	27 August 2024
Councillor Attendees	Cr Holt (Mayor) Cr Beattie Cr Jungwirth Cr Murphy Cr Straub
Staff/ Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate Lisa Clue, Manager Governance Glenn Harvey, Manager Development and Compliance and Louise Johnston, Statutory Planning Coordinator – items 3 and 4 below Carolyn Stephenson, Senior Strategic Planner – item 4 below David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure – item 5 below
Item(s) discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of Council Meeting Agenda 2. VicGrid – Draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines 3. PA 5979 – Re-Subdivision of four lots into two new lots at 24-32 Wilson Street, Wedderburn 4. Loddon Planning Scheme – Update Amendment 5. Tabling of petition – Kerb and channel in Godfrey Street, Boort 6. General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery display trailer • Wheel Cactus
Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	n/a

Meeting details	Forum
Date	10 September 2024
Councillor Attendees	Cr Holt (Mayor) Cr Straub Cr Murphy Cr Jungwirth
Staff/ Stakeholder representatives	Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing Steven Phillips, Director Operations Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate Lisa Clue, Manager Governance Jackie Hicks and Giovanna Lever, Sparrowly Group (Virtual); David Stretch, Manager Tourism and Economic Development; and Bradd Worrell, Tourism and Marketing Coordinator – Item 1 below Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services – Item 2 below Orrin Hogan, Manager Community Partnerships – Item 3 below Christine Coombes, Executive Services Officer – Item 4 below Rosanna Lacorcia and Tony Hedley, Transport Company Victoria – Item 5 below
Item(s) discussed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visitor Economy Strategy – Project Update 2. Discussion of the 2023/24 Financial and Performance Statements 3. Presentation of Community Planning Project Assessments 4. Bridgewater and Wedderburn Caravan Parks – Leasing Update 5. VNI West Project Update 6. General Business – brief updates on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarnagulla Community Event • Industry update – Financial Sustainability • CEO annual leave day • Council property sale
Conflict of Interest Disclosures – Councillor/officer making disclosure	Nil
Councillor/officer left room	n/a

7 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

7.1 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

File Number: 02/01/002
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: 1. Resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting as attached to this report.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

REPORT

A document containing the status of actions from August Council meeting resolutions is attached to this Agenda report.

There were no outstanding actions from Council meeting resolutions prior to August 2024.

All actions from the August Council meeting resolutions have been acted upon.

Council resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/08/2024	Stretch, David Fitzgerald, Lincoln	Decision Reports	Economic Development Strategy
RESOLUTION 2024/93			
Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth Seconded: Cr Dan Straub			
That Council adopts the Draft Loddon Shire Economic Development Strategy (2025-2029).			
CARRIED			
09 Sep 2024 12:09pm Stretch, David - Completion			
Economic Development Strategy document has been finalised and submitted to LSC Governance Manager for inclusion on Council website and in Council files.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/08/2024	Stretch, David Fitzgerald, Lincoln	Decision Reports	Housing Support Program - Funding Application Endorsement
RESOLUTION 2024/98			
Moved: Cr Dan Straub Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy			
That Council approve submission of a funding application to the Commonwealth Housing Support Program – Community Enabling Infrastructure (Stream 2) program.			
CARRIED			
09 Sep 2024 12:07pm Stretch, David - Completion			
Application to the Housing Support Program's Federal Government Department was lodged on August 16, 2024.			

Council resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/08/2024	Stephenson, Carolyn Phillips, Steven	Decision Reports	Loddon Planning Scheme - Update amendment authorisation request
RESOLUTION 2024/97			
Moved: Cr Wendy Murphy			
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie			
That Council resolve to:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to commence preparation of an amendment to the Loddon Planning Scheme to implement the changes to the Municipal Planning Strategy, the Planning Policy Framework, ESO 1 (Laanecoorie Catchment) and associated referral provisions, and the strategic work program that were recommended in the Loddon Planning Scheme review report as shown in the attached documents with the inclusion of reference to mallee bushland; significance of remnant roadside vegetation; and Malleefowl and habitat protection in Clause 02.03-2, and change wildfire to bushfire in Clause 02.03-3. 2. Commence the amendment process once authorisation is received 			
CARRIED			
04 Sep 2024 1:23pm Stephenson, Carolyn - Completion			
Authorisation documents have been completed and the authorisation request will be submitted in the week commencing 9.9.2024.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/08/2024	Southcombe, David Phillips, Steven	Decision Reports	Tabling of Petition - Kerb and Channel in Godfrey Street, Boort
RESOLUTION 2024/95			
Moved: Cr Neil Beattie			
Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy			
That Council:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receives the petition relating to kerb and channel in Godfrey Street, Boort. 2. Resolves to deal with this agenda item in accordance with section 66 of the Loddon Shire Council Governance Rules. 3. Responds to the persons forwarding the petition acknowledging their concerns, but not committing to undertaking their proposed works on the parking and kerb and channel on the north side of Godfrey Street, Boort between Lakeview Street and Station Street. 			
CARRIED			
09 Sep 2024 12:05pm Southcombe, David - Completion			
Letter has been drafted responding to the petitioners acknowledging their concerns, but not committing to works until a detailed design for the Boort Streetscape has been developed.			

Council resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/08/2024	Johnston, Louise Phillips, Steven	Decision Reports	PA 5979 - Re-subdivision of four lots into two new lots at 24-32 Wilson Street, Wedderburn
<p>RESOLUTION 2024/92</p> <p>Moved: Cr Neil Beattie Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy</p> <p>That the Responsible Authority having considered all matters which the Planning and Environment Act, 1987, requires it to consider, decides to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a planning permit 5979 for the re-subdivision of four lots into two new lots at 24-32 Wilson Street, Wedderburn subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>FORMAL PLAN OF SUBDIVISION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The formal plan of subdivision lodged for certification must be in accordance with the approved plan and must not be modified except to comply with statutory requirements or with the further written consent of the Responsible Authority. <p>Reticulated Services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The owner of the land must enter into agreements with the relevant authorities for the provision of water supply, drainage, sewerage facilities, electricity and gas services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the authority's requirements and relevant legislation at the time. <p>Easements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All existing and proposed easements and sites for existing or required utility services and roads on the land must be set aside in the plan of subdivision submitted for certification in favour of the relevant authority for which the easement or site is to be created. <p>Certification</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to the relevant authority in accordance with Section 8 of that Act. <p>Drainage</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The whole of the subject land, including landscaped and paved areas, must be graded and drained to the satisfaction of the council as the responsible drainage authority so as to prevent the discharge of water from the subject land across any road or onto any adjoining land. 			

Council resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting

VEHICLE CROSSING

6. The proposed vehicle crossovers are to be constructed to the satisfaction and requirements of Council. No impending or redirection of existing surface flow is allowed to occur as a result of these works. Any redundant crossover must be reinstated to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority
7. Prior to the commencement of any works on the road reserve the owner/applicant must submit a Works in a Road Reserve application and be issued a permit to occupy the road for works.
8. All existing road reservation assets are to be protected and maintained throughout the works including all utilities and services. Any damage is to be restored prior to issuing of statement of compliance
9. All drainage and crossover works constructed or carried out as required by conditions 5 & 6 above must be completed to a standard satisfactory to Council prior to the issuing of Statement of Compliance.

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

10. The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with:
 - a telecommunications network or service provider for the provision of telecommunication services to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
 - a suitably qualified person for the provision of fibre ready telecommunication facilities to each lot shown on the endorsed plan in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must provide written confirmation from:
 - a telecommunications network or service provider that all lots are connected to or are ready for connection to telecommunications services in accordance with the provider's requirements and relevant legislation at the time; and
 - a suitably qualified person that fibre ready telecommunication facilities have been provided in accordance with any industry specifications or any standards set by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, unless the applicant can

Council resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting

demonstrate that the land is in an area where the National Broadband Network will not be provided by optical fibre.

Powercor

11. This letter shall be supplied to the applicant in its entirety.
12. The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 shall be referred to the Distributor in accordance with Section 8 of that Act.
13. The applicant shall provide an electricity supply to all lots in the subdivision in accordance with the Distributor's requirements and standards. **Notes:** Extension, augmentation or rearrangement of the Distributor's electrical assets may be required to make such supplies available, with the cost of such works generally borne by the applicant.
14. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR). **Notes:** Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.

Coliban Water

15. The owner is required to provide reticulated water and sewerage services to each of the lots within the subdivision and comply with any requirements arising from any effect of the proposed development on Coliban Water assets.
Services are to be provided and where necessary, amendments to the existing services, will be required in accordance with our specifications.
16. All Coliban Water assets within the subdivision, are to be protected by an easement in favour of Coliban Region Water Corporation.
17. Applications through our Consent to Connect Process are required prior to water supply services and property service drains (sewerage) being amended and/or connected to Coliban Water assets and complying with our conditions.
Agreement is required to be reached with Coliban Water to verify that a property service drain side-line (sewerage connection point) has been constructed from the Coliban Water sewer main which traverses this development site into the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2. Each sideline must be constructed on the sewer main terminating in locations within each of the lots and clear of the required easements also providing full lot control to each of the proposed lots in accordance with our specifications.
All private works for water supply and sanitary drainage must be constructed in accordance with the National Plumbing and Drainage Code of Australia being AS 3500, the MRWA Water Metering & Servicing Guidelines 2022 and or any relevant requirements of Coliban Water.
18. Prior to Coliban Water issuing our compliance for this subdivision:
Evidence to the satisfaction of Coliban Water will be required to verify that each of the lots have their own property service drain connection point with an inspection shaft constructed to the finished surface, which is required to be protected with an approved cover for its location and these are contained within the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2.

Council resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting

Evidence to the satisfaction of Coliban Water will be required to verify that each of the exist water meters are located within the boundaries of Lots 1 & 2, ensuring that the water supply service pipes have been amended where necessary and do not cross the proposed new lot boundaries.

19. Please note Under section 165(5) of the Water Act (1989), Coliban Water is not required to ensure that the water pressure is adequate for firefighting. It is important to note that Coliban Water does not guarantee fire flows.

20. Before the issue of a Statement of Compliance for any stage of the subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988, the owner of the land must make payment to Coliban Water of New Customer Contributions (NCCs). These contributions are based upon the number of additional allotments connected (or to be connected) to Coliban Water's water, sewer or recycled water networks. A quote will be supplied to the owner on the referral of the Certified plan of subdivision.

EXPIRY

21. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

- the plan of subdivision is not certified within two (2) years of the issue date of this permit.
- the subdivision is not completed within five (5) years of the certification of the plan of subdivision under the Subdivision Act 1988.

The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires, or within six months afterwards.

CARRIED

04 Sep 2024 11:25am Johnston, Louise - Completion
Completed, Notice of Decision issued

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/08/2024	Hogan, Orrin Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	DRAFT LODDON RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND AQUATIC STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY

RESOLUTION 2024/96

Moved: Cr Linda Jungwirth
Seconded: Cr Wendy Murphy

That Council approve the draft Recreation Open Space & Aquatic Strategy be placed on public display to receive community feedback.

CARRIED

10 Sep 2024 9:23am Hogan, Orrin - Completion
The ROSA Strategy has now been placed on public display for comment and feedback. Closes on the 16/9/24.

Council resolutions acted upon since the August 2024 Council meeting

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/08/2024	Gladman, Wendy Gladman, Wendy	Decision Reports	LODDON SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY
RESOLUTION 2024/94			
Moved: Cr Dan Straub			
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie			
That Council adopt the Loddon Shire Social Infrastructure Strategy.			
CARRIED			
10 Sep 2024 9:17am Gladman, Wendy - Completion			
The Loddon Social Infrastructure has been adopted by Council and will be implemented operationally.			

Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject
Council 27/08/2024	Clue, Lisa Stedman, Michelle	Decision Reports	Governance Rules Review
RESOLUTION 2024/94			
Moved: Cr Dan Straub			
Seconded: Cr Neil Beattie			
That Council adopts the inclusion of sub clause 4 which has been stated, to use Mr or Mrs or Miss or Madam in relation to addressing Council meetings, and emphasis on the sentence with prior consent, into Division 2 – Standards of conduct, item 30.			
CARRIED			
10 Sep 2024 8:48am Clue, Lisa - Completion			
Governance Rules have been amended, registered into Council's records system and uploaded to the Council website.			

8 MAYORAL REPORT

8.1 MAYORAL REPORT

File Number: 02/01/001
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayoral Report.

REPORT

Mayor Holt will present a verbal report at the meeting.

Loddon Campaspe Councils	
Municipal Association of Victoria	
Murray River Group of Councils	
Rural Councils Victoria	
Audit and Risk Committee	
Section 65 Community Asset Committees:	
Donaldson Park	
Hard Hill Tourist Reserve	
Wedderburn Community Centre	
Wedderburn Engine Park and Market Square Reserve	
Wedderburn Mechanics and Literary Institute Hall	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity

9 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

File Number: 02/01/001
Author: Lisa Clue, Manager Governance
Authoriser: Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Councillors' reports.

REPORT

Each Councillor will present a verbal report at the meeting.

Cr Beattie

Rail Freight Alliance	
Section 65 Community Asset Committees:	
Boort Aerodrome	
Boort Memorial Hall	
Boort Park	
Korong Vale Mechanics Hall	
Korong Vale Sports Centre	
Little Lake Boort	
Yando Public Hall	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity

Cr Straub

North Central Local Learning and Employment Network	
Section 65 Community Asset Committees:	
East Loddon Community Centre	
Pyramid Hill Memorial Hall	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity

Cr Jungwirth

Australia Day Committee	
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee	
North Central Goldfields Regional Library	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity

Cr Murphy

Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Local Government Women’s Charter	
Healthy Minds Network	
Section 65 Community Asset Committees:	
Campbells Forest Hall	
Inglewood Community Sports Centre	
Inglewood Community Elderly Persons Units	
Inglewood Town Hall Hub	
Other Council activities	
Date	Activity

10 DECISION REPORTS**10.1 2023/24 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE REPORT**

File Number: FOL/23/1595
Author: Deanne Caserta, Manager Financial Services
Authoriser: Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate
Attachments: 1. Performance Statements - DRAFT
2. Financial Statements - DRAFT

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 as presented "in principle".
2. Authorises the Principal Accounting Officer to make any amendments to the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 that may be requested by RSD Audit or the Victorian Auditor-General.
3. Authorises the Mayor and one other Councillor, the Chief Executive Officer and the Principal Accounting Officer to certify the audited Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was provided an overview of the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 at Council Forum on 10 September 2024.

BACKGROUND

Council's external auditors, RSD Audit, acting on behalf of the Victorian Auditor-General, have worked remotely to finalise the audit of Council's Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024.

As stated in Section 99 (2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), after passing a resolution giving its approval in principle to the performance statement and financial statements, Council must submit the statements to the Victorian Auditor-General for provision of its report on the audit.

Under Section 99 (3) of the Act Council must also ensure that the final form performance statement and financial statements, after any changes recommended or agreed by the auditor have been made, are certified in accordance with the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations) by two Councillors authorised by the Council.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The annual Financial Statements are presented in accordance with all relevant Australian Accounting Standards and as per the model statements provided by Local Government Victoria (LGV). They consist of five statement elements (described in Table 1) which are expanded upon within accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

The Performance Statement is also in line with the Regulations and LGV's model reporting. It includes Sustainable Capacity Indicators (financial and non-financial), Service Performance Indicators (non-financial), and Financial Performance Indicators (financial).

Table 1 – Description of Financial Statement Elements

Statement Element	Description
Comprehensive Income Statement	The Income Statement provides a summary of the total income and total expenditure relating to Council's annual operations for the financial year. Capital grant income is included in this statement, but any related expenditure is not reflected here, as this is reported as increased assets on the Balance Sheet.
Balance Sheet	The Balance Sheet summarises the value of Assets (what Council owns) and our Liabilities (what Council owes). The difference between assets and liabilities (Net Assets or Equity) reflects Council's net worth at the end of the Financial Year.
Statement of Changes in Equity	The Statement of Changes in Equity reflect how the net worth of Council has changed over the financial year, showing movements in areas such as accumulated surplus, reserves and revaluations.
Statement of Cash Flows	The Statement of Cash Flows reflects actual results for the financial year in line with statutory financial reporting.
Statement of Capital Works	The Capital Works Statement provides information on Council's investment in capital projects during the year and breaks this expenditure down into asset categories. It provides insight into Council's focus on maintaining and improving physical assets,

Key Results

As per the Income Statement, Loddon's **operating result** for the 2023/24 financial year was a **\$6.4M deficit**. This compares to a \$6.9M surplus in 2022/23. A principle cause of this variance is due to the timing of and required accounting treatment of Federal Financial Assistance Grants; 2023/24 being the first year where none of this income was received within the financial year. For context, the income for these grants in 2024/25 is expected to be more than \$11.0M.

Council's Balance Sheet demonstrates a **current asset base of \$457M** (with strong liquidity in unrestricted financial assets) against **low liabilities of \$7.88M**. This remains a good foundation for Loddon to continue building careful financial management and strategic planning practices to ensure long-term sustainability. Cash and term deposits on hand totalled just under \$34M, and total rates and debtors outstanding was \$1.68M.

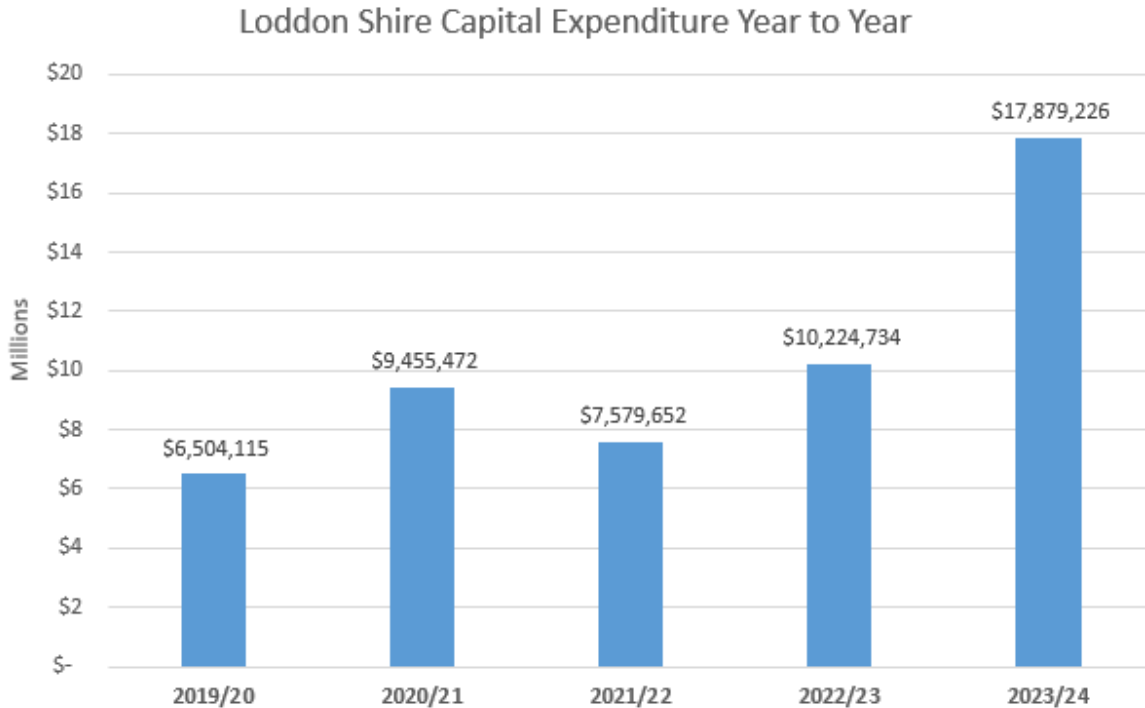
Within our Statement of Cash Flows, cash flows from **operating activities show a positive result (\$1.65M)** but do underscore Loddon's dependency on external funding (operating and capital grants totalling \$14.24M) and how critical this funding is to Council's financial stability. This reliance is displayed by the swing in Loddon's operating result when external funding timing is misaligned with expenditure.

Cash outflow from investing activities as per the Statement of Cash Flows show ongoing key investment in long-term assets. This is matched with our Statement of Capital Works where Loddon's **capital works delivery totalled \$17.9M in 2023/24**, compared to \$10.2M in 2022/23 (see Graph 1 for prior year comparisons, over page). Expenditure from the unspent grants reserve recognised the finalisation of key funded projects. This saw **reserve balances** decrease by \$15.4M to a **total balance of \$18.3M** as at 30 June 2024.

RISK ANALYSIS

Preparation and auditing of Financial Statements and the Performance Statement are legislated functions of Council. Council must complete and publish these documents along with the Report of Operations by 31 October each year, or in the year of a general election, on a day not later than the day before Election Day – being 25 October in 2024.

Graph 1 – Loddon Shire Capital Expenditure prior year comparisons



By having a structured project plan for delivery of the statements to the Victorian Auditor-General’s representative, the risk of not meeting the legislative timeline is mitigated.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The Audit and Risk Committee has been provided with an overview of the Financial Statements and Performance Statement at the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 2 September 2024.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024



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CERTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

In my opinion the accompanying Performance Statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Signed: Dated: / / 2024
MICHELLE KAYE STEDMAN, BBus, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER
Wedderburn, Victoria 3518

In our opinion, the accompanying Performance Statement of the Loddon Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 presents fairly the results of Council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

The Performance Statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainability capacity.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the Performance Statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this Performance Statement in its final form.

Signed: Dated: / / 2024
GAVAN LINDSAY HOLT, MAYOR
Wedderburn, Victoria, 3518

Signed: Dated: / / 2024
NEIL EDWARD BEATTIE, COUNCILLOR
Wedderburn, Victoria, 3518

Signed: Dated: / / 2024
LINCOLN WILLIAM FITZGERALD, BA (Nature Tourism), GAICD, CertTAA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Wedderburn, Victoria 3518

SECTION 1: DESCRIPTION OF MUNICIPALITY

Loddon Shire Council is located in central Victoria, about 175 kilometres north-west of Melbourne. It is bounded by the Gannawarra Shire in the north, Shire of Campaspe and City of Greater Bendigo in the east, Mount Alexander Shire and Central Goldfields Shire in the south, and Northern Grampians Shire and Buloke Shire in the west.

Loddon Shire Council is a predominantly rural area, with many small towns and communities. The largest towns are Boort, Bridgewater on Loddon, Inglewood, Pyramid Hill, and Wedderburn.

The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 6,700 square kilometres. Land is used mainly for agriculture and horticulture, particularly grain, sheep, wool, beef cattle, dairy, pigs and poultry. In recent years, there has also been an increase in viticulture, olives, and fodder crops.

The primary source of employment in the Shire is agriculture, forestry and fishing with 37 per cent of employed residents working in those fields, while 10 per cent work in health care and social assistance, seven per cent in retail trade, and five per cent in public administration and safety.

**SECTION 2: SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	Results				
	2021	2022	2023	2024 Target as per budget	2024 Actual
Aquatic facilities Utilisation <i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	2	2	2	-	2
Comments: No material variances to report.					
Animal management Health and safety <i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal prosecutions] x 100	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Comments: No material variances to report.					
Food Safety Health and safety <i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance outcome notifications about food premises] x 100	100%	67%	100%	-	100%
Comments: No material variances to report.					
Governance Satisfaction <i>Satisfaction with Council decisions</i> Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement (community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)	58	56	52	54	50
Comments: This indicator has been updated for previous years to reflect the result of 'Consultation and Engagement'. Previous data provided was within the 'Community Decisions' indicator. While Loddon Shire had aimed to maintain its previous year score in 2024, the score from the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey was reflective of small rural and state wide averages for this metric which have seen downward trending.					
Libraries Participation <i>Library membership</i> [Percentage of the population that are registered library members] x 100	NA	NA	NA	NA	13%
Comments: This is a new indicator to report. Calculations for this indicator have changed from previous years.					
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Participation <i>Participation in MCH service</i> [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x 100	85%	87%	90%	-	87%
Comments: No material variances to report.					
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Participation <i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i> [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x 100	89%	78%	94%	-	92%
Comments: No material variances to report.					

SECTION 2: SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

Service / indicator / measure	Results				
	2021	2022	2023	2024 Target as per budget	2024 Actual
Roads Indicator: Condition <i>Sealed local roads below the intervention levels</i> Percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%
Comments: As this is a new / adjusted indicator, historical information has come via the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework submitted data.					
Statutory planning Service standard <i>Planning applications decided within the relevant required time</i> Percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time	83%	85%	97%	85%	95%
Comments: As this is a new / adjusted indicator, historical information has come via the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework submitted data.					
Waste management Waste diversion <i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x 100	30%	28%	28%	28%	23%
Comments: As this is a new / adjusted indicator, historical information has come via the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework submitted data.					

**SECTION 3: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

Dimension / indicator / measure	Results					Forecasts			
	2021	2022	2023	2024 Target as per budget	2024 Actual	2025	2026	2027	2028
Efficiency Expenditure level <i>Expenses per property assessment</i> [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$4,190.23	\$3,938.48	\$4,687.72	\$3,500.00	\$4,962.72	\$7,324.05	\$4,765.31	\$4,949.98	\$5,081.47
Comments: Expenses in 2023, 2024 and forecast for 2025 include flood restoration works which has increased the indicator result.									
Efficiency Revenue level <i>Average rate per property assessment</i> [Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	\$1,244.14	\$1,256.83	\$1,276.55	\$1,354.93	\$1,315.10	\$1,364.18	\$1,411.93	\$1,461.35	\$1,512.49
Comments: No material variances to report.									
Liquidity Working capital <i>Current assets compared to current liabilities</i> [Current assets / Current liabilities] x 100	506.54%	604.47%	596.58%	200.00%	609.30%	420.29%	412.19%	278.37%	161.10%
Comments: Council has a large amount of cash on hand due to major capital projects that are yet to be completed. In future years it is expected that this cash balance will fall considerably as projects are completed.									
Liquidity Unrestricted cash <i>Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities</i> [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x 100	125.63%	-111.49%	-42.16%	-109.20%	-136.85%	330.07%	313.60%	175.58%	53.23%
Comments: Council has a significant amount of cash on hand but has a large unspent grants reserve and LSL provision that restricts cash. This cash has been placed into term deposits to gain a better financial outcome for Council. As the years progress it is expected that there will be significant decreases to cash each year which will result in reassessing the program of works for each of these years.									
Obligations Loans and borrowings <i>Loans and borrowings compared to rates</i> [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x 100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Comments: Council has no loan liabilities.									
Obligations Loans and borrowings <i>Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates</i> [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x 100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Comments: Council has no loan liabilities.									

SECTION 3: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Continued)

Dimension / indicator / measure	Results					Forecasts			
	2021	2022	2023	2024 Target as per budget	2024 Actual	2025	2026	2027	2028
Obligations Indebtedness Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x 100	10.17%	8.32%	10.79%	14.46%	9.94%	16.87%	18.60%	19.95%	21.33%
Comments: This indicator has been slightly increasing over the years as revenue increases at a higher rate than the non current liabilities are.									
Obligations Asset renewal and upgrade Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation [Asset renewal and upgrade expenses / Asset depreciation] x 100	79.27%	60.11%	47.58%	100.00%	92.23%	52.13%	53.71%	55.37%	54.66%
Comments: This is significantly higher than previous years with some significant spending on expansion of assets during 2024 on projects such as Donaldson Park and various caravan parks.									
Operating position Adjusted underlying result Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x 100	-5.44%	3.94%	-37.44%	-16.50%	-53.78%	-17.08%	-24.35%	-25.04%	-24.25%
Comments: This indicator is impacted by significant impairment of assets and associated works that occurred as a result of the 2022/23 floods.									
Stability Rates concentration Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue Computation: [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x 100	36.59%	36.34%	30.41%	35.00%	49.09%	26.08%	44.20%	44.73%	45.04%
Comments: Rate revenue remains constant, adjusted underlying revenue includes upfront Grants Commission funding.									
Stability Rates effort Rates compared to property [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x 100	0.43%	0.44%	0.35%	0.27%	0.27%	0.24%	0.25%	0.25%	0.26%
Comments: This indicator has been slightly decreasing with the increase to rate revenue increasing at a lower rate than CIV within the municipality.									

SECTION 4: SUSTAINABLE CAPACITY INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024
Population <i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i> Total expenses / Municipal population	\$4,443	\$4,193	\$4,859	\$5,138
Comments: Increase to expenses for 2024 due to the continuation of flood restoration works. This is expected to continue for a further year.				
Population <i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$46,350	\$43,983	\$47,672	\$51,159
Comments: The increase in infrastructure per head of population has increased in step with the increase in infrastructure valuations for the 2023/24 financial year.				
Population <i>Population density per length of road</i> [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	1.58	1.59	1.64	1.64
Comments: No material variances to report.				
Own-source revenue <i>Own source revenue per head of municipal population</i> [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,991	\$1,999	\$2,127	\$2,252
Comments: This indicator has been steadily increasing due to an increase of income and a fairly static population.				
Recurrent grants <i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i> [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$1,850	\$2,245	\$2,318	\$647
Comments: Grants commission funding had 100% funding paid in advance during 2023, during 2022 this was 75% and in 2024 this was nil.				
Disadvantage <i>Relative socio-economic disadvantage</i> [Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage by decile]	2	2	2	2
Comments: No material variances to report.				
Efficiency Workforce turnover <i>Percentage of staff turnover</i> [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x 100	12.82%	21.33%	17.81%	23.48%
Comments: Exit of home care services resulted in 17 redundancies for the year.				

SECTION 5: NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5.1 Basis of preparation

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed, service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district, an explanation of material variations in the results and notes to the accounts. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g., Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Council's satisfaction survey provider).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and the previous three years, along with the current year's target, if mandated by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*. Additionally, for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the performance statement includes the target budget for the current year and the results forecast for the period 2024-25 to 2027-28 by the council's financial plan.

The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

SECTION 5: NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)

5.2 Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and · non-monetary asset contributions; and · contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that— (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

SECTION 5: NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (Continued)

5.3 Other matters

Nothing further to report.

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2024



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CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

Signed: Dated: / / 2024
MICHELLE KAYE STEDMAN, BBus, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING OFFICER
Wedderburn, Victoria 3518

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Loddon Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2024 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

Signed: Dated: / / 2024
GAVAN LINDSAY HOLT, MAYOR
Wedderburn, Victoria, 3518

Signed: Dated: / / 2024
NEIL EDWARD BEATTIE, COUNCILLOR
Wedderburn, Victoria, 3518

Signed: Dated: / / 2024
LINCOLN WILLIAM FITZGERALD, BA (Nature Tourism), GAICD, CertTAA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Wedderburn, Victoria 3518

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	12,702,361	12,283,025
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	333,055	329,402
User fees	3.3	845,112	1,313,104
Grants - operating	3.4	5,280,553	21,623,177
Grants - capital	3.4	10,624,812	6,081,169
Contributions - monetary	3.5	30,000	361,400
Reimbursements and subsidies	3.6	1,233,013	1,181,739
Donated assets		-	45,322
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.7	274,838	17,390
Interest received	3.8	2,059,382	1,264,776
Share of net profits of associates and joint ventures	6.3	4,352	1,301
Total income / revenue		33,387,478	44,501,805
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	13,782,880	13,464,021
Materials and services	4.2	14,392,629	12,977,497
Depreciation	4.3	11,265,032	10,742,687
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	4.4	64,408	57,799
Other expenses	4.5	306,014	311,346
Total expenses		39,810,963	37,553,350
Surplus / (deficit) for year		(6,423,485)	6,948,455
Other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods</i>			
Net asset revaluation gain	9.1(a)	28,488,069	39,617,225
Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures accounted for by the equity method	6.3	(3,505)	(3,673)
Total other comprehensive income		28,484,564	39,613,552
Total comprehensive result		22,061,079	46,562,007

The above Comprehensive Income Statement should be read with the accompanying notes.

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	2,759,134	15,992,321
Other financial assets	5.1	31,197,145	33,188,401
Trade and other receivables	5.1	1,676,962	2,025,564
Other assets	5.2	1,138,803	711,733
Prepayments	5.2	189,065	5,267
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	6.1	491,805	311,958
Total current assets		37,452,913	52,235,244
Non-current assets			
Other assets	5.2	100	100
Investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries	6.3	293,530	292,682
Intangible assets	5.2	2,705,783	2,807,790
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.2	416,767,788	382,469,773
Total non-current assets		419,767,201	385,570,345
Total assets		457,220,114	437,805,589
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3(a)	1,641,590	2,375,392
Trust funds and deposits	5.3(b)	554,792	367,767
Contract and other liabilities	5.3(c)	1,422,500	3,176,276
Provisions	5.4	2,528,041	2,836,372
Total current liabilities		6,146,923	8,755,807
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.4	1,735,513	1,773,183
Total non-current liabilities		1,735,513	1,773,183
Total liabilities		7,882,436	10,528,990
Net assets		449,337,678	427,276,599
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		100,714,871	91,709,883
Reserves	9	348,622,807	335,566,716
Total equity		449,337,678	427,276,599

The above Balance Sheet should be read with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

2024

	Note	Total 2024 \$	Accumulated surplus 2024 \$	Revaluation reserve 2024 \$	Other reserves 2024 \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		427,276,599	91,709,883	301,850,014	33,716,702
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(6,423,485)	(6,423,485)	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain / (loss)	9.1(a)	28,488,069	-	28,488,069	-
Transfer to reserves	9.1(b)	-	(11,103,692)	-	11,103,692
Transfer from reserves	9.1(b)	-	26,535,670	-	(26,535,670)
Share of other comprehensive income		(3,505)	(3,505)	-	-
Balance at end of financial year		449,337,678	100,714,871	330,338,083	18,284,724

2023

	Note	Total 2023 \$	Accumulated surplus 2023 \$	Revaluation reserve 2023 \$	Other reserves 2023 \$
Balance at beginning of the financial year		380,714,592	91,667,547	262,232,789	26,814,256
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		6,948,455	6,948,455	-	-
Net asset revaluation gain / (loss)	9.1(a)	39,617,225	-	39,617,225	-
Transfer to reserves	9.1(b)	-	(24,971,210)	-	24,971,210
Transfer from reserves	9.1(b)	-	18,068,764	-	(18,068,764)
Share of other comprehensive income		(3,673)	(3,673)	-	-
Balance at end of financial year		427,276,599	91,709,883	301,850,014	33,716,702

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read with the accompanying notes.

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	Note	2024 Inflows/ (outflows) \$	2023 Inflows/ (outflows) \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		12,464,008	12,127,262
Statutory fees and fines		35,046	336,507
User fees		1,606,044	649,596
Grants - operating		5,371,187	21,444,456
Grants - capital		8,871,036	6,181,169
Contributions - monetary		30,000	361,400
Donated assets		-	45,322
Reimbursements and subsidies		1,233,013	1,181,739
Interest received		1,632,312	1,390,151
Net GST refund		245,954	1,268,707
Trust funds and deposits taken		187,025	(15)
Employee costs		(14,487,038)	(13,361,866)
Material and services		(15,535,050)	(12,932,581)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	9.2	1,653,537	18,691,847
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(17,817,828)	(10,224,734)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.7	939,848	302,050
Payments from / (for) investments		1,991,256	3,496,001
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(14,886,724)	(6,426,683)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(13,233,187)	12,265,164
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		15,992,321	3,727,157
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5.1	2,759,134	15,992,321

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read with the accompanying notes.

**STATEMENT OF CAPITAL WORKS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Land and buildings			
Land		108,000	-
Buildings - specialised		10,048,390	1,394,372
Work in progress		(3,056,032)	3,722,102
Total buildings		7,100,357	5,116,474
Plant and fittings			
Plant, machinery and equipment		3,608,973	974,628
Office furniture and equipment		21,472	40,182
Total plant and equipment		3,630,445	1,014,810
Infrastructure			
Roads		6,493,747	2,953,021
Bridges		-	445,562
Footpaths and cycleways		349,487	522,263
Kerb and channel		-	-
Drainage		883,139	172,604
Street furniture		-	-
Work in progress		(577,949)	-
Total infrastructure		7,148,424	4,093,450
Total capital works expenditure	6.2	17,879,226	10,224,734
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		4,314,461	1,014,810
Asset renewal expenditure		5,194,481	4,762,106
Asset expansion expenditure		3,174,988	4,099,041
Asset upgrade expenditure		5,195,296	348,777
Total capital works expenditure		17,879,226	10,224,734

The above Statement of Capital Works should be read with the accompanying notes.

NOTE 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Loddon Shire Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 19 January 1995 and is a body corporate. The Council's main office is located at 41 High Street, Wedderburn.

Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consist of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), the *Local Government Act 2020*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Council is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Accounting policy information

(1.1) Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Specific accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, whereby assets liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise specified. Minor discrepancies in tables between totals and the sum of components due to rounding.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.4)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- whether or not *AASB 1059 Service Concession Agreements: Grantors* is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements.

NOTE 1 OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)**Significant accounting policies (continued)*****(1.1) Basis of accounting (continued)***

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount associated with GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

(1.2) Impact of COVID-19

During 2023/24 the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact on Council's operations. Council has noted only minor interruptions and no impacts of a material nature on its financial operations.

NOTE 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Management has adopted a materiality threshold of 20 percent and \$50,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by Council on 27 June 2023.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

2.1.1 Income / revenue and expenditure

	Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2024 \$	Variance \$	Variance %	Ref
Income / revenue					
Rates and charges	12,713,535	12,702,361	(11,174)	-0.1%	
Statutory fees and fines	294,310	333,055	38,745	13.2%	
User fees	1,005,449	845,112	(160,337)	-15.9%	
Grants - operating	23,587,959	5,280,553	(18,307,406)	-77.6%	1
Grants - capital	4,775,452	10,624,812	5,849,360	122.5%	2
Contributions - monetary	-	30,000	30,000	100.0%	
Reimbursements and subsidies	579,225	1,233,013	653,788	112.9%	3
Donated assets	-	-	-	0.0%	
Interest earnings	435,000	2,059,382	1,624,382	373.4%	4
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	-	274,838	274,838	100.0%	5
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures	-	4,352	4,352	0.0%	
Total income / revenue	43,390,931	33,387,478	(10,003,452)	-23.1%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	14,758,874	13,782,880	975,994	6.6%	
Materials and services	31,976,442	14,392,629	17,583,813	-55.0%	6
Depreciation	10,308,760	11,265,032	(956,272)	9.3%	
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	-	64,408	(64,408)	100.0%	7
Other expenses	364,176	306,014	58,162	-16.0%	
Total expenses	57,408,253	39,810,963	17,597,289	-30.7%	
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(14,017,322)	(6,423,485)	7,593,836	-54.2%	

(I) Explanation of material variations

- 1 The budget for 2023/24 and had an allocated income and expense of \$20M for the flood program. There is significant approval delays which has reduced the delivery of this program.
- 2 The capital grants received in 2023/24 includes some carried forward amounts that were not at the relevant milestones in 2022/23 that have been carried forward. This also includes additional funding for the next round of the Local Roads Community Infrastructure program of \$3M.
- 3 The 2023/24 amount includes reimbursement for flood insurance works of approximately \$235K and Civica implementation cost reimbursements of approx. \$224K which were not included in the budget.
- 4 Significant increases in interest rates and available cash has resulted in increased interest income.
- 5 & 7 This is unknown, therefore Council does not budget for share of profit / loss or doubtful debts.
- 6 The budget for 2023/24 and had an allocated income and expense of \$20M for the flood program. There is significant approval delays which has reduced the delivery of this program.

NOTE 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS (CONTINUED)

2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

2.1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2024 \$	Variance \$	Variance %	Ref
Land and buildings					
Land	5,000	228,000	(223,000)	4460.0%	
Buildings	200,000	935,391	(735,391)	367.7%	
Recreation, leisure and community facilities	750,000	4,709,727	(3,959,727)	528.0%	
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,327,380	1,227,239	100,141	-7.5%	
Total land and buildings	2,282,380	7,100,357	(4,817,977)	211.1%	1
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	2,490,440	3,608,973	(1,118,533)	44.9%	
Office furniture and equipment	190,700	21,472	169,228	-88.7%	
Total plant and equipment	2,681,140	3,630,445	(949,305)	35.4%	2
Infrastructure					
Roads	5,379,445	6,493,746	(1,114,301)	20.7%	
Bridges	152,328	247,868	(95,540)	62.7%	
Footpaths and cycleways	232,061	349,487	(117,426)	50.6%	
Drainage	-	57,323	(57,323)	100.0%	
Total infrastructure	5,763,834	7,148,424	(1,384,590)	24.0%	3
Total capital works expenditure	10,727,354	17,879,226	(7,151,872)	66.7%	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	2,681,140	4,314,461	(1,633,321)	60.9%	
Asset renewal expenditure	5,968,834	5,194,481	774,353	-13.0%	
Asset expansion expenditure	2,077,380	3,174,988	(1,097,608)	52.8%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	-	5,195,296	(5,195,296)	100.0%	
Total capital works expenditure	10,727,354	17,879,226	(7,151,872)	66.7%	

(i) Explanation of material variations

- 1 During 2023/24 the adopted budget of \$2.28M increased to just under \$13.4M due to carried forward projects and new grants. Of this amount \$7.15M was delivered as at 30 June 2024. The main projects in this area was the Donaldson Park Pavillion (\$3.5M), Pyramid Hill Community Centre (\$710K) and caravan park improvement program (\$682K).
- 2 During 2023/24 the adopted budget of \$2.68M increased to just over \$4.18M due to plant items that were on order, but not yet received. Of this amount \$3.63M was delivered as at 30 June 2024. This included 2 graders, 3 mowers and 2 trucks.
- 3 During 2023/24 the adopted budget of \$7.84M increased to \$12.34M due to carried forward projects and new grants. Of this amount \$7.09M was delivered as at 30 June 2024. Some of these carried forward amounts include road construction projects on Pyramid Yarraberb Rd of \$1.23M and Echuca Serpentine Road of \$1.8M

NOTE 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS (CONTINUED)

2.2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs:

2.2.1 Programs

A sustainable built and natural environment

Infrastructure: We will implement financially and environmentally sustainable infrastructure that supports our social and economic needs.

Environment: We will work with our partners to preserve and protect our local environment. We will support our community to respond to the impacts of climate change.

A growing and vibrant community

Population: We will promote population growth to support a growing and diverse community.

Community: We will support a connected and inclusive community that provides opportunities for current and new community members at all ages, abilities, and stages of their life.

Youth: We will support our youth to access pathways for education and employment and the ability to connect and actively engage with their community.

A diverse and expanding economy

Tourism: We will promote our unique tourism opportunities and support our local tourism industry to increase visitation to our area.

Economy: We will support established businesses and seek to attract new businesses to grow our local economy.

A supported and accessible community

Services: We will deliver our core services and advocate for access to other services for our community that support the health, wellbeing and liveability of our community.

Communication: We will listen to our community about how they wish to communicate with us and implement effective communication methods to achieve this. We will provide our community with opportunities to engage with us.

2.2.2 Summary of income / revenue, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

2024 - Council Plan

	Income / revenue \$	Expenses \$	Surplus / (Deficit) \$	Grants included in income / revenue \$	Total assets \$
Sustainable built and natural environment	15,812,094	27,035,868	(11,223,774)	13,022,750	407,407,463
Growing and vibrant community	764,355	2,364,214	(1,599,859)	215,067	-
Diverse and expanding economy	508,563	827,132	(318,569)	331,633	491,806
Supported and accessible community	16,302,466	9,583,749	6,718,717	2,335,915	49,320,845
Total	33,387,478	39,810,963	(6,423,485)	15,905,365	457,220,114

2023 - Council Plan

	Income / revenue \$	Expenses \$	Surplus / (Deficit) \$	Grants included in income / revenue \$	Total assets \$
Sustainable built and natural environment	11,163,154	7,028,256	4,134,898	8,723,022	378,073,554
Growing and vibrant community	3,455,074	2,401,182	1,053,892	2,950,996	-
Diverse and expanding economy	825,819	1,095,862	(270,043)	269,287	311,958
Supported and accessible community	29,057,758	27,028,050	2,029,708	15,761,041	59,420,077
Total	44,501,805	37,553,350	6,948,455	27,704,346	437,805,589

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

3.1 Rates and charges

Council uses Capital Improved Value (C.I.V.) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The C.I.V. of a property includes the value of the land and all improvements on the land.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2023/24 was \$4,745,253,300. The valuation base used in 2022/23 was \$3,497,520,100.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
General rates	2,402,796	2,688,092
Rural production rates	6,730,196	6,181,689
Municipal charges	1,416,725	1,356,691
Kerbside recycling charges	546,842	527,248
Garbage charges	1,536,425	1,477,925
Interest on rates and charges	69,377	51,380
Total rates and garbage charges	12,702,361	12,283,025

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2023, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2023.

Annual rates and charges are recognised as income when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Statutory fees and fines		
Rates and property	17,987	14,284
Risk management	2,378	3,232
Building regulation	43,548	44,998
Local laws and animal management	74,071	85,016
Public health	61,115	54,702
Strategic and statutory planning	133,956	127,170
Total statutory fees and fines	333,055	329,402

Statutory fees and fines (including building permits and local laws fines) are recognised as income when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Continued)

3.3 User fees

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
User fees		
Caravan parks	128,198	494,146
Municipal health and wellbeing	52,456	-
Tourism	7,686	17,407
Aged care services	403	418,362
Seniors	7,667	4,516
Emergency management	4,881	4,911
Preschools	9,747	4,896
Corporate governance	1,819	565
Financial services	3,097	2,641
Human resources and development	25,100	49,058
Council engineering and technical services	40,047	63,831
Building regulation	-	2,217
Local laws and animal management	403	-
Building and property management	44,940	61,563
Gravel pits	353,810	16,203
Roads	8,059	16,687
Waste management	44,122	38,013
Other	1,021	2,908
Rent received		
Elderly persons units	70,610	70,202
Economic development	41,046	44,978
Total user fees	845,112	1,313,104
User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised at a point in time	845,112	1,313,104
Total user fees	845,112	1,313,104

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

3.4 Funding from other levels of government

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
Summary of grants		
Commonwealth funded grants	3,288,086	15,513,407
State funded grants	12,617,279	12,190,939
Total grants received	15,905,365	27,704,346

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
(a) Operating grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government:		
Financial Assistance Grant - general purpose grant	282,324	7,927,689
Financial Assistance Grant - local roads	205,224	5,610,806
Total operating Commonwealth Government grants	487,548	13,538,495

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Continued)

3.4 Funding from other levels of government (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Recurrent - State Government:		
Aged care services	56,265	869,649
Seniors	-	3,700
Maternal and child health	393,684	274,172
Early years	-	186,834
Preschools	751,065	628,052
Rates and property	47,441	46,397
Roads	85,000	75,000
Waste management	21,734	6,635
Other	35,373	43,795
Total recurrent operating grants	1,390,562	2,134,234
Non recurrent - State Government:		
Flood management	2,602,987	5,378,067
Community wellbeing projects	-	20,500
Grants and community planning	194,000	182,000
Early years	-	109,239
Preschools	399,398	-
Project and contract management	-	58,400
Public health	191,445	152,242
Strategic and statutory planning	-	50,000
Other	14,613	-
Total non recurrent operating grants	3,402,443	5,950,448
Total operating grants	5,280,553	21,623,177
(b) Capital grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government:		
Roads to Recovery	2,800,538	1,974,912
Recurrent - State Government:		
Caravan parks	331,633	269,287
Non recurrent - State Government:		
Grants and community planning	4,426,103	1,000,000
Project and contract management	-	111,258
Infrastructure program	3,066,538	2,725,712
Total non recurrent capital grants	7,492,641	3,836,970
Total capital grants	10,624,812	6,081,169

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Continued)

3.4 Funding from other levels of government (continued)

(c) Recognition of grant income

Before recognising funding from government grants as revenue the Council assesses whether there is a contract that is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. When both these conditions are satisfied, Council:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to revenue under the contract/agreement
- determines the transaction price
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations, at the time or over time when services are rendered.

Where the contract is not enforceable and/or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Council applies AASB 1058 *Income for Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific performance obligations is recognised over time as the performance obligations specified in the underlying agreement are met. Where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific, grants are recognised on the earlier of receipt or when an unconditional right to receipt has been established. Grants relating to capital projects are generally recognised progressively as the capital project is completed. The following table provides a summary of the accounting framework under which grants are recognised.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income recognised under AASB 1058 <i>Income for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>		
General purpose	489,744	13,546,014
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	14,563,244	13,244,867
Other specific purpose grants	11,750	11,750
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>		
Specific purpose grants	840,627	901,715
Total grants recognised in income statement	15,905,365	27,704,345

(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Operating		
Balance at start of year	10,516,679	7,137,817
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	53,963	5,642,536
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(8,766,260)	(2,263,674)
Balance at year end	1,804,382	10,516,679
Capital		
Balance at start of year	6,772,257	4,198,618
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	(153,297)	3,607,969
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(4,559,680)	(1,034,330)
Balance at year end	2,059,280	6,772,257
Unspent Grants Reserve at year end (Note 9.1(b))	3,863,662	17,288,936
Unearned income		
Balance at start of year	3,176,276	3,076,276
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	200,000	100,000
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(1,953,776)	-
Unearned income balance at year end	1,422,500	3,176,276

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

NOTE 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (Continued)**3.5 Contributions**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Contributions - operating - monetary	10,000	88,150
Contributions - capital - monetary	20,000	273,250
Total contributions	30,000	361,400

Monetary contributions are recognised as income at their fair value when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

3.6 Reimbursements and subsidies

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Council administration	134,400	119,282
Grants and community planning	5,298	11,770
Risk management	339,240	111,121
Governance	223,734	183,339
Plant and fleet	169,223	109,817
Department of Transport routine maintenance contract	357,882	640,338
Other	3,236	6,072
Total reimbursements and subsidies	1,233,013	1,181,739

Reimbursements and subsidies are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided or Council has otherwise earned the income.

3.7 Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Proceeds from sale	939,848	302,050
Written down value of assets disposed	(665,010)	(284,660)
Total net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	274,838	17,390

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.8 Interest received

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Interest on investments	1,990,005	1,213,396
Rates interest	69,377	51,380
Total interest received	2,059,382	1,264,776

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

NOTE 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

4.1 (a) Employee costs

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Salaries and wages	10,546,794	10,747,112
Annual leave and long service leave	1,396,027	1,203,601
Superannuation	1,346,552	1,192,587
Fringe benefits	109,871	109,776
Workcover	383,636	210,945
Total employee costs	13,782,880	13,464,021

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Defined benefit fund		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	35,020	44,948
Total defined benefit fund	35,020	44,948

Employer contributions payable at reporting date is NIL.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	546,613	562,593
Employer contributions - Australian Super	156,923	115,556
Employer contributions - VicSuper	106,394	66,789
Employer contributions - Hesta	46,072	39,794
Employer contributions - Cbus	62,205	55,644
Employer contributions - other funds	393,325	307,263
Total accumulated funds	1,311,532	1,147,639

Employer contributions payable at reporting date is NIL.

Contributions made exclude amounts accrued at balance date. Refer to Note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

4.2 Materials and services

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Major contracts		
Caravan parks	32,938	221,459
Swimming pools	442,070	416,885
Building and property maintenance	272,531	242,080
Waste management operations	1,385,004	1,160,677
Other contracts	82,259	276,940
Major projects	452,072	-
Other materials and services		
Commercial services	66,415	-
Insurance	746,319	552,532
Administration and management	-	385,461
Economic development	27,700	285,626
Council administration	205,201	162,635

NOTE 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (Continued)**4.2 Materials and services (continued)**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Library services	217,875	205,410
Flood management	3,930,919	1,920,573
Media	92,113	82,582
Caravan parks	43,316	148,674
Tourism	230,830	99,941
Aged care services	68,270	208,433
Elderly persons units	55,059	35,022
Seniors	43,502	30,699
Community wellbeing	-	86,588
Community support	491,618	214,029
Recreation and community planning	178,636	277,805
Emergency management	10,977	25,187
Municipal health and wellbeing	7,171	23,857
Swimming pools	133,535	106,185
Early years	61,526	75,565
Preschools	244,720	41,867
Corporate governance	221,959	88,096
Financial services	392,399	70,145
Customer service	38,617	46,001
Information technology	1,202,634	1,081,202
Human resources and management	312,059	236,957
Risk management	16,082	115,909
Council engineering and technical services	144,593	72,810
Project and contract management	-	100,985
Building regulation	31,604	73,394
Local laws and animal management	31,431	33,704
Public health	174,854	106,072
Building and property maintenance	398,023	359,204
Plant and fleet	(518,664)	406,653
Gravel pits	197,643	244,628
Parks and townships	248,660	258,909
Roads	861,562	517,135
Department of Transport routine maintenance contract	158,264	260,402
Waste management	224,832	900,270
Waterways management	8,600	25,148
Utilities	495,935	513,196
Other	228,966	179,965
Total materials and services	14,392,629	12,977,497

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

NOTE 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (Continued)

4.3 Depreciation

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Roads	6,895,265	6,575,366
Buildings	558,400	1,583,137
Plant and equipment	993,045	818,814
Bridges	1,732,960	532,118
Urban drains	565,827	537,282
Furniture and equipment	36,139	206,589
Footpaths	204,823	220,964
Kerb and channel	208,074	199,965
Landfills	12,709	12,706
Street furniture	56,673	54,631
Quarries	1,117	1,115
Total depreciation	11,265,032	10,742,687

Refer to Note 6.2 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation charges and accounting policy.

4.4 Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Rates debtors	62,848	56,973
Sundry debtors	1,560	826
Total bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses	64,408	57,799

Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of the year	205,470	151,188
New provisions recognised during the year	64,408	57,799
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	(79)	(2,540)
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	(2,480)	(977)
Balance at end of year	267,319	205,470

An allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

4.5 Other expenses

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Councillors' allowances	226,466	226,466
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	23,412	40,280
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - Audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	56,136	44,600
Total other expenses	306,014	311,346

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

5.1 Financial assets

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	1,800	1,800
Cash at bank (CEO's advance account)	4,000	4,000
Cash at bank (general account)	2,753,334	15,986,521
Cash and cash equivalents	2,759,134	15,992,321

(b) Other financial assets

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
Term deposits	31,000,000	33,000,000
Cash at bank (trust account)	197,145	188,401
Total current other financial assets	31,197,145	33,188,401
Total other financial assets	31,197,145	33,188,401

Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	33,956,279	49,180,722
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Council's other financial assets are subject to a number of internal and external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary or future use. These include:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Restricted funds		
Trust funds (Note 5.3)	554,792	367,767
Total restricted funds	554,792	367,767
Total unrestricted funds	30,642,353	32,820,634

Intended allocations

Although not externally restricted the intended allocations above have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Unspent grants (refer to Note 9.1)	3,863,662	17,288,936
Long service leave (refer to Note 5.4)	1,835,172	2,027,056
Total restricted and intended allocation funds	5,698,834	19,315,992

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either revenue or expense.

Other financial assets include term deposits and those with original maturity dates of three to 12 months are classified as current, whilst term deposits with maturity dates greater than 12 months are classified as non-current.

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)**5.1 Financial assets (continued)****(c) Trade and other receivables**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Net receivable GST	268,541	359,175
Rates debtors	602,636	364,283
Allowance for expected credit loss	(144,352)	(110,954)
	726,825	612,504
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Sundry debtors	976,996	1,403,023
Other debtors	96,108	104,553
Allowance for expected credit loss	(122,967)	(94,516)
Loans and advances to community organisations	-	-
	950,137	1,413,060
Total current trade and other receivables	1,676,962	2,025,564

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised based on past experience and other objective evidence of expected losses. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Ageing of receivables

The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) that are not impaired was:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current (not yet due)	722,175	311,549
Past due by up to 30 days	206,317	774,796
Past due between 31 and 180 days	7,085	276,135
Past due between 181 and 365 days	1,383	13,287
Past due over 365 days	40,036	131,809
Total trade and other receivables	976,996	1,507,576

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)

5.1 Financial assets (continued)

(e) Ageing of individually impaired receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$122,967 (2023: \$94,516) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was \$122,967 (2023: \$94,516). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current (not yet due)		
Past due by up to 30 days	-	-
Past due between 31 and 180 days	-	-
Past due between 181 and 365 days	-	-
Past due by more than 1 year	122,967	94,516
Total trade and other receivables	122,967	94,516

5.2 Non-financial assets

(a) Other assets

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current		
Accrued income	1,138,803	711,733
Prepayments	189,065	5,267
Total current	1,327,868	717,000
Non-current		
Procurement Australia Pty Ltd Shares	100	100
Total non-current	100	100
Total other assets	1,327,968	717,100

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)**5.2 Non-financial assets (continued)****(b) Intangible assets**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Non-current		
Water rights	2,705,783	2,807,790
Total intangible assets	2,705,783	2,807,790

Reconciliation of movements in intangible assets for the reporting period

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Water rights		
Gross carrying amount at beginning of period	2,807,790	2,713,090
Additional water rights obtained during the period	-	-
Water rights disposed of during the period	-	-
Revaluation increment / (decrement)	(102,007)	94,700
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-
Gross carrying amount at end of period	2,705,783	2,807,790

Water rights are revalued annually and are deemed to have an infinite life.

Water rights are revalued at 30 June 2024 to the published water trade market rate applying at that date.

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)

5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities

(a) Trade and other payables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Trade payables	182,157	1,853,234
Accrued wages and salaries	-	476,066
Accrued expenses	1,459,433	46,092
Total trade and other payables	1,641,590	2,375,392

(b) Trust funds and deposits

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
Contract retentions	207,018	66,698
Fire services property levy	123,221	83,586
Building deposits	27,340	27,340
Unclaimed monies	68	1,742
Other refundable deposits:		
Wedderburn Pre-school investment	197,145	188,401
Total trust funds and deposits	554,792	367,767

(c) Other liabilities

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current		
Deferred capital grants	1,422,500	3,176,276
Total other liabilities	1,422,500	3,176,276

Trust funds and deposits

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in Council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

Other liabilities

Grant consideration that is received from another relevant authority to support construction projects. Grant consideration is recognised as income following specific guidance under AASB 1058 as the asset is constructed. Income is recognised to the extent of costs incurred-to-date because the costs of construction most closely reflect the stage of completion. As such, Council has deferred recognition of a portion of the grant consideration received as a liability for outstanding obligations.

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)**5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities (continued)****Purpose and nature of items*****Contract retentions***

Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with council's contractual obligations.

Fire Services Property Levy

Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the State Government in line with that process.

Building deposits

Under the provisions of the *Building Act 1993*, Council may issue a Building Permit subject to a condition that the applicant must deposit with the Council a bond, for an amount determined in accordance with the regulations, to secure the complete and satisfactory carrying out of the work authorised by the Building Permit.

Wedderburn Pre-school investment

Council is holding funds on behalf of the Wedderburn Pre-school. These funds are invested by Council according to the instructions of the pre-school.

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)

5.4 Provisions

2024	Employee			Landfill rehabilitation	Gravel pit rehabilitation	Total
	Annual leave	Long service leave	RDOs			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	977,384	2,027,056	98,711	1,432,224	74,180	4,609,555
Additional provisions	918,469	131,730	399,308	(124,377)	6,468	1,331,598
Amounts used	(932,674)	(323,614)	(421,311)	-	-	(1,677,599)
Balance at the end of the financial year	963,179	1,835,172	76,708	1,307,847	80,648	4,263,554

<i>Provisions - current</i>	963,179	1,422,762	76,708	65,392	-	2,528,041
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	-	412,410	-	1,242,455	80,648	1,735,513

2023	Employee			Landfill rehabilitation	Gravel pit rehabilitation	Total
	Annual leave	Long service leave	RDOs			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	1,042,900	1,999,063	94,218	886,416	65,098	4,087,695
Additional provisions	870,217	295,861	551,432	545,808	9,082	2,272,400
Amounts used	(935,733)	(267,868)	(546,939)	-	-	(1,750,540)
Balance at the end of the financial year	977,384	2,027,056	98,711	1,432,224	74,180	4,609,555

<i>Provisions - current</i>	977,384	1,688,666	98,711	71,611	-	2,836,372
<i>Provisions - non-current</i>	-	338,390	-	1,360,613	74,180	1,773,183

(a) Employee provisions

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	770,543	781,907
Long service leave	184,959	219,527
RDOs	76,708	98,711
Total	1,032,210	1,100,145
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	192,636	195,477
Long service leave	1,237,803	1,469,139
Total	1,430,439	1,664,616
Total current employee provisions	2,462,649	2,764,761
Non-current		
Long service leave	412,410	338,390
Total non-current employee provisions	412,410	338,390

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)

5.4 Provisions (continued)

(a) Employee provisions (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions		
Current	2,462,649	2,764,761
Non-current	412,410	338,390
Total aggregate amount of employee provisions	2,875,059	3,103,151

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- nominal value if the Council expected to wholly settle the liability within 12 months
- present value if the Council does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non-current liability and measured at present value.

Key assumptions:	2024	2023
Discount rate	4.45%	5.76%
Index rate	2.25%	3.94%

(b) Landfill restoration

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current	65,392	71,611
Non-current	1,242,455	1,360,613
Total landfill restoration	1,307,847	1,432,224

Council is obligated to restore landfill sites to a particular standard. The forecast life of the sites are based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected costs of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works have been estimated based on the current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard and budgeted costs for that work. Accordingly, the estimation of a provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs. Council reviews the landfill restoration provision on an annual basis, including the key assumptions listed below.

Key assumptions:	2024	2023
Discount rate	3.76%	3.65%
Index rate	3.41%	3.17%

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)

5.4 Provisions (continued)

(c) Gravel pit rehabilitation

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Non-current	80,648	74,180
Total gravel pit rehabilitation	80,648	74,180

Council is obligated to restore gravel pit sites to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for gravel pit restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard and budgeted costs for that work. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

Key assumptions:	2024	2023
Discount rate	3.64%	3.57%
Index rate	3.41%	2.52%

Summary of provisions

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current	2,528,041	2,836,372
Non-current	1,735,513	1,773,183
Total provisions	4,263,554	4,609,555

5.5 Financing arrangements

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Bank overdraft - Westpac	500,000	500,000
Credit card facilities	100,000	100,000
Total facilities	600,000	600,000
Used facilities	-	-
Unused facilities	600,000	600,000

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)**5.6 Commitments**

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

(a) Commitments for expenditure**2024**

	Not later than 1 year \$	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$	Later than 5 years \$	Total \$
Operating					
Environmental services	972,385	972,385	1,944,770	-	3,889,540
Insurance services	700,520	-	-	-	700,520
Library corporation	238,425	-	-	-	238,425
Workcover	406,563	-	-	-	406,563
Valuation services	73,326	-	-	-	73,326
Software upgrades	28,460	-	-	-	28,460
Flood restoration works	175,292	-	-	-	175,292
Strategy development	103,845	-	-	-	103,845
Total	2,698,816	972,385	1,944,770	-	5,615,971
Capital					
Building works	110,880	-	-	-	110,880
Footpath works	757,878	-	-	-	757,878
Road construction works	105,039	-	-	-	105,039
Major plant and fleet items	79,931	-	-	-	79,931
Mitigation works	463,563	-	-	-	463,563
Major project planning	124,546	-	-	-	124,546
Total	1,641,837	-	-	-	1,641,837
	4,340,653	972,385	1,944,770	-	7,257,808

2023

	Not later than 1 year \$	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$	Later than 5 years \$	Total \$
Operating					
Environmental services	972,385	972,385	2,917,155	-	4,861,925
Insurance services	693,287	-	-	-	693,287
Library corporation	252,910	-	-	-	252,910
Workcover	260,337	-	-	-	260,337
Flood restoration works	2,033,462	-	-	-	2,033,462
Strategy development	60,500	-	-	-	60,500
Total	4,272,881	972,385	2,917,155	-	8,162,421
Capital					
Donaldson Park	1,788,021	-	-	-	1,788,021
Footpath contracted works	375,878	-	-	-	375,878
Bridge and culvert contracted works	140,734	-	-	-	140,734
Major plant and fleet items	3,162,427	-	-	-	3,162,427
Lighting projects	540,628	-	-	-	540,628
Total	6,007,688	-	-	-	6,007,688
	10,280,569	972,385	2,917,155	-	14,170,109

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)

5.6 Commitments (continued)

(b) Operating lease receivables

Council had commercial property leases on its caravan parks. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellation lease terms between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Lease receivable		
No later than one year	61,800	60,000
Later than one year and not later than five years	266,305	191,018
Later than five years	-	-
	328,105	251,018

5.7 Leases

At inception of a contract, Council assess whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- the contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- Council has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- Council has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

Council has elected to apply the temporary option available under *AASB 16 Leases* which allows not-for-profit entities to not measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

Council has concessionary leases covering crown land parcels as outlined below:

- caravan parks at Boort and Pyramid Hill
- office space at Serpentine
- various other community recreation and hall / centre facilities.

There is no cost for the lease of these properties, however Council is responsible for all maintenance, utility and relevant insurance costs associated with the land. No lease term has been determined for the properties outlined.

Short-term and low value leases

Council has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of machinery that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (individual assets worth less than existing capitalisation thresholds for a like asset up to a maximum of \$10,000), including IT equipment. Council recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Expenses relating to:		
Short-term leases	-	-
Leases of low value assets	20,533	17,048
Total	20,533	17,048

NOTE 5 INVESTING IN AND FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS (Continued)

5.7 Leases (continued)

Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:		
Within one year	3,383	3,359
Later than 1 year but no later than 5 years	17,150	13,689
Total lease commitments	20,533	17,048

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE

6.1 Non current assets classified as held for sale

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Non current		
Land at valuation	509,643	323,273
LESS selling costs	(17,838)	(11,315)
Total non current assets held for sale	491,805	311,958

Capitalisation rate used in the allocation of borrowing costs N/A N/A

Non-current assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of its carrying amount and fair value less costs to disposal, and are not subject to depreciation. Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment****Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

	Carrying amount 30 June 2023 \$	Additions / Transfers \$	Revaluations / Impairment \$	Depreciation \$	Disposals / Transfers \$	Carrying amount 30 June 2024 \$
Land	14,010,670	108,000	6,449,367	-	(179,847)	20,388,190
Buildings	52,614,329	10,048,390	8,296,996	(1,732,960)	(61,397)	69,165,358
Plant and equipment	6,869,393	3,630,445	-	(1,029,185)	(665,011)	8,805,642
Infrastructure	302,401,724	7,726,373	13,843,712	(8,502,887)	-	315,468,922
Work in progress	6,573,656	(3,633,981)	-	-	-	2,939,675
Total	382,469,773	17,879,226	28,590,075	(11,265,032)	(906,255)	416,767,788
		Revaluation	51,234,095			
		Impairment	(22,644,019)			
			28,590,075			

Summary of work in progress

	Opening WIP \$	Additions \$	Transfers \$	Write-off \$	Closing WIP \$
Property	5,693,698	1,670,743	(4,726,775)	-	2,637,666
Infrastructure	879,958	302,009	(879,958)	-	302,009
Total	6,573,656	1,972,752	(5,606,733)	-	2,939,675

(a) Property

	Land \$	Buildings \$	Work in progress \$	Total land and buildings \$
Land and Buildings				
At fair value 1 July 2023	14,010,670	94,944,470	5,693,698	114,648,838
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	-	(42,330,141)	-	(42,330,141)
	14,010,670	52,614,329	5,693,698	72,318,697
Movements in fair value				
Additions	108,000	10,048,390	1,670,743	11,827,133
Revaluation	6,449,367	14,465,501	-	20,914,868
Transfers	(179,847)	(10,793)	-	(190,640)
	6,377,520	24,503,098	1,670,743	32,551,361
Movements in accumulated				
Depreciation	-	(1,732,960)	-	(1,732,960)
Revaluation	-	(6,168,505)	-	(6,168,505)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	-	-	-	-
Transfers	-	(50,604)	(4,726,775)	(4,777,379)
	-	(7,952,069)	(4,726,775)	(12,678,844)
At fair value 30 June 2024	20,388,190	119,447,568	2,637,666	147,200,199
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	-	(50,282,210)	-	(55,008,985)
Carrying amount	20,388,190	69,165,358	2,637,666	92,191,214

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)****(b) Plant and equipment**

	Plant machinery and equipment \$	Fixtures fittings and furniture \$	Total plant and equipment \$
Plant and equipment			
At fair value 1 July 2023	14,164,930	1,888,758	16,053,688
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(7,638,053)	(1,546,242)	(9,184,295)
	6,526,877	342,516	6,869,393
Movements in fair value			
Additions	3,608,973	21,472	3,630,445
Transfers	(2,247,451)	(1,104,100)	(3,351,551)
	1,361,522	(1,082,628)	278,894
Movements in accumulated depreciation			
Depreciation	(993,046)	(36,139)	(1,029,185)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	1,697,170	989,370	2,686,540
	704,124	953,231	1,657,355
At fair value 30 June 2024	15,526,452	806,130	16,332,582
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(6,933,929)	(593,011)	(7,526,940)
Carrying amount	8,592,523	213,119	8,805,642

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)****(c) Infrastructure**

Infrastructure	Roads \$	Bridges \$	Footpaths and cycleways \$	Kerb and channel \$	Drainage \$
At fair value 1 July 2023	363,270,548	52,499,835	10,425,971	11,984,940	40,866,724
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(126,773,074)	(22,054,265)	(2,929,280)	(4,628,213)	(21,502,346)
	236,497,474	30,445,570	7,496,691	7,356,727	19,364,378
Movements in fair value					
Additions	6,493,747	-	349,487	-	883,139
Revaluation	15,341,557	2,590,385	(1,017,335)	486,083	1,288,092
Impairment losses recognised	(22,515,837)	(128,182)	-	-	-
	(680,533)	2,462,203	(667,848)	486,083	2,171,231
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation	(6,895,264)	(558,400)	(204,823)	(208,074)	(565,827)
Revaluation (increments)/decrements	17,933,564	225,497	66,536	59,402	(576,583)
Impairment losses recognised	-	-	-	-	-
	11,038,300	(332,903)	(138,287)	(148,672)	(1,142,410)
At fair value 30 June 2024	362,590,015	54,962,038	9,758,123	12,471,023	43,037,955
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(115,734,774)	(22,387,168)	(3,067,567)	(4,776,885)	(22,644,756)
Carrying amount	246,855,241	32,574,870	6,690,556	7,694,138	20,393,199

Infrastructure (continued)	Quarries \$	Street Furniture \$	Landfills \$	Work In Progress \$	Total Infrastructure \$
At fair value 1 July 2023	58,507	1,269,498	1,994,306	879,958	483,250,288
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(30,597)	(363,231)	(1,687,600)	-	(179,968,606)
	27,910	906,267	306,706	879,958	303,281,682
Movements in fair value					
Additions	-	-	-	302,009	8,028,382
Revaluation	-	47,431	-	-	18,736,213
Impairment losses recognised	-	-	-	-	(22,644,019)
	-	47,431	-	302,009	4,120,576
Movements in accumulated depreciation					
Depreciation	(1,117)	(56,673)	(12,709)	-	(8,502,887)
Revaluation (increments)/decrements	-	43,102	-	-	17,751,518
Transfers	-	-	-	(879,958)	(879,958)
	(1,117)	(13,571)	(12,709)	(879,958)	8,368,673
At fair value 30 June 2024	58,507	1,316,929	1,994,306	302,009	486,490,905
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(31,714)	(376,802)	(1,700,309)	-	(170,719,975)
Carrying amount	26,793	940,127	293,997	302,009	315,770,930

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Refer to Note 8.4 for further disclosure regarding fair value measurement.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods

	Depreciation period Years	Threshold limit \$
Property land	-	3,000
Buildings buildings	33 to 100	3,000
Plant and equipment plant, machinery, minor plant and equipment	2.5 to 20	3,000
motor vehicles	5 to 10	3,000
fixtures fittings and furniture	5 to 50	3,000
computers and telecommunications	3	3,000
Infrastructure road seals	5 to 50	3,000
road pavements - sealed	80	3,000
road pavements - unsealed	20 to 100	3,000
road kerb, channel and minor culverts	60 to 80	3,000
bridges deck and substructure	80 to 100	3,000
footpaths and cycle ways	15 to 50	3,000
drainage	50 to 80	3,000
waste management assets	16 to 33	3,000
quarries	4 to 28	3,000
street furniture	10 to 80	3,000

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)

Depreciation and amortisation

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and methods are reviewed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold, the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

Valuation of land and buildings

The valuation of land and buildings was undertaken by LG Valuation Services a qualified independent valuation firm. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the Comprehensive Income Statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobe (undeveloped and / or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the Comprehensive Income Statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. A full revaluation of these was conducted in 2023/24, this valuation was based on land values and market sales.

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)****Valuation of land and buildings (continued)**

Council values all land and building assets every two years. The latest full revaluation was 30 June 2024. Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2024 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of valuation
Land	-	3,561,440	16,826,750	30/6/2024	External
Specialised buildings	-	1,592,204	67,573,154	30/6/2024	External
TOTAL	-	5,153,644	84,399,904		

Valuation of infrastructure

A valuation of Council's, infrastructure assets was performed by David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure of the Loddon Shire Council, as at 30 June 2024.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. An indexed based revaluation was conducted in the current year. This valuation was based on current unit rates and sample analysis of condition ratings. Full revaluation of all assets are coordinated on a cyclic timeframe.

The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at date of valuation.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2024 are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of valuation
Unsealed roads formation	-	-	19,964,337	30/6/2024	Section
Unsealed roads pavement	-	-	38,876,942	30/6/2024	Section
Road seal	-	-	14,591,388	30/6/2024	Section
Sealed roads pavement	-	-	132,445,474	30/6/2024	Section
Sealed road formation	-	-	13,029,820	30/6/2024	Section
Footpaths	-	-	6,690,556	30/6/2024	Index
Culverts	-	-	27,947,280	30/6/2024	Index
Bridges	-	-	32,574,870	30/6/2024	Index
Kerb and channel	-	-	7,694,138	30/6/2024	Index
Urban drains	-	-	20,393,199	30/6/2024	Index
Street furniture	-	-	940,127	30/6/2024	Index
Landfills	-	-	293,997	30/6/2024	Index
Quarries	-	-	26,793	30/6/2024	Index
TOTAL	-	-	315,468,921		

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)

6.2 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (continued)

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 5% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$0 and \$11,925 per square metre.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement cost is calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$55 to \$7,500 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 1 year to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 2 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)**6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries****(a) Investments in associates****North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation**

The Council is a member of the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation. At 30 June 2024 Council's equity was \$293,530. At 30 June 2023 Council's equity in the corporation was \$292,682.

Loddon has a 4.70 per cent share of the net assets, and this is calculated on the same ratio as Council contributes to the operating costs of the service. At 30 June 2023 Council's share of the net assets was 4.76 per cent. Any adjustments required due to the reduction in the share of net assets from 2023 to 2024 is reflected as Variation Account - Change in Equity in the following schedules.

Fair value of Council's share in its ownership	293,530	292,682
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at start of year	121,650	121,866
Reported surplus/(deficit) for year	4,352	1,301
Variation account - change in equity	(4,285)	(1,517)
Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit) at end of year	121,717	121,650
Council's share of reserves		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	171,033	173,189
Variation account - change in equity	780	(2,156)
Council's share of reserves at end of year	171,813	171,033
Movement in carrying value of share in library		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	292,682	295,054
Share of surplus/(deficit) for the year	4,352	1,301
Variation account - change in equity	(3,505)	(3,673)
Carrying value of investment at end of year	293,530	292,682
Council's share of expenditure commitments		
Operating commitments	11,148	11,588
Capital commitments	-	-
Council's share of expenditure commitments	11,148	11,588

Adjustment to the carrying value of North Central Goldfields Regional Library

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Adjustment to the carrying value of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation	848	(2,372)
Total adjustment to the carrying value of North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation	848	(2,372)

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

NOTE 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (Continued)

6.3 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries (continued)

Investments in joint arrangements are classified as either joint operations or joint ventures depending on the contractual rights and obligations each investor has, rather than the legal structure of the joint arrangement.

For joint operations, Council recognises the right to its share of jointly held assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of joint operations. Council has no joint arrangements at reporting date.

Interests in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method. Under this method, the interests are initially recognised in the consolidated balance sheet at cost and adjusted thereafter to recognise Council's share of the post-acquisition profits or losses and movements in other comprehensive income in profit or loss and other comprehensive income respectively.

Community Asset Committee

All entities controlled by Council that have material revenues, expenses, assets or liabilities, such as community asset committees, have been included in this financial report. Any transactions between these entities and Council have been eliminated in full.

NOTE 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related parties

Loddon Shire Council is the parent entity. There are no further interests in subsidiaries and associates.

(b) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of Council. The Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and other members of the Management Executive Group are deemed KMP.

Details of persons holding the position of Councillor or other members of Key Management Personnel at any time during the year were:

Councillors:	2024 No.	2023 No.
Cr Neil Beattie (Councillor from July 2022 to June 2024)	1	1
Cr Gavan Holt (Councillor from July 2022 to October 2023) (Mayor from November 2023 to June 2024)	1	1
Cr Dan Straub (Councillor from November 2023 to June 2024) (Mayor from June 2022 to October 2023)	1	1
Cr Wendy Murphy (Councillor from July 2022 to June 2024)	1	1
Cr Linda Jungwirth (Councillor from July 2022 to June 2024)	1	1
Key Management Personnel:		
Mrs Wendy Gladman (Director Community and Wellbeing July 2022 to June 2024)	1	1
Mr Steven Phillips (Director Operations July 2022 to June 2024)	1	1
Mr Lincoln Fitzgerald (Chief Executive Officer July 2022 to June 2024)	1	1
Mrs Amanda Wilson (Director Corporate March 2022 to November 2023)	1	1
Mrs Michelle Stedman (Director Corporate February 2024 to June 2024)	1	-
Total number of Councillors	5	5
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	5	4
Total number of Key Management Personnel	10	9

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by Council, or on behalf of the Council, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short - term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long- term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post - employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

NOTE 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS (Continued)

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (continued)

(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel (continued)

Total remuneration of Key Management Personnel was as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	1,036,758	1,012,832
Long-term employee benefits	55,311	26,244
Post employment employee benefits	82,373	79,866
TOTAL	1,174,442	1,118,942

The numbers of Key Management Personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

Income range	2024	2023
	number	number
\$10,000 - \$19,999	-	-
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$30,000 - \$39,999	1	3
\$40,000 - \$49,999	1	-
\$50,000 - \$59,999	1	-
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	1
\$80,000 - \$89,999	1	-
\$110,000 - \$119,999	1	-
\$170,000 - \$179,999	-	1
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
\$190,000 - \$199,999	-	1
\$200,000 - \$209,999	-	1
\$230,000 - \$239,999	1	-
\$310,000 - \$319,999	-	1
\$320,000 - \$329,999	1	-
	10	9

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, who exceeds \$170,000 (\$160,000 for 2022/23) and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	979,598	1,130,424
Long-term employee benefits	26,285	16,842
Post employment employee benefits	103,567	101,922
TOTAL	1,109,450	1,249,188

NOTE 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS (Continued)

7.1 Council and key management remuneration (continued)

(d) Remuneration of other senior staff (continued)

The number of Senior Officers are shown below in their relevant income bands:

Income range	2024 number	2023 number
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	2
\$170,000 - \$179,999	3	2
\$180,000 - \$189,999	2	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	-	2
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

Total Remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above, amounted to:

\$	1,109,450	\$	1,249,188
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7.2 Related party disclosure

(a) Transactions with related parties

During the reporting period payments totalling \$217,875 were paid to the North Central Goldfields Regional Library Corporation for the provision of library services (\$205,410 in 2022/23). No further transactions other than remuneration payments or the reimbursement of approved expenses were entered into by Council with responsible persons or related parties of such responsible persons during the reporting year (Nil in 2022/23).

(b) Outstanding balanced with related parties

There are no outstanding balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties (Nil in 2022/23).

(c) Loans to/from related parties

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a responsible person of the Council during the reporting year (Nil in 2022/23).

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

No commitments have been made, guaranteed or secured by Council to a responsible person of the Council during the reporting year (Nil in 2022/23).

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES

8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of Council.

Council has no contingent assets.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of Council; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or
 - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme. Matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets, the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

Landfill

Council operates landfills. Council will have to carry out site rehabilitation works in the future. At balance date Council assesses the financial implications of such works using the estimates provided by relevant Council staff.

Liability Mutual Insurance

Council is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each year the participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of the participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards.

In December 2022 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* to modify AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*. AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows. The AASB 13 modifications:

- are applicable only to not-for-profit public sector entities;
- are limited to fair value measurements of non-financial assets not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows;
- are to be applied prospectively for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024;
- would not necessarily change practice for some not-for-profit public sector entities; and
- do not indicate that entities changing practice in how they measure relevant assets made an error in applying the existing requirements of AASB 13.

Council will assess any impact of the modifications to AASB 13 ahead of the 2024-25 reporting period.

In December 2022 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued AASB 2022-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Non-current Liabilities with Covenants*. AASB 2022-6 amends AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* to improve the information an entity provides in its financial statements about long-term liabilities with covenants where the entity's right to defer settlement of those liabilities for at least twelve months after the reporting period is subject to the entity complying with conditions specified in the loan arrangement. The amendments in AASB 2022-6 are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. Council will assess any impact of the modifications to AASB 101 ahead of the 2024-25 reporting period.

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables). Details of the material accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)

8.3 Financial instruments (continued)

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of our financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposures to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its levels of cash and deposits that are at a floating rate.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

(c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council has exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in our balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations.

To help manage this risk:

- Council has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deals with;
- Council may require bank guarantees or security deposits for contracts where appropriate; and
- Council will only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in Council's investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the Council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when Council provide a guarantee for another party. Council has no such guarantees in place at 30 June 2024.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)

8.3 Financial instruments (continued)

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of our operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- has historically minimised borrowings in the short to medium term
- reduced its reliance on borrowings with repayment of all borrowings occurring in 2015/16
- has readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place
- ensures that surplus funds are invested within various bands of liquid investments
- monitors budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- sets limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal or agreed terms.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amount of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of +1.5% and -1.5% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.95%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy. Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)

8.4 Fair value measurement (continued)

Fair value hierarchy (continued)

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment and furniture and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. For plant and equipment carrying amount is considered to be approximate fair value given short useful lives). At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use on an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 10 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts. The following table sets out the frequency of revaluations by asset class.

Asset class	Revaluation frequency
Land	2 years
Buildings	2 years
Roads	1 to 4 years
Bridges	4 years
Footpaths and cycleways	1 to 4 years
Drainage	1 to 4 years
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	2 years
Waste management	2 years
Parks, open space and streetscapes	2 years
Aerodromes	2 years
Other infrastructure	1 to 10 years

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increases are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrease for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increase is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decreases are recognised as an expense except where prior increases are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrease is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increases. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increases and decreases within the year are offset.

NOTE 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES (Continued)**8.4 Fair value measurement (continued)****Impairment of assets**

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Reserves

(a) Asset revaluation reserve

2024

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$	Increase / (decrease) \$	Impairment increase / (decrease) \$	Net movement for the reporting period \$	Balance at end of the reporting period \$
Property					
Land and land improvements	13,376,323	6,449,367	-	6,449,367	19,825,690
Buildings	39,041,473	8,296,996	-	8,296,996	47,338,469
	52,417,796	14,746,363	-	14,746,363	67,164,159
Infrastructure assets					
Sealed roads	136,497,865	17,516,749	(3,735,698)	13,781,051	150,278,916
Unsealed roads	70,136,160	15,758,372	(18,780,139)	(3,021,767)	67,114,393
Footpaths	2,449,483	(950,799)	-	(950,799)	1,498,684
Street furniture	610,318	90,533	-	90,533	700,851
Kerbs	4,923,514	545,485	-	545,485	5,468,999
Bridges	20,279,276	2,815,882	(128,182)	2,687,700	22,966,976
Drains	12,665,509	711,510	-	711,510	13,377,019
Other infrastructure	247,562,125	36,487,732	(22,644,019)	13,843,713	261,405,838
Total tangible assets	299,979,921	51,234,095	(22,644,019)	28,590,076	328,569,997
Intangible assets					
Water rights	1,870,094	(102,007)	-	(102,007)	1,768,087
Total	301,850,014	51,132,088	(22,644,019)	28,488,069	330,338,083

2023

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$	Increase / (decrease) \$	Impairment increase / (decrease) \$	Net movement for the reporting period \$	Balance at end of the reporting period \$
Property					
Land and land improvements	13,376,323	-	-	-	13,376,323
Buildings	39,159,663	-	(118,190)	(118,190)	39,041,473
	52,535,986	-	(118,190)	(118,190)	52,417,796
Infrastructure assets					
Sealed roads	117,068,685	26,757,655	(7,328,475)	19,429,180	136,497,865
Unsealed roads	73,417,620	6,483,397	(9,764,857)	(3,281,460)	70,136,160
Footpaths	809,198	1,640,285	-	1,640,285	2,449,483
Street furniture	171,446	438,872	-	438,872	610,318
Kerbs	1,335,648	3,587,866	-	3,587,866	4,923,514
Bridges	14,135,684	6,893,592	(750,000)	6,143,592	20,279,276
Drains	983,129	11,682,380	-	11,682,380	12,665,509
Other infrastructure	207,921,410	57,484,047	(17,843,332)	39,640,715	247,562,125
Total tangible assets	260,457,396	57,484,047	(17,961,522)	39,522,525	299,979,921
Intangible assets					
Water rights	1,775,394	94,700	-	94,700	1,870,094
Total	262,232,789	57,578,747	(17,961,522)	39,617,225	301,850,014

The asset revaluation reserve is used to records the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)**9.1 Reserves (continued)****(b) General reserves****2024**

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$	Balance at end of reporting period \$
Land and buildings reserve	1,247,592	203,000	(228,000)	1,222,592
Boundary and township signage reserve	-	-	-	-
Capital expenditure reserve	3,776,304	3,466,329	(3,767,520)	3,475,113
Caravan park development reserve	358,750	42,788	(2,700)	398,838
Community planning reserve	3,592,145	1,699,143	(2,623,115)	2,668,173
Economic development reserve	-	-	-	-
Fleet replacement reserve	897,753	150,000	(190,666)	857,087
Flood recovery reserve	-	-	-	-
Gravel and sand pit restoration reserve	171,575	353,810	(207,224)	318,161
Heritage loan scheme reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Information technology reserve	641,757	150,000	(113,657)	678,100
Little Lake Boort water reserve	17,604	-	-	17,604
Waste management reserve	311,130	34,190	-	345,320
Major projects reserve	398,485	80,000	(100,000)	378,485
Plant replacement reserve	2,364,395	950,000	(2,681,459)	632,936
Professional development reserve	12,214	16,264	(13,485)	14,993
Recreation facilities improvement reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Swimming pool major projects reserve	200,000	280,000	(200,000)	280,000
Unfunded superannuation liability reserve	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000
Units reserve	-	-	-	-
Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Unspent grants reserve	17,288,936	2,978,546	(16,403,820)	3,863,662
Urban drainage reserve	1,138,062	699,622	(4,024)	1,833,660
Total	33,716,702	11,103,692	(26,535,670)	18,284,724

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.1 Reserves (continued)

(b) General reserves (continued)

2023

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$	Balance at end of reporting period \$
Land and buildings reserve	734,010	513,582	-	1,247,592
Boundary and township signage reserve	100,000	-	(100,000)	-
Capital expenditure reserve	3,746,399	3,776,304	(3,746,399)	3,776,304
Caravan park development reserve	330,220	34,530	(6,000)	358,750
Community planning reserve	3,031,608	1,623,115	(1,062,578)	3,592,145
Economic development reserve	513,582	-	(513,582)	-
Fleet replacement reserve	810,006	150,000	(62,253)	897,753
Flood recovery reserve	-	-	-	-
Gravel and sand pit restoration reserve	400,000	16,203	(244,628)	171,575
Heritage loan scheme reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Information technology reserve	688,838	150,000	(197,081)	641,757
Little Lake Boort water reserve	17,604	-	-	17,604
Waste management reserve	300,000	34,540	(23,410)	311,130
Major projects reserve	318,485	80,000	-	398,485
Plant replacement reserve	1,979,398	950,000	(565,003)	2,364,395
Professional development reserve	16,256	4,000	(8,042)	12,214
Recreation facilities improvement reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Swimming pool major projects reserve	200,000	-	-	200,000
Unfunded superannuation liability reserve	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000
Units reserve	30,750	-	(30,750)	-
Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve	100,000	-	-	100,000
Unspent grants reserve	11,336,434	17,288,936	(11,336,434)	17,288,936
Urban drainage reserve	960,666	350,000	(172,604)	1,138,062
Total	26,814,256	24,971,210	(18,068,764)	33,716,702

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)**9.1 Reserves (continued)****(b) General reserves (continued)****Purpose of general reserves*****Land and buildings reserve***

The land and buildings reserve is used to fund the purchase and improvement of land and buildings which includes residential, commercial and industrial. Proceeds received from the sale of Council owned land and buildings are transferred to the reserve, and the cost of purchase and development of Council land and buildings is transferred from the reserve.

Boundary and township signage reserve

The boundary and township signage reserve is used to fund replacement of Council's boundary and township signage. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund the boundary and township signage replacement program, to a maximum reserve level of \$100K. The net cost of boundary and township signage purchases and installation for the year is transferred from the reserve. CLOSED IN 2021/22.

Capital expenditure reserve

The capital expenditure reserve is used to set aside funds that have been budgeted for capital works projects in one financial year but will not be expended by the end of that year. Council transfers to the reserve annually the unexpended budget amounts for capital works and other projects that will be undertaken in the following financial year.

Caravan park development reserve

The caravan park development reserve is used to set aside surpluses made from the operations of Council's caravan parks to assist with financing major works carried out at those caravan parks. The annual surplus made on the operations of Council's caravan parks is transferred to the reserve annually, and the funds required to finance major works undertaken at Council's caravan parks are transferred from the reserve.

Community planning reserve

The community planning reserve is used to set aside unspent funds for community planning projects. Council transfers to the reserve annually cumulative unspent funds for each ward's community planning projects. Council transfers from the reserve the amount placed into the reserve at the end of the previous financial year.

Economic development reserve

The economic development reserve is used to assist with economic development initiatives that council wishes to financially support. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund economic development initiatives, and proceeds from the sale of industrial land along with the cost of economic development initiatives during the financial year are transferred from the reserve. CLOSED IN 2021/22.

Fleet replacement reserve

The fleet replacement reserve is used to fund the replacement of passenger vehicles. Council transfers to the reserve \$150K annually to fund the fleet replacement program, and transfers from the reserve the net cost of fleet purchases for the year.

Flood restoration reserve

The Flood Recovery Reserve is used to assist with the delivery of unfunded flood restoration projects. Council transfers to the reserve amounts determined during the budget process. Council transfers from the reserve the net cost of unfunded flood restoration projects.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)**9.1 Reserves (continued)****(b) General reserves (continued)****Purpose of general reserves (continued)*****Gravel and sand pit (GSP) restoration reserve***

The gravel and sand pit (GSP) restoration reserve is used to fund land purchase, development and restoration of gravel and sand pits used by council for the extraction of road building materials. Council transfers from the reserve the cost of purchasing new sites and development and restoration of gravel and sand pits, and transfers to the reserve annual surplus on operations of gravel and sand pits to a maximum of \$500K.

Heritage loan scheme reserve

The heritage loan scheme reserve is used to provide loans to owners of properties located in significant heritage precincts, heritage registered buildings or structures of local heritage significance, to enable repair and maintenance of those buildings with the aims of quality appearance and public safety.

Information technology reserve

The information technology reserve is used to assist with the purchase of information technology assets. Council transfers to the reserve \$150K annually to a maximum level of \$800K, and transfers from the reserve the net cost of information technology assets.

Little Lake Boort water

The Little Lake Boort water reserve is used to secure the proceeds from sale of temporary water rights relating to Little Lake Boort. Council transfers to the reserve the proceeds from the sale of temporary water rights and unexpended amounts from annual expenditure budget, and transfers from the reserve the amounts required to purchase water rights or for any other expenditure relating to Little Lake Boort.

Waste management reserve

The waste management reserve is used to assist with the cost of strategic projects, compliance and long term planning for Council's landfills and transfer stations. Council transfers to the reserve annually \$10 per kerbside collection levy (or a pro-rated amount for a pro-rated collection). Council transfers from the reserve the cost of strategic projects, compliance and long term planning within Council landfills and transfer stations.

Major projects reserve

The major projects reserve is used to assist with the funding of major projects identified by Council. An annual allocation determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund major projects is transferred to the reserve. When a major project is identified and approved, an amount will be transferred from the reserve to assist with funding the project.

Plant replacement reserve

The plant replacement reserve is used to fund plant purchases. Council transfers to the reserve \$950K annually. Council transfers from the reserve the net cost of plant purchases for the year.

Professional development reserve

The professional development reserve is used to fund the professional development undertaken by executive officers of Council. An annual allocation is provided to each executive officer in accordance with their contract of employment, while the cost of the professional development undertaken during the year is transferred from the reserve.

Community loans scheme reserve

The community loans scheme reserve is an allocation of funds used to provide interest free loans to community groups for improvements at council reserves.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)**9.1 Reserves (continued)****(b) General reserves (continued)****Purpose of general reserves (continued)*****Swimming pool major projects reserve***

The swimming pool major projects reserve is used to fund unplanned major repairs and capital works on the various swimming pool sites across the Shire. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process, to a maximum reserve level of \$200K. Council transfers from the reserve the net cost of unplanned major repairs and capital works.

Unfunded superannuation liability reserve

The unfunded superannuation liability reserve is used to assist with funding any call that may be made on Council as a result of shortfall in the Local Authorities' Superannuation Defined Benefits Plan. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process as sufficient to fund potential future calls by the superannuation authority in relation to an unfunded superannuation liability. Council transfers from the reserve any funds required to finance a call made upon Council by the superannuation authority.

Units reserve

The units reserve is used to fund the purchase or improvement of Council owned elderly persons' units. The net surplus generated from rental income is transferred to the reserve annually. Funds are transferred out of the reserve to cover the cost of capital works undertaken at elderly persons' units. CLOSED IN 2021/22.

Unightly premises enforcement provision reserve

The unsightly premises enforcement provision reserve is used to provide funds to assist with the enforcement and rectification works on identified unsightly premises with costs recouped via legal or other action.

Unspent grants reserve

The unspent grants reserve is used to set aside grants received in one financial year that will not be expended until a later financial year. Council transfers to the reserve grants received during the financial year that have not been expended, and transfers from the reserve the amount placed into the reserve at the end of the previous financial year.

Urban drainage reserve

The urban drainage reserve is used to fund urban drainage works in the towns within the Shire. Council transfers to the reserve annually an amount determined during the budget process sufficient to fund the urban drainage program, and transfers from the reserve the annual cost of urban drainage work.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Surplus / (deficit) for the period	(6,423,485)	6,948,455
Non-cash adjustments		
Depreciation	11,265,032	10,742,687
(Profit) / loss on disposal of assets	(274,838)	(17,390)
Bad debts expense	6,609	17,321
Share of other comprehensive income of associates	(3,505)	(3,673)
Change in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	348,602	(961,575)
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	(427,070)	(581,091)
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments	(183,798)	257,576
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	(1,753,776)	100,000
Increase / (decrease) in trust funds and deposits	187,025	(15)
Increase / (decrease) in payables	(740,411)	1,665,321
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefits	(228,092)	(33,030)
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	(117,909)	554,890
(Increase) / decrease in library equity	(847)	2,372
Net cash provided by / used by operating activities	1,653,537	18,691,847

9.3 Superannuation

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation categories, Vision MySuper / Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2024, this was 11.0% required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) Legislation, for 2023 this was 10.5%).

Defined benefit

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the define benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB119.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.3 Superannuation (continued)

Defined benefit (continued)

Funding arrangements

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. A triennial actuarial investigation for the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was conducted and completed by 31 December 2023. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2023 was 104.1%. Council was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.7% pa
Salary information	3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.8% pa

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2023 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

Employer contributions

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2023 triennial actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2024, this rate was 11.0% of members' salaries (10.5% in 2022/23). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2023 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 98% from 26 July 2024 (previously 97%).

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

(b) Funding calls (continued)

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers. In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.3 Superannuation (continued)

The 2023 triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. A full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2023.

The Fund's actuarial investigations identified the following in the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2023 (Triennial)	2022 (Interim)
	\$M	\$M
- A VBI surplus	84.70	44.60
- A total service liability surplus	123.60	105.80
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	141.90	111.90

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2023. The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2023.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2023.

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2024 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2024. The VBI of the Defined Benefit category was 105.4% as at 30 June 2024. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2024 VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.6% pa
Salary information	3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.7% pa

Council was notified of the 30 June 2024 VBI during August 2024.

Because the VBI was above 100%, the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position at 30 June 2024 and it is expected that the actuarial investigation will recommend that no change will be necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

The 2020 triennial investigation

The last triennial actuarial investigation conducted prior to 30 June 2023 was at 30 June 2020. This actuarial investigation was completed by 31 December 2020. The financial assumptions for the purposes of that investigation was:

	2020 (Triennial)	2023 (Triennial)
	\$M	\$M
Net investment return	5.6% pa	5.7% pa
Salary information	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter	3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.0% pa	2.8% pa

NOTE 9 OTHER MATTERS (Continued)

9.3 Superannuation (continued)

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 are detailed below:

Scheme - Type of Scheme - Rate	2024 \$	2023 \$
Vision super - Defined Benefit - 11.0% (2023: 10.5%)	35,020	44,948
Vision super - Accumulation fund - 11.0% (2023: 10.5%)	546,613	562,593
Other super funds - 11.0% (2023: 10.5%)	764,919	585,046

There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2024. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2025 is \$Nil.

NOTE 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies for the 2023/24 year.

10.2 C614 - ANNUAL RESEALS 2024-2025**File Number:** 14.01.001**Author:** Adam Cooper, Project Management Coordinator**Authoriser:** David Southcombe, Manager Assets and Infrastructure**Attachments:** 1. **C614 Tender Evaluation Report - Confidential**

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

(under separate cover)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Award Contract 614 – Annual Reseal Program 2024-2025 to Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to undertake the necessary administrative actions to complete the Contract documents
3. Approve the reallocation of \$201,994 of funding from the Local Bridges & Culverts Program to the Road Reseals Program.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

The annual reseal program forms part of the Annual Infrastructure Program 2024-2025. This program was approved by Council at its June 2024 ordinary meeting.

BACKGROUND

In late August 2024, Loddon Shire advertised a tender for the 2024-2025 Annual Reseal as part of the Annual Infrastructure Program. A report covering the Annual Infrastructure Program was provided to Council at its June 2024 ordinary meeting.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The annual reseal program identified approximately 41km of the local sealed road network for seal renewal.

The evaluation criteria and weightings for the tender assessment are:

- mandatory risk management including OH&S requirements and relevant insurances, pass or fail
- financial benefit to Council, weighting 40%
- capability, demonstrated experience, systems and processes, weighting 20%
- capacity, access to labour, commitment to end date, weighting 25%
- financial benefit to community, weighting 10%
- environmental sustainability, weighting 5%

Following public advertising, five conforming tenders were submitted. The submissions have been evaluated by an assessment panel (four Council officers in conjunction with Council's contract supervisor). Their Tender Evaluation Report reviewed in confidential Attachment 1.

Based on the tenders submitted, Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd demonstrated best value, the capacity and capability to undertake and deliver this project.

COST/BENEFITS

All submitted tenders are higher than the budget allocated within the Road Reseal Program. The current funding allocation within this program is \$802,044. Boral Resources submitted price is \$867,307. Additionally, \$50,000 is required for preparation works to be undertaken by Council's Works team prior to sealing works as well as \$87,731 to allow for a 10% contingency. The total required budget allocation is \$1,004,038 and is summarised in the following table.

Item	Amount
Boral Resources Tender	\$867,307
10% Contingency	\$86,731
Work team preparation works	\$50,000
Total	\$1,004,038
Road Reseal Program Allocation	\$802,044
Additional funding required	\$201,994

Additional funding of \$201,994 is required to complete the sealing works. It is proposed to reallocate \$201,994 of funding from the Local Bridges & Culverts Program to the Road Reseals Program. Following procurement and awarding of Council's programmed Local Bridges & Culverts contracts, there are sufficient savings within the Local Bridges & Culverts Program to allow this reallocation.

Completion of the 2024-2025 reseal programs will ensure compliance with Council's Road Asset Management Plan 2021.

All tenderers are based outside of the Shire. All tenderers also indicated that some materials would be sourced from Loddon Shire Council. Other local benefits as indicated in the tender submissions will largely be through accommodation, fuel and meals for the works crew.

RISK ANALYSIS

Boral Resources (Vic) Pty Ltd has successfully completed the annual reseal program for Loddon Shire Council previously. Council also undertook up-to-date reference checks as part of the assessment process.

There is the potential for project variations that increase the total cost of works. The estimated cost of the works and any variations are expected to be accommodated within the project budget.

Risk emanating from this project and company is expected to be minimal.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The development of this contract and tender has been prepared in consultation with the Assets and Infrastructure Department and Finance Department.

10.3 LITTLE LAKE BOORT RECREATION PRECINCT MASTERPLAN**File Number:****Author:** Orrin Hogan, Manager Community Partnerships**Authoriser:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing

- Attachments:**
1. Little Lake Boort Foreshore Masterplan
 2. Budget estimate at concept - Confidential

This attachment is designated as confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the *Local Government Act 2020*. It contains private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The attachment contains commercial inconfidence estimates that may impact future procurement processes **(under separate cover)**

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) endorse the Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Concept Masterplan
 - (b) approve the allocation of \$267,910 from the Boort Ward community planning funds
 - (c) approve the allocation of \$500,000 from the Community Planning Strategic Fund.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

At the September 2020 Council meeting, Council endorsed the Boort Foreshore Sporting Precinct Development as the nominated project for the 2019/20 Community Planning Strategic Fund, noting that that draft concept plans would be provided to Council when complete for consideration and approval.

At the March 2022 Council meeting, Council endorsed the staging of the Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Project.

BACKGROUND

Council originally endorsed this project in 2020, and when an opportunity arose to install a synthetic surface at the Boort Bowls Club, the project was staged in 2022 as follows:

- stage 1 - Boort Bowls Club Inc Synthetic Turf Project
- stage 2 - Design of Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Project which will include costing estimates and identification of potential external funding opportunities
- stage 3 - Construction of Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Project as identified in the stage 2 design

The developed concept masterplan is being provided to Council for endorsement as identified in stage 2 of the endorsed delivery program for the Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct along with allocation of funds which will allow delivery of some smaller components of the plan and provide seed funding to seek external funding.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Concept Masterplan (the Masterplan) is a comprehensive, long-term planning document designed to outline the vision and goals for the development and management of this high quality recreational area. It serves as a strategic guide for decision-making and future development, ensuring that the precinct evolves to meet the current and future needs of the community and assists in prioritizing investments in infrastructure within the precinct.

The Masterplan supports the next stages of planning, including the development of specific concepts, scopes, and the detailed design and delivery of projects. In essence, the Masterplan for the Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct is a strategic roadmap that shapes the future of this area. It balances immediate needs with long-term aspirations, ensuring the creation of a vibrant, sustainable, and well-utilised community and tourist precinct.

The Masterplan serves as a conceptual plan only and does not include detailed design or comprehensive spatial detail which will be required to accurately assess cost for partial or total delivery. Detailed design provides for items such as the material pallet and fixture inclusions, which will be considered in line with compliance needs and costings.

The Masterplan development for this recreation precinct has been comprehensive and resulted in the attached document that outlines the vision, goals, and strategic framework for the development and management of a popular recreation area and its public facilities. The endorsement of this masterplan document will ensure informed detailed design and guarantee that the precinct meets the needs of the community, accommodates growth, and aligns with broader municipal and regional planning objectives.

Whilst the preference would be to deliver the project in its entirety, the Masterplan has been zoned to allow a staged delivery if this is required.

COST/BENEFITS

DWP Design completed the Concept Master plan under direct instruction from a Loddon Shire Council Project Manager. A features survey was also included in this stage. A total of \$39,190 has been expended during 2023/24 financial year and 2024/25 year to date on the Concept Masterplan.

The table (attachment 2) reflects the budget estimate at concept, including potential contributions and required funding.

The Little Lake Boort Foreshore is one of Loddon's popular recreation precincts and highly valued by locals and visitors to the region. The high quality green space is particularly busy in school holiday periods and a hub of activity with the various organised and passive sporting pursuits, including, tennis, croquet, boating, fishing, walking and swimming.

The youth area set aside adjoining Nolan's Park in the concept will likely be a 'design and construct' contract by a specialist provider with a focus on wheeled sports such as scooters, skateboards and bikes. This is a key element of the plan and will greatly improve the recreational opportunity for ages 8-18 years.

Organised sporting clubs have requested that the renewal of aging infrastructure be a key focus along with achieving compliance with DDA standards.

While the conceptual changes to the aquatic centre is addressed in the Masterplan the costs for the access all abilities improvements at the Boort pool sits outside the attached estimated project costs as this may be treated as an individual project in future.

RISK ANALYSIS

Comprehensive engagement and consultation processes are always challenging to run effectively, posing a risk that the information and feedback received may not represent the broader community. On this occasion, the community engagement process used a variety of methods to ensure a broad capture of information and resulted in strong feedback.

With any masterplan development there is a risk that the community expectations will exceed Council's capacity to deliver. With this in mind, the scope for the Masterplan was limited to the popular foreshore area and the conceptual image has stopped short of specifying a material pallet which may need to be rationalised during detailed design to accommodate the budget.

Council will need to consider the long-term financial capacity to maintain this amenity landscape asset. Councils Operational Team must be consulted as part of detailed design to ensure project delivery outcomes do not equate to an unreasonable increase in maintenance requirements.

The subject area around Little Lake Boort is included on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and is included as part of the Recognition & Settlement Agreement between the Victorian Government and Dja Dja Wurrung. Council will need to assess the cultural heritage requirements and Land Use Activity Agreement requirements as part of the statutory permits process.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The masterplan has been created in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders, reflecting the collective aspirations and needs of the community, thereby fostering public support. The Masterplan was publically displayed on councils Loddon Connect webpage for a period of three weeks with public feedback received, collated and evaluated leading to plan alterations.

Direct in-person consultation was also conducted with the Boort Tennis Club, Boort Croquet Club, Boort P-12, Boort District Health and the Boort Tourism and Development association. Updated concept plans have since been redistributed to seek final endorsement with all parties providing in-principle support.

The masterplan development for this recreation precinct has been comprehensive and resulted in the attached document that outlines the vision, goals, and strategic framework for the development and management of a popular recreation area and its public facilities. The endorsement of this masterplan document will ensure informed detailed design and guarantee that the precinct meets the needs of the community, accommodates growth, and aligns with broader municipal and regional planning objectives.

LODDON SHIRE LITTLE LAKE BOORT RECREATION PRECINCT

MASTERPLAN

AUGUST 2024

BOORT FORESHORE PRECINCT MASTERPLAN

The Master Plan for the Boort Foreshore Precinct is a comprehensive, long-term planning document designed to outline the vision and goals for the development and management of this vital recreational area. It serves as a strategic guide for decision-making and future development, ensuring that the precinct evolves to meet the current and future needs of the community.

This document has been developed to provide a clear understanding of the precinct's needs and to support budget planning and funding opportunities. It ensures that all development aligns with the long-term vision, avoiding ad hoc or uncoordinated efforts, and assists in prioritizing investments in infrastructure within the precinct.

The Master Plan has been created in consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders, reflecting the collective aspirations and needs of the community, thereby fostering public support. It will serve as a foundational guide for the next stages of planning, including the development of specific concepts, scopes, and the detailed design and delivery of projects.

In essence, the Master Plan for the Boort Foreshore Precinct is a strategic roadmap that shapes the future of this area. It balances immediate needs with long-term aspirations, ensuring the creation of a vibrant, sustainable, and well-utilized community resource.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which this project is located, the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the owners of the land upon which we all meet, and pay our respects to elders past and present.



1.0 SITE PHOTOS



HISTORIC PARK



SWIMMING POOL



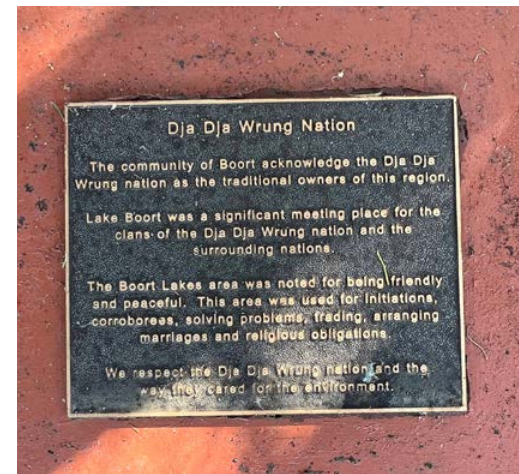
SWIMMING POOL



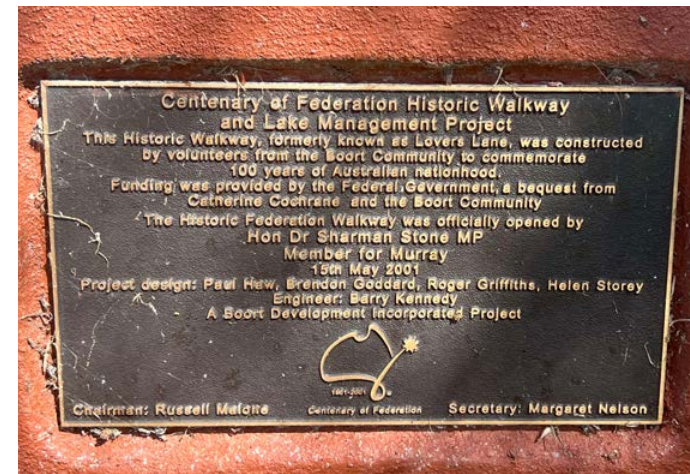
CROQUET CLUB LAWN



FEDERATION HISTORIC WALKWAY



DJA DJA WURRUNG NATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



PARK ENTRY



MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND



EXISTING SCULPTURES



PLAYGROUND

2.0 SCOPE: ZONES



2.1 OVERALL PROPOSED CONCEPT MASTERPLAN



MASTERPLAN INTS

2.2 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

ZONE 1 - TENNIS LAWN

BOORT TENNIS CLUB

LEGEND

- ① REALIGNMENT OF FENCE FROM 2 COURT TO ALLOW FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY SPACE
- ② REMOVAL AND REPLACE EXISTING FENCE WITH NEW BLACK CHAIN MESH FENCING 3M HIGH. ADDITIONAL 1 VEHICULAR ACCESS GATES AND 1 PEDESTRIAN GATE
- ③ NEW LIGHTING TO 2 COURTS WITH PROVISION FOR UNDERGROUND CONDUITES FOR ADDITION LIGHTING
- W SITE WAY FINDING SIGNAGE

OVERALL PARKLANDS

The following reserve wide elements are incorporated across all zones, linking each space together, promoting activation, broader use of zones and facilities, improving flow, and promoting a healthy and activated community and generally enhancing the user experience.

DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE

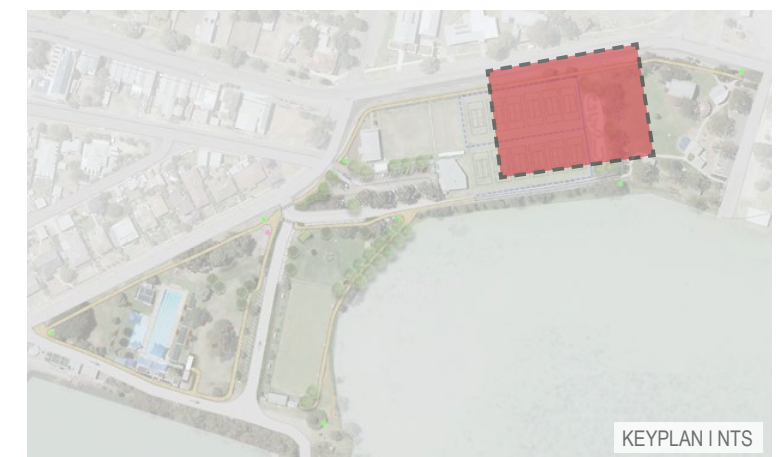
Installation of directional, distance and interpretive signage along pathways (consistent with style guide), throughout the interconnecting path network. The directional signage will inform users of the many opportunities and features of the park, their general location and via what path or route they can be accessed.

SHARED PATH NETWORK

Expansion of a DDA compliant path network in conjunction with way finding directional signage that expands the user experience, enhances flow throughout and reconnects the park zones. Paths will be build to require service level.

ROADS AND CARPARKS

Road reworks will be dependent on service classification of road and available budget. Carpark creation will be subject to budget



2.3 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

ZONE 2 - FORESHORE OPEN SPACE PARK

LEGEND

- ④ FEDERATION PATH RENEWAL OF EXISTING PATH. RETAIN SPONSOR PAVERS AND REUSE. PATH TO BE CONCRETE.
- Ⓜ SITE WAY FINDING SIGNAGE



2.4 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

ZONE 2 - FORESHORE OPEN SPACE PARK

LEGEND

- ⑤ CAR PARK REALIGNMENT
- ⑥ ADDITION OF BOLLARDS FOR CAR PARK
- ⑦ IMPROVE PATH NETWORK
- ⑧ SAFE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT
- Ⓜ SITE WAY FINDING SIGNAGE



2.5 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

ZONE 2 - FORESHORE OPEN SPACE PARK

LEGEND

- ⑦ IMPROVED PATH NETWORK
- ⑧ SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
- ⑨ LONG VEHICLE CAR SPACE AND VENDOR USE AREA FOR EVENTS
- ⑩ REGRADE OPEN SPACE TO REMOVE PONDING, PROVIDED USABLE OPEN SPACE
- ⑪ RAISED GRASS PLATFORM FOR STAGING AREA
- ⑫ POWER OUTLETS FOR EVENTS
- ⑬ ADDITIONAL SEATING
- ⑭ RELOCATION OF TIME CAPSULE
- ⑮ LEVELING GARDEN BED TO PROVIDED LARGE OPEN SPACE FOR EVENTS ACTIVATION
- ⑯ ADDITIONAL TREES ALONG PATH
- ⑰ PARALLEL CAR PARKING - EVENT VENDORS SPACE IMPROVED
- ⑱ PATH NETWORK
- W SITE WAY FINDING SIGNAGE

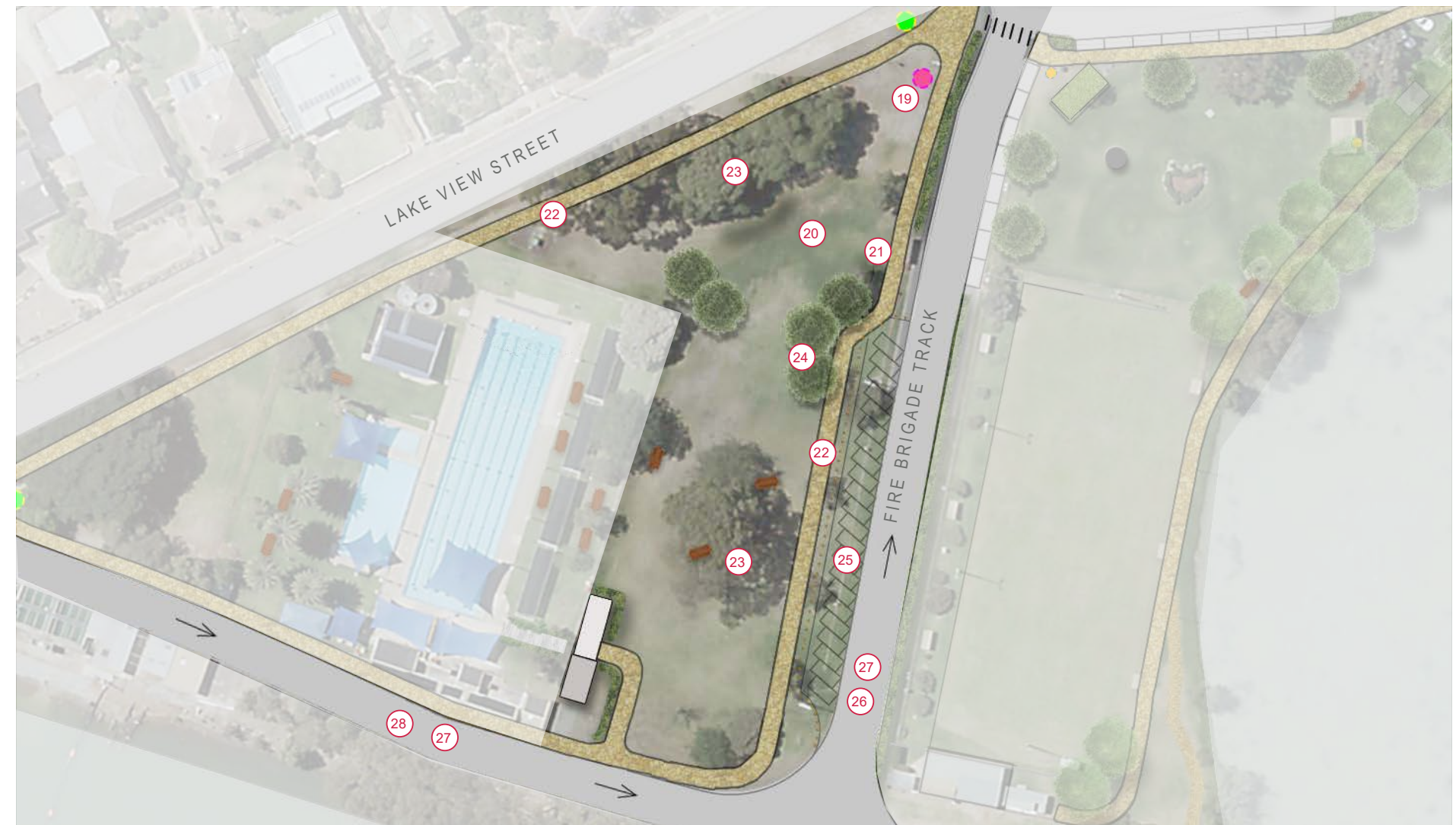


2.6 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

ZONE 2 - FORESHORE OPEN SPACE PARK

LEGEND

- 19 NEW LOCATION FOR TIME CAPSULE
- 20 GENERAL LEVELING OF GRASSED AREAS
- 21 REMOVE ABUNDANT ASSETS
- 22 IMPROVE PATH NETWORK
- 23 RETAIN EXISTING TREES IN GOOD HEALTH
- 24 ADDITIONAL TREES TO CREATE SHADE NOT IMPENDING ON OPEN SPACE
- 25 FORMALIZE CAR PARKS REALIGN PATH, PROVIDED SEPARATION BETWEEN CAR PARK AND OPEN SPACE
- 26 NEW DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE ONE WAY TO PROVIDED SAFE ACCESS FOR POOL ENTER
- 27 TRAFFIC CALMING, SPEED HUMPS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC SPEED AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



2.7 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

ZONE 3 - CROQUET CLUB

LEGEND

- 30 DDA TOILET/ AMENITY
- 31 IMPROVED STORAGE TO ACCOMMODATE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT
- 32 NEW SHELTER
- E EXISTING PATH
- w WAYFINDING ALONG PATH

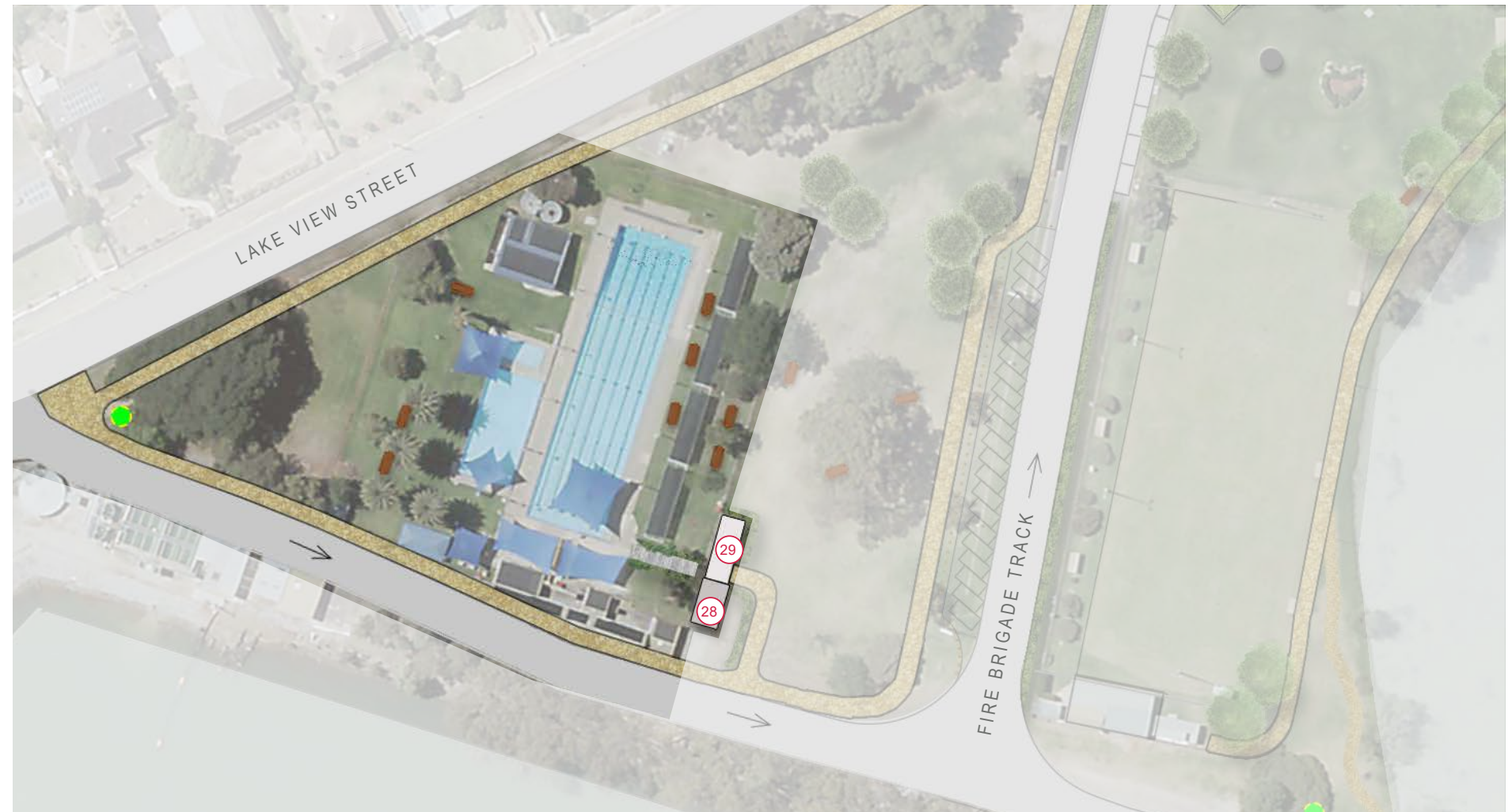


2.8 CONCEPT MASTERPLAN

ZONE 4 - POOL

LEGEND

- 28 PROVIDE NEW POOL ENTRY TO ALLOW FOR DDA ACCESS TO POOL DECK
- 29 PROVIDED 1 FAMILY CHANGEROOM DDA COMPLIANT AT POOL DECK



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10.4 COMMUNITY PLANNING SUBMISSIONS ASSESSMENT**File Number:****Author:** Orrin Hogan, Manager Community Partnerships**Authoriser:** Wendy Gladman, Director Community Wellbeing**Attachments:** 1. 2024-25 Community Planning assessment summary**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council endorse the Community Planning submission assessment outcomes.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A report was provided to the September 2024 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Loddon Shire Council's Community Planning program is a long-term strategic approach to develop sustainable communities. Council commits funds from its annual budget to ensure a number of community planning projects are nominated, considered and delivered in a prioritised and community focused manner.

The process for delivering Community Planning Projects is now evolving to utilise a delivery process consistent with Council's Infrastructure and Assets capital project delivery, with eligible community planning project submissions to progress into a "Project Pipeline" process aiming to achieve a more strategic and structured delivery approach.

Community Planning projects are ideally identified as a priority in a recognised community plan and are submitted to Council during the application period either by the community planning group, or by another party with approval from the community planning group. The Community Planning Framework and Council's Community Support Policy provide details on the eligibility criteria and assessment process.

Whilst not every project submitted is seeking community planning funding, it does provide an avenue to capture community priorities for Council advocacy and for delivery of projects that would form part of Council's infrastructure rolling program.

Community planning funds can contribute directly to the delivery of projects that support the community's vision and improve liveability in our townships and localities, or can be used as seed funding to support applications for external funding.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A total of fifty-four (54) projects were submitted over two application rounds, with the second round closing on 23 April 2024. This evolved into 56 individual listings as two of the original submissions each contained two discreet projects, so these have been separated in the assessment and reporting process.

This is the largest number of submissions ever received via the annual community planning program as, for the first time, we asked Community Planning committees to nominate their five highest priority projects to contribute to the development of a community project pipeline, which will support the staged work needed to progress a project from an idea to being ready to deliver. For some projects this can take a number of years. Where there are competing projects, a prioritisation matrix will assist in determining which projects progress into the next stage of the project delivery cycle. The progress of projects is also subject to meeting any service level parameters established in Council strategy or policy.

Submissions that were assessed as eligible will now enter this process and progress through the planning and delivery stages in a structured manner, noting, that once a project has been accepted into the project pipeline, it does not need to be resubmitted by the community planning committee in subsequent years.

Updates on progression will be provided to community planning committees to keep them abreast of their projects progress, and to support their Community Plan review and development cycles.

Submissions have been assessed for eligibility against the Community Planning Assessment criteria within the Community Support Policy resulting in the following assessment summary:

- 8 submissions have been assessed as ineligible or not supported for consideration as a community planning project. Applicants will be provided with feedback and other potential options available to support their projects.
- 3 submissions have been assessed as projects suitable for advocacy from Loddon Shire Council
- 10 submissions have been assessed as suitable to be delivered by Community Planning Committees once they have progressed to 'ready to deliver' stage
- 18 submissions have been assessed as eligible to enter Council's Community Projects Pipeline
- 8 submissions have been assessed as being already included, or eligible to enter the Infrastructure Rolling Program
- 9 submissions have been assessed as eligible and "awaiting assessment" as they require further information to progress.

COST/BENEFITS

Council provides allocations to the Community Planning program through the annual budget process. The below table provides the current community planning funding available (including the 2024/25 allocation).

Table 1: Balance of unallocated Community Planning funds by Council Ward.

Boort	\$334,684
Inglewood	\$189,035
Tarnagulla	\$168,562
Terrick	\$206,106
Wedderburn	\$340,233

Following approval those projects that move into the project pipelines will progress through the project framework stages to ensure that they are planned and designed to a point that accurate costings are available for either allocation of community plan funds and delivered.

Community planning funds will be allocated to projects, as required, as they move through the project delivery stages, and reported to Council quarterly.

Council's Community Planning Program has been a success story since its inception 21 years ago. Council and Loddon communities continue to attract significant external funding through the strategic use of the community planning process. This has facilitated delivery of numerous projects in Loddon's small towns and rural districts under this banner, Community Planning has been a catalyst for attracting significant funding to projects such as Donaldson Park and supporting delivery of major projects such as the Pyramid Hill Community Centre.

A Community Development Officer position is provided by Council to support our community planning committees through the development and ongoing revision of their community plans. The priorities within these plans are nominated and detailed by the communities and subject to change as communities and their priorities evolve. The Community Development Officer is a valuable resource to support and guide these committees in their growth and development.

RISK ANALYSIS

A strong focus of the community planning program is to ensure communities have the opportunity to participate in the planning and development of their own projects. This helps engender collaboration and ultimately ownership, and encourages local community members to take a leadership role in improving their town or district, and communicating this with others. When considering initiatives put forward through community planning, risk is assessed across some key areas; appropriate planning, capacity of volunteers, external funding and duration from inception to delivery. When allocating 'seed-funding' the initial risk review considers whether the project is likely to achieve external funding.

Community planning allocations to projects in the past has created an expectation of imminent delivery where, at times, there may be a number of project stages that need to be completed to understand the total scope and cost of the project before proceeding. The evolution to a Community Project Pipeline process will assist Council officers in the strategic and planned delivery of community facility and partnership focused projects. Managing the community's expectations for project delivery can be a challenge, as every community will want their project to be prioritised for delivery. Regular updates and good communications from the Community Partnerships team via appropriate platforms can mitigate this risk.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The application and assessment process for the Community Planning Program is very thorough, with submissions assessed against eligibility criteria and resulting recommendations being assessed at both departmental and executive levels. Council's Community Development Officer and the Community Partnerships team work with community planning groups to guide and support community plan development and assist the committees in determining local priorities, possible project scope, costs, and modes for delivery of their priority projects.

It is important to recognise that the communities own each of their individual community plans and that the priorities in them are determined through good consultation and negotiation with their local clubs, interest groups and community members.

PROJECTS ASSESSED AS INELIGIBLE OR NOT SUPPORTED FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING FUNDING						
Organisation	Project Title	Project Description provided by applicant	Eligibility YES/NO	Current Project Status (Initiation / Proposal / Concept / Detailed Design / Delivery)	Service Owner (responsible department)	Assessment Outcome
Kingower Community Planning Committee	Kingower Cricket Ground Fence	The finished project would see a picket style fence surround the ground with several embedded gates to allow retrieval of balls which clear the boundary. A higher portion of deterrent wires will also be installed when the ground is not in use.	No - the project supports individual club use	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Submission to be referred to Recreation Officer to determine whether project can enter the community facilities project pipeline and seek other sources of funding. A project proposal will be required to progress.
Other - Newbridge Recreation Reserve Committee of management Inc	Red Machinery Shed Security Cameras	Linking the Red Shed to our existing Wi-Fi and install security cameras connecting them to our existing security system to protect the assets within the shed.	No - the project supports individual club use	Concept	Community Partnerships	Submission referred to Recreation Officer to work with the recreation reserve to seek other sources of funding, such as a community grant.
Dingee Progress Association Committee of Management	Shade Area Bowls Club	To replace existing shade area which is becoming quite old and in disrepair.	No - the project supports individual club use	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Submission referred to Recreation Officer to work with the Bowls Club to seek other sources of funding, such as a community grant. Further work is needed to determine whether project should enter the community facilities project pipeline. A project proposal will be required to progress.
Dingee Progress Association Committee of Management	Ceiling Repairs to Dingee Lawn Courts Club Room	Repair and re-paint ceiling the tennis clubrooms.	No - the project supports individual club use	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Submission referred to Recreation Officer to work with the Tennis Club to seek other sources of funding, such as a community grant. Further work is needed to determine whether project should enter the community facilities project pipeline. A project proposal will be required to progress.
Boort Tourism Development	Cricket Club Shed and Shade facilities	Construction of a shed/clubhouse and shade structure to create a home for the members of the club.	No - the project supports individual club use	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Submission referred to Recreation Officer to work with the Cricket club to seek other sources of funding, such as a community grant. Further work is needed to determine whether project should enter the community facilities project pipeline. A project proposal will be required to progress.
Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee	Inglewood Golf Club Bridge Repair	Repairs to bridge located within the Inglewood Golf Course	No - the project supports individual club use	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Submission referred to Recreation Officer to work with the golf club to seek other sources of funding, such as a community grant. Further work is needed to determine whether project should enter the community facilities project pipeline. A project proposal will be required to progress.
Yarrawalla Community Planning Committee	Increase community activities	We believe the fabric of the Yarrawalla community is fading and we'd like to instill some more feeling of community into our district. We don't know how to do this but have tried various activities to date, with limited success. However, we are always willing to try new things.	No - this application is related to delivery of events	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Not eligible for Community Planning. Group to be encouraged to consider other relevant sources of funding such as event sponsorship, community grants program or flood recovery grants.
Tarnagulla Community Planning Committee	Storm water drainage along Commercial Road Tarnagulla	Upgrade of storm water drainage along Commercial Road Tarnagulla to cope with flash flooding and mitigate property damage.	Yes	Initiation	Assets and Infrastructure	This project is not supported by the service owner. There is no underground stormwater drainage system along Commercial Rd, Tarnagulla. (Rough) Cost estimate to install is \$1.5 million. Would require detailed design, Council support and likely external funding to undertake. Many of the complaints received by Council are about drainage are in Commercial Rd and are Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) responsibility.

PROJECTS ASSESSED AS SUITABLE FOR COUNCIL ADVOCACY						
Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Eligibility YES/NO	Current Project Status (Initiation / Proposal / Concept / Detailed Design / Delivery)	Service Owner (responsible department)	Assessment Outcome
Pyramid Hill Progress Association	Childcare	A range of childcare options are needed to benefit the growth of our town and service our young families, especially where both parents are often working. We would like to develop options for childcare either in already suitable buildings like the Kindergarten on Kelly Street or a new development if needed.	Yes	Initiation	Community Wellbeing	Council has and continues it's advocacy for childcare.
Boort Tourism Development	GMW Channel Improvement	To pipe the no. 3 channel from Yot's bridge on the Ring Road to the bridge on the Boort-Pyramid Road. To fix Yot's Bridge for easier access for long vehicles around the Ring Road.	Yes	Initiation	Assets and Infrastructure	These are Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) assets. Council to advocate to GMW to fund this project. Asset ownership of Yot's Bridge to be confirmed before assessment of this component of the project occurs.
Yarrawalla Community Planning Committee	Telecommunications	We believe the provision of internet services and mobile phone coverage in our area is poor and patchy, and we'd like to see some efforts by the various telecommunication providers to improve this situation.	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	Council continues to advocate for improved telecommunications.

PROJECTS ASSESSED AS SUITABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP TO DELIVER						
Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Eligibility YES/NO	Current Project Status (Initiation / Proposal / Concept / Detailed Design / Delivery)	Service Owner (responsible department)	Assessment Outcome
Yarrawalla Community Planning Committee	Beautification of the Yarrawalla Hall surrounds	Removing the old bollards, and replace them with 6 gorgeous trees (Corymbia Ficifolia - Mini Red), which have striking red flowers and are great for attracting birds. We also plan to install solar bollards, which will light up the areas where people park, which will be a great safety feature, and will visually look stunning.	Yes	Concept	Community Partnerships	Community Development Officer to work with committee to refine scope and costs of the project to enable a formal funding agreement to be developed to allow release of funds for the community to deliver the project.
Eddington Community Planning Committee	ET phone home	Better internet and phone service by adding a Cel-Fi Go unit to our community centre an external antenna is affixed on the rooftop increasing mobile service, this will assist the community during organised events and we will not need to always hot spot from our personal phones	Yes	Detailed Design	Community Partnerships	Work with community to do funding agreement - with no ongoing financial commitment from Council for ongoing costs associated with the project
Kingower Community Planning Committee	Historic Cemetery Fencing #1 and #2	Replacement of the fencing at Kingower Cemetery #1 and #2.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Community Development Officer to work with committee to refine scope and costs of the project to enable a formal funding agreement to be developed to allow release of funds for the community to deliver the project.
Kingower Community Planning Committee	Defibrillator Awareness/ CPR / Anaphylaxis Training	To provide on site first aid training for the community of Kingower. A combined cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), Defibrillator awareness and Anaphylaxis training session.	Yes	Delivery	Community Partnerships	Work with community to do funding agreement - with no ongoing financial commitment from Council for ongoing costs associated with the project

PROJECTS ASSESSED AS SUITABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP TO DELIVER continued						
Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Eligibility YES/NO	Current Project Status (Initiation / Proposal / Concept / Detailed Design / Delivery)	Service Owner (responsible department)	Assessment Outcome
Bridgewater on Loddon Development	Bridgewater Memorial Hall - external repair	. This project will repair the damage and ensure the building's structural integrity into the future.	Yes	Detailed Design	Community Partnerships	The Bridgewater Hall Committee have a history of successfully delivering projects related to the hall with previous community planning allocations. The Community Partnerships team will work with the Hall Committee to develop a project proposal, seek approval from the Assets and Infrastructure and ensure that Council's procurement obligations are met. Following this a formal funding agreement will support release of funds to the committee to deliver the project.
Yarrowalla Community Planning Committee	Playground improvements	Purchase outdoor furniture (3 bench seats from recycled plastic) for the use of carers while they watch their young people using the playground. .	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Community Development Officer to work with committee to refine scope and costs of the project to enable a formal funding agreement to be developed to allow release of funds for the community to deliver the project.
Korong Vale Community Planning Committee	Food Garden	Development of a community food garden including water capture, composting and worm farms.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Further work to be undertaken by Community Development Officer with community to progress planning. Possibly suitable for a community delivered project - to be determined once more information gathered.
Newbridge, Arnold, Llanelly Community Planning Committee	Arnold Hall Beautification	Planting of drought resistance natives around the Arnold Hall along with improving the carpark surface.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Further work to be undertaken by Community Development Officer with community to progress planning for the Arnold Hall car park . Possibly suitable for a community delivered project - to be determined once more information gathered.
Tarnagulla Community Planning Committee	Tarnagulla Bluestone Channel Project	To commission an assessment and report to repair, restore and preserve the historic bluestone stormwater channel that runs a kilometre through the heart of Tarnagulla.	Yes	Initiation	Assets and Infrastructure	Work with community to do funding agreement. The project brief to be approved by Council's Asset and Infrastructure Department
Kingower Community Planning Committee	Historic site signage	Improved signage on Historic Sites.	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	Support the project, with a signage design and cost proposal to be provided by the community group for approval by the Tourism and Economic Development team to ensure alignment with Council's current and future tourism signage projects across the Shire. Following approval, the formal funding agreement to be developed to allow release of funds for the community to deliver the project.

PROJECT ASSESSED AS SUITABLE TO ENTER THE COMMUNITY PROJECT PIPELINE						
Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Eligibility YES/NO	Current Project Status (Initiation / Proposal / Concept / Detailed Design / Delivery)	Service Owner (responsible department)	Assessment Outcome
Newbridge, Arnold, Llanelly Community Planning Committee (NALCP)	Exercise Equipment	Outdoor exercise equipment within the Newbridge community.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Project to enter the project pipeline awaiting further service level assessment following the finalisation of the ROSA. If the project progresses through the pipeline, funds will be allocated as required.
Newbridge, Arnold, Llanelly Community Planning Committee	Progress Park - Play Ground	Playground installaton at Progress Park	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Project to enter the community project pipeline awaiting further service level assessment following the finalisation of the ROSA. The Recreation Reserve currently provides a BBQ and a playground
Tarnagulla Community Planning Committee	Tarnagulla Walking Trails Maintenance	Repair and maintenance of walking trails throughout Tarnagulla.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Project to enter the community project pipeline awaiting endorsement of the ROSA which contains a specific action relating to asset condition assessments of all tracks and trails and establishing maintenance schedules. Tarnagulla walking trails will be prioritised in the asset condition assessment process. If the project progresses through the pipeline, funds will be allocated as required.
Mitiamo Progress Association	Phelans Park development	Additional play equipment and shade to the existing park located within Phelan Reserve.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Project to enter the project pipeline awaiting further service level assessment following the finalisation of the ROSA. If the project progresses through the pipeline, funds will be allocated as required.
Pyramid Hill Progress Association	Skate Park	Identify location for and development of a skate park or pump track.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Project to enter the project pipeline awaiting further service level assessment following the finalisation of the ROSA. If the project progresses through the pipeline, funds will be allocated as required.
Pyramid Hill Progress Association	Housing	Land development for house, and provision of different tiers of housing.	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	This project to enter the Community Project Pipeline at initiation level. Council will play a strategic role in the investigation and identification of a potential land development in the Pyramid Hill region. This project may require community planning funding allocations as the project progresses through the delivery stages.
BRIC	Boort Library outdoor courtyard	Creation of an outdoor area off the existing Boort library.	Yes	Proposal	Community Partnerships	To enter the Community Project Pipeline, and moving to development of detailed design in 2024/25 to be shovel ready for future library funding opportunities.
Boort Tourism Development	Precinct	Delivery of Little Lake Boort Foreshore Recreation Precinct Project	Yes	Concept	Community Partnerships	This project will addressed in a separate report to Council. This will be prioritised for further design and possible delivery of some components in 2024/2025.
Boort Tourism Development	Boort Park - Facilities Upgrade	Development of female friendly facilities at Boort Park	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	To enter the community project pipeline with project proposal to be prepared to allow for Concept designs in 2024/25 financial year. There are funds in the 24/25 budget to support concept design work.
Korong Vale Community Planning Committee	Flying Fox	Installation of a flying fox in Borella Park.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Project to enter the project pipeline awaiting further service level assessment following the finalisation of the ROSA. If the project progresses through the pipeline, funds will be allocated as required.
Korong Vale Community Planning Committee	Climbing Wall	Installation of a Climbing Wall in Borella Park.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Project to enter the project pipeline awaiting further service level assessment following the finalisation of the ROSA. If the project progresses through the pipeline, funds will be allocated as required.

PROJECT ASSESSED AS SUITABLE TO ENTER THE COMMUNITY PROJECT PIPELINE continued						
Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Eligibility YES/NO	Current Project Status (Initiation / Proposal / Concept / Detailed Design / Delivery)	Service Owner (responsible department)	Assessment Outcome
Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee	Inglewood Streetscape	Beautify and rejuvenate Brooke Street and other prominent spaces	Yes	Concept	Tourism and Economic Development	This project is underway and Council has released \$1M to allow officers to develop the concept, identify underground assets, conduct a civil survey and generate a landscape design - to prepare for and support major funding applications to Federal and State Governments.
Dingee Progress Association Committee of Management	Art Work on Building	The Art Work is to consist of a male and female figure, on the blank wall of the Toilet Block, in Progress Park.	Yes	Delivery	Community Partnerships	To enter into the project pipeline to allow assessment and proposal work to identify suitability of project for delivery and to refine the scope and costs. Further work to be undertaken by Community Development Officer with community to progress planning. Possibly suitable for a community delivered project - to be determined once more information gathered.
Newbridge, Arnold, Llanelly Community Planning Committee	Newbridge street trees	Planting of native trees along the nature strips of the township of Newbridge.	Yes	Initiation	Townscape Services	Newbridge tree planting to be referred to Townscape Services for review and assessment as to the preferred project pathway for this work.
Tarnagulla Community Planning Committee	Tarnagulla Weighbridge Project	Restoration and preservation of the historical 1880s weighbridge situated in Gladstone Street, Tarnagulla.	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	To enter into the project pipeline to allow assessment and proposal work to identify suitability of project for delivery and to refine the scope and costs. Further work to be undertaken by Tourism and Economic Development team in consultation with Assets and Infrastructure and the community to progress planning. Possibly suitable for a community delivered project - to be determined once more information gathered and any delivery risks identified and understood.
Pyramid Hill Progress Association	Functional Public Spaces	Provision of signage throughout Pyramid. The signage should include maps at the Pyramid train station as well as in Kelly street.	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	Support entry into the community project pipeline. Community Development Officer to work with the community planning committee to develop a proposal that refines the scope of this project to determine the next steps for project delivery.
Mitiamo Progress Association	Capturing our history	Installation of Story Boards and small plaques to notable historic locations within the township.	Yes	Concept	Community Partnerships	Support entry into the community project pipeline. Community Development Officer to work with the community planning committee to develop a proposal that refines the scope of this project to determine the next steps for project delivery.
Serpentine Community Planning Committee	Serpentine Town Plan	Development of a whole town plan for the Serpentine Township that provides a comprehensive and synergistic list of projects with which the community can deliver (lead), support and advocate.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Support entry into the community project pipeline. Community Development Officer to work with the community planning committee to develop a proposal that refines the scope of this project to determine the next steps for project delivery. This project will likely be suitable for delivery by the community planning committee. The project brief to be approved by Council before engagement of consultant by community group.

PROJECTS ASSESSED AS SUITABLE TO ENTER THE INFRASTRUCTURE ROLLING PROGRAM						
Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Eligibility YES/NO	Current Project Status (Initiation / Proposal / Concept / Detailed Design / Delivery)	Service Owner (responsible department)	Assessment Outcome
Mitiamo Progress Association	Upgrade to bathroom/public toilet facility	Paint floor with a non slip surface to both the 'male' and 'female' bathroom areas and install a shower doors, two each to the 'male' and 'female' bathroom areas.	Yes	Initiation	Assets and Infrastructure	Supported but suggest firmer cost estimate developed prior to allocating community planning funding.
Pyramid Hill Progress Association	Walking Bridge over Bullock Creek	Installation of a walking bridge over Bullock Creek.	Yes	Initiation	Assets and Infrastructure	Insufficient funding and lack of detailed design. First step is to develop a detailed design then seek funding. Additionally, there is a lot of adjacent work to this that is required to be undertaken in terms of managing the walking track, getting agreements with other agencies where it was constructed, and undertaking renewal works on some sections of the track.
Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee	Safe movement of pedestrians and cyclists from Caravan Park to Brooke Street	Continue the footpath along Grant Street between Houston Street and the Eucy Museum towards Park Lane and the Inglewood Motel and Caravan Park.	Yes	Concept	Assets and Infrastructure	Support. Further refinement of scope and costs to be established prior to allocating community planning funding.
Mitiamo Progress Association	Repairs to existing footpaths within the Township	An upgrade to the existing footpaths to promote walkability.	Yes		Assets and Infrastructure	More specific details to be sourced from the community. Condition data for Mitiamo hasn't identified any section of footpath requiring renewal. Can consider localised repairs where required. This projects can be delivered as part of the rolling program. Once scope and costs are known, a community planning contribution can be made to assist in delivery.
Pyramid Hill Progress Association	Functional Public Spaces	Functional Public Spaces includes the need for more footpaths (both sides of the streets) and working streetlights as well as cohesive landscaping and signage throughout Pyramid.	Yes	Initiation	Assets and Infrastructure	Consider south side of Victoria St on east section as location for new footpath given width of street and amenities in that location. Project to enter the Infrastructure rolling program for prioritisation. It is considered that most other locations have adequate footpaths.
Wedderburn Development Association	Housing Estate Development Stage 2	Delivery of Yelka Street Housing Estate Development Stage 2	Yes	Detailed Design	Tourism and Economic Development	This project is in progress. Support allocation of community planning funding as project progresses through the delivery stages and funding requirements identified.
Kingower Community Planning Committee	Sealing Brenanah Road	Sealing of the first 120 metres of Brenanah Road to reduce dust drift onto vineyards and installation of rails are on the bridge also to make it safer.	Yes		Assets and Infrastructure	Requires further assessment for guardrails. If they are deemed necessary then they would be added to the rolling program and prioritised against all other projects. Support is not given for sealing the road. Preference to investigate alternative treatments, e.g. dust suppression or speed limit reduction.
Tarnagulla Community Planning Committee	Restoration of footpaths on Commercial Road Tarnagulla	Restoration of footpaths along Commercial Road Tarnagulla between King Street and Wayman Street to improve safety for pedestrians.	Yes		Assets and Infrastructure	In progress - no community planning funding required

PROJECTS AWAITING ASSESSMENT						
Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Eligibility YES/NO	Current Project Status (Initiation / Proposal / Concept / Detailed Design / Delivery)	Service Owner (responsible department)	Assessment Outcome
Kingower Community Planning Committee	Fire Tank relocation	Relocate water tank for firefighting to the Recreation Reserve to allow Helicopter access.	To be determined	Initiation	To be determined	Community Development Officer to work with the community planning committee to further scope out project before any funds could be allocated and if project is suitable for community planning. Potential for community delivered project.
Newbridge, Arnold, Llanelly Community Planning Committee	River Beautification	We wish to clean up the river below the town hall and along the recreation reserve and create a cleared area for swimming and recreation whilst improving the natural habitat for our native platypus and fish.	Yes	Initiation	To be determined	Community Development Officer to work with community planning committee to further scope out project before any funds could be allocated and project delivery pathway determined. Potential for community delivered project.
Yarrowalla Community Planning Committee	External toilets (Yarrowalla Community Centre)	Delivery of 3 new ladies, 3 new men's and 1 disabled toilet which can be placed close to the hall for use when the hall is being used and by others using the playground and other facilities when the hall is not being used.	Yes	Concept	To be determined	DEECA Funding agreement executed for project completion. Community Development Officer to investigate further (refer to funding agreement in application). Further information on cost/benefit and needs assessment needed.
Korong Vale Community Planning Committee	Community Hub	Development of a Community Hub to be used for community outreach and service provision.	Yes	Initiation	Community Partnerships	Community Development Officer to work with group, for investigation into the feasibility of project including location and program model to assess suitability before any funds could be allocated and project delivery pathway determined
Inglewood Development and Tourism Committee	Eucy Museum Traction Engine Annex	Building of a Traction Engine Annex at the Eucy Museum to house the historic traction engine that has been restored and ready to come back to Inglewood.	Yes	Detailed Design	Tourism and Economic Development	Tourism and Economic Development team are currently reviewing this project - this project will await assessment until that is complete
Tarnagulla Community Planning Committee	Tarnagulla Augmented Reality History Tour.	The creation of an Augmented reality history tour to promote the local history, increase tourism and promote the region with a world class visitor experience.	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	An initial meeting with community planning representatives has occurred and background and files related to this concept have been provided. Suggest that further detail on additional costs in physical and digital realms - to better understand immediate and ongoing costs is required before this project is accepted for community planning funding or to enter the community project pipeline. There may be some future consideration of this by the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid Project team and it is also suggested that further conversation with them should occur prior to making any commitment here. Has potential to be a community delivered project.
Newbridge, Arnold, Llanelly Community Planning Committee	Scoping Study - Town Boundaries	Commence a scoping study of our town boundaries to determine if they still accurately reflect our township and projected growth.	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	Additional information is needed before this project commences community planning assessment. Referred to Council's Economic Development and Strategic Planning officers to meet with the group to understand more about the proposal, before progressing further.
Boort Tourism Development	Godfrey Street, Boort Street Scope	Development of Boort Streetscape project	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	Whilst the application is supported this project falls within the broader plans and timelines for streetscape development across the Shire. This project will be considered for future assessment as required to enter into the community project pipeline. At that time community planning funds could be allocated to support the development of detailed designs to use for future funding applications.
Mitiamo Progress Association (MPA)	Creation of small an RV Park	The MPA proposed to use the existing space and infrastructure located between the swimming pool and Phelan reserve as a rest spot/RV site.	Yes	Initiation	Tourism and Economic Development	Whilst supportive, further work needs to be undertaken to understand site ownership and management, insurance and risk. Refinement of the scope also required as the approval of a project to facilitate RVs is not likely to include current of future provision of a dump point or additional facilities such as showers amenities etc. It's also worth noting that the entity managing the space may not have the authority and/or insurance to accept payment for accommodation provided here.

10.5 PRIORITIES 2024**File Number:****Author:** Renae Colls, Executive Assistant**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** 1. Loddon Shire Council 2024 Priorities**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. adopt the 2024 Priorities document; and
2. authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes in order to finalise the content of the document.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Councillors discussed the 2024 Priorities document at the August 2024 Council Forum.

BACKGROUND

Council-led advocacy to Federal Governments is a vital tool for building awareness and support for matters that impact our shire and to help secure the essential funding necessary to drive change and deliver on priorities/advocacy matters that benefit our community.

The last Federal Election was conducted on 21 May 2022 and elections are generally conducted every three years but can be called early. Considering the potential that an election could be called during Council caretaker period or early in the term the next Council, it is proposed that the Loddon Shire Council priorities document is updated prior to Council Election Period Policy commencing.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The attached 2024 Priorities document has been developed for consideration and discussion with Council. The document is based on the Council Plan themes and has been broken into two categories, *Projects* and *Advocacy*.

Projects are items where funding is sought as a contribution to an infrastructure project or significant service enhancement. Generally, these are items to be delivered directly by Loddon Shire Council.

Advocacy items, are projects or programs where Council is seeking funding for other organisations or enhancement to funding streams which will improve service delivery to Loddon Shire residents.

The document includes an overview of Loddon Shire, some key statistics about the municipality, a summary page of projects and advocacy items, a one page summary for each project, and a short description of each advocacy item.

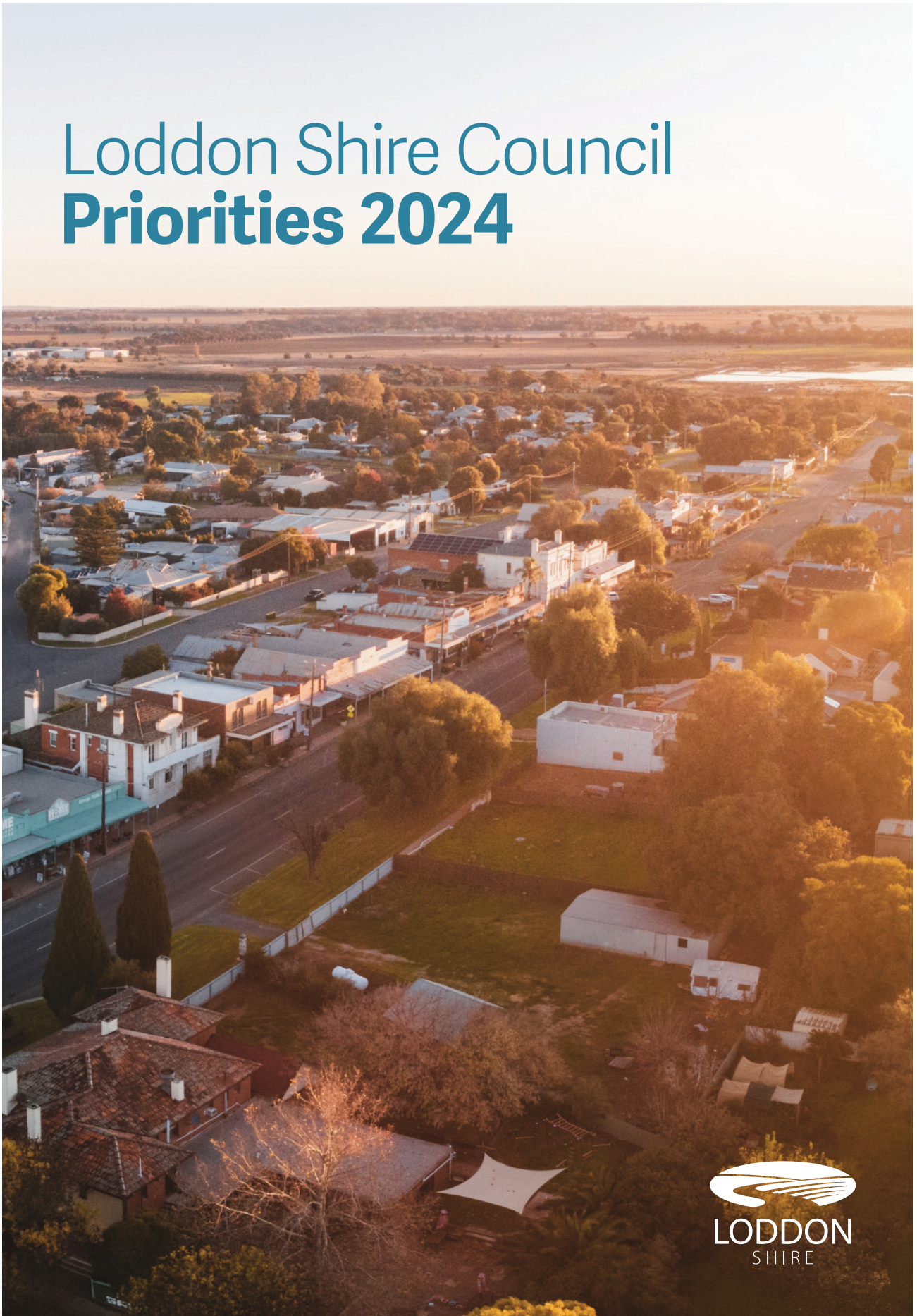
COST/BENEFITS

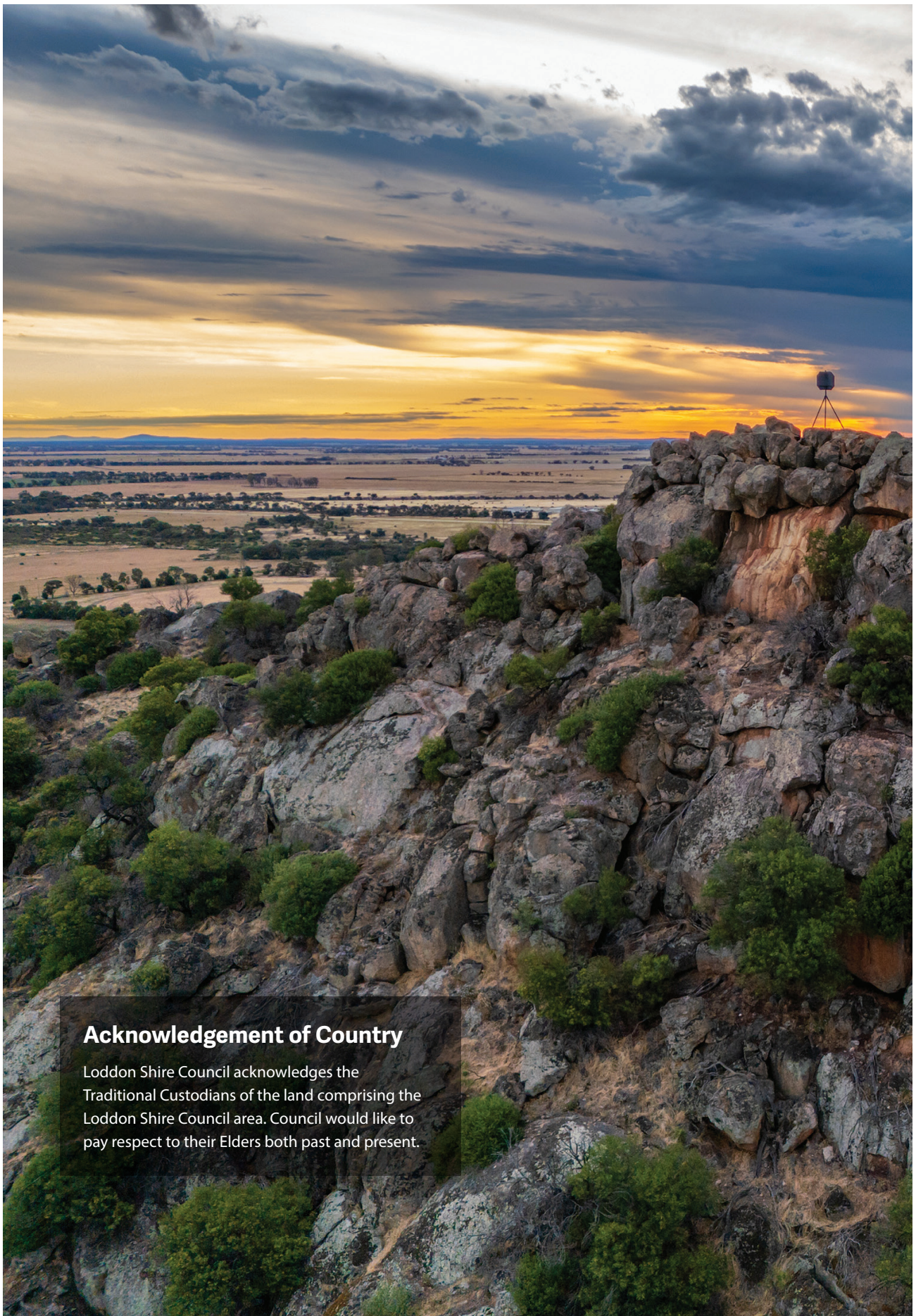
External graphic design and printing services were engaged to assist in developing this draft document. The cost of \$1,800 has been funded from the existing Executive Services budget.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Priorities and advocacy matters have been identified and developed internally with Council Officers, Management Executive Group and Councillors. These priorities have been identified from a range of strategic plans and strategies, each of which included community engagement during their development.

Loddon Shire Council Priorities 2024





Acknowledgement of Country

Loddon Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land comprising the Loddon Shire Council area. Council would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present.

Welcome to the Loddon Shire

Blessed with rich, natural beauty and a genuine sense of connection to its history and environment, the Loddon Shire is described as a “community of communities”.

Located 200 kilometres north of Melbourne, Loddon Shire is within proximity to the major town centres of Bendigo, Kerang and Echuca, making it the perfect location to live or visit. Covering 6,696 square kilometres, the Shire has a population of 7,759 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimated Resident Population 2021).

Loddon Shire’s location, its transport, arterial and freight connections, thriving agriculture industry, natural tourism and economic development opportunities, ensure the Shire’s towns are exceptionally placed for further investment, development and expansion.

The Shire comprises many small towns including Bridgewater, Inglewood, Wedderburn, Korong Vale, Dingee, Mitiamo, Serpentine, Newbridge, Tarnagulla, Laanecoorie, Eddington, Boort, Pyramid Hill and other surrounding towns and communities.

The lands of Loddon allow for true sustainable living. A Mediterranean climate, rich soils, open plains and ancient granite outcrops, wetlands and forests teeming with life all attract innovative and ecoconscious creators, farmers and artisans to produce unique products in the region.

Agricultural industries are the ‘bread and butter’ of the Loddon Shire with horticulture, viticulture, cropping, lamb, dairy, intensive poultry and piggeries making up the main income streams. It is also among its plains that you will encounter some of the world’s finest gourmet products – from artisanal to large-scale production in flour, meats, olives and olive oil, tomatoes, fruit and salt.

Ranked 72 out of 79 Councils in Victoria on socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA) index



Loddon Shire

- 6,696 square kilometres
- 85 communities
- 1,011 local businesses
- 3,138 local jobs



Largest industries include

- Agriculture
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Manufacturing
- Retail Trade
- Education and Training



Population

- 7,759 estimated residential population (ABS 2021 Census)
- 52 median age
- 20% born overseas



Families

- 51.8% family with no children
- 34% family with children
- 12.6% one parent family



Incomes

- \$554 weekly personal income
- \$1,039 weekly household income
- \$1,394 weekly family income



Education

- 4.9% attending preschool
- 24% primary education
- 20.5% secondary education
- 9.6% university/technical institution

PRIORITIES 2024



About this document

This document reflects Loddon Shire’s priorities, connecting with our Community Vision 2031 and Council Plan 2021-2025. These critical documents were developed in consultation with, and collaboration from, our community.

Our Council Plan is a reflection of Council's commitment to the community, and provides a strong link between the Community Vision and Council Plan. The Council Plan is closely linked to other plans and strategies to ensure an integrated approach to Council’s operations. The Council Plan is achievable, goal-focused, progressive and sustainable.

Our vision

Loddon will be a resilient, sustainable and prosperous community of communities.

Community Vision 2031

Creating a community where everyone is welcome and has the opportunity to live, work and thrive.

Our focus areas:



A sustainable built and natural environment



A growing and vibrant community



A diverse and expanding economy



A supported and accessible community

Featured projects at a glance

Project	Project/funding request	Project ready to commence?
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A growing and vibrant community

Inglewood Streetscape	\$5M	Detailed design complete 2025
Housing Advocacy – Yelka Street	\$778,520	Council seeking funding to cover the gap of \$778,520 to progress with the next stages of this project
Rural Childcare Model in the northern part of Shire	Rural funding model to attract long day care providers to the northern area of the shire	Now
Pyramid Hill Community Centre Stage 2 and 3	\$5.12M	Detailed design ready to commence

A sustainable built and natural environment

Little Lake Boort Foreshore Precinct	\$1.45M	July 2024 – Concept Masterplan is completed
Urban drainage Pyramid Hill	\$6.2M	Now – Strategic Plan completed
Skidders Flat Reservoir embankment upgrade works	\$5M	Detailed design in progress

Advocacy matters

- Strong Families Strong Children
- Strong Youth Strong Communities
- Swimming pools modernisation funding
- Continuing and indexation of general purpose grants
- Continuation and indexation of road funding
- Healthy Loddon Campaspe
- Mobile and digital connectivity advocacy
- Supporting growth of our towns with precinct structure plans

A GROWING AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY



PRIORITY PROJECT

Inglewood Streetscape

The Inglewood Streetscape Project aims to enhance the visual appeal, functionality, safety, and cultural significance of the streetscape in Inglewood. The project will consider various elements, including beautification, kerb and channel improvements, footpaths, underground power installation, greening initiatives, traffic calming, pedestrian safety enhancements, overall amenity improvement, place-making, integration of public art and heritage walking trails.

Urban design will consider Inglewood as the gateway to Kooyoorra State Park and reflect its First Nations Cultural significance.

The project’s contribution to place-making to support business performance and viability, is a key project consideration.

- **Current status**
Government funding applications will commence in 2025
- **Loddon contribution**
\$1M
- **Investment (funding being sought)**
\$5M
- **Total investment**
\$6M

Project objectives

Beautification: Transform the streetscape into an inviting, visually pleasing environment that reflects the unique character and history of Inglewood.

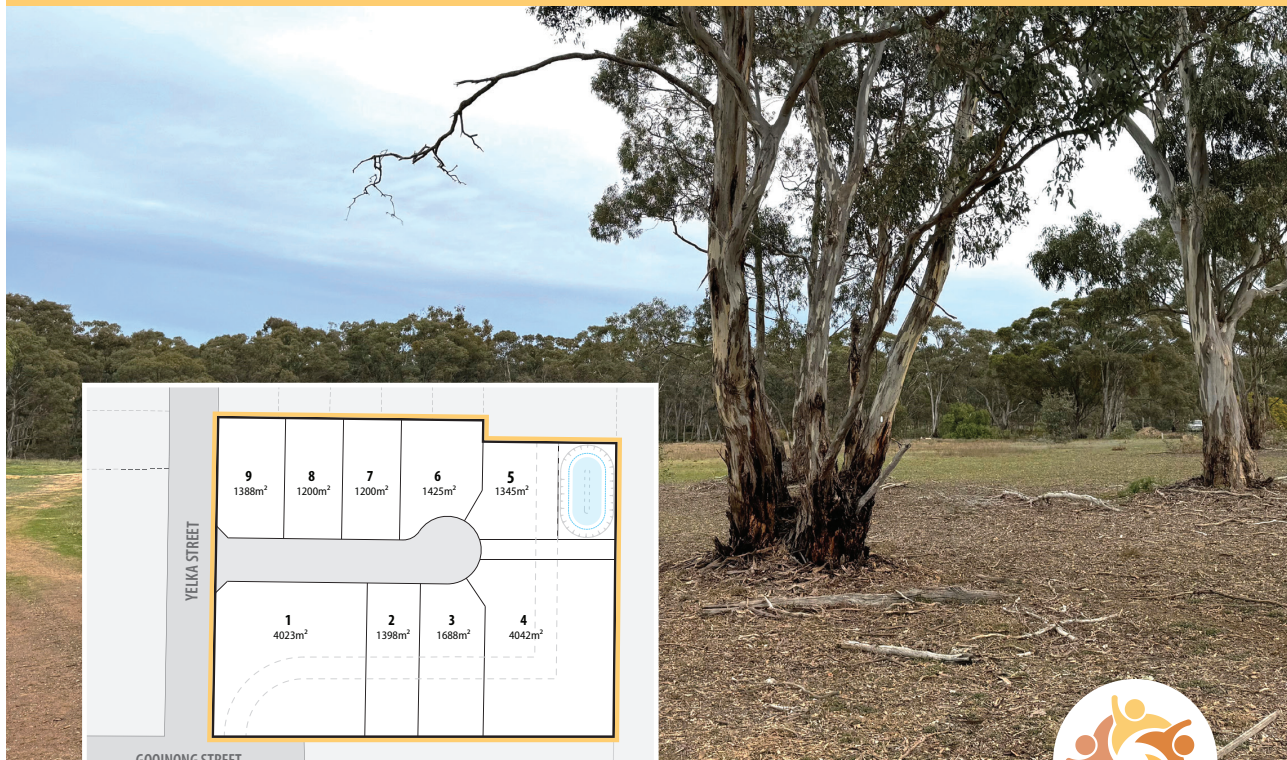
Infrastructure Upgrades: Upgrade kerb and channel systems, enhancing drainage and accessibility while maintaining historical architectural elements. Develop pedestrian-friendly footpaths that promote safe movement and accessibility for all residents and visitors

Underground Power: Implement underground power installation to improve the aesthetic appeal and safety of the streetscape.

Greening Initiatives: Integrate landscaping and urban greening strategies, incorporating plantings to improve air quality, biodiversity, and aesthetics.

Pedestrian Safety: Enhance pedestrian crossings and signage to prioritize pedestrian safety and encourage walking within the town.

A GROWING AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY



PRIORITY PROJECT

Housing Advocacy – Yelka Street

The shortage of the availability of land and homes in small communities such as Wedderburn is a significant roadblock to growth. There is demand for land to build new homes as well as to purchase or lease existing homes. There is little to none available on the market and the cost of development exceeds the market value. Meaning that even where there is land available private developers are unable to undertake developments. Council has been investigating opportunities where it could support or undertake house estate developments that support growing communities.

Council is seeking to develop a potential nine lot subdivision at Yelka Street Wedderburn. The site is owned by Council and has been earmarked for a housing development. The local community is supportive of the concept and is keen to see the addition of new housing in town.

Funding to support the provision of enabling or trunk infrastructure will unlock new, well-located housing to respond to existing and future demand, as well as providing impetus and incentive for further residential development across Loddon Shire.

- **Loddon contribution**
\$823,500 conservative land value
- **Investment (funding being sought)**
\$778,520
- **Total investment**
\$1.63M

A GROWING AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY



PRIORITY PROJECT

Rural Childcare Model in the northern part of Shire

Availability of childcare has been identified as a high priority for parents, caregivers and services providers for many years. With the announcement of the upcoming childcare centre in Wedderburn 2026 is a significant step forward, continuous advocacy is necessary to ensure that families in the northern part of the municipality have access to the long daycare services they need.

Government investment is sought for a rural funding model to attract long day care providers to the area. Council has produced a Childcare feasibility business case which identifies a model that would allow the development of viable, reliable and sustainable long day care options in small rural communities.

- **Loddon contribution**
Childcare feasibility business case development
- **Investment (funding being sought)**
Rural funding model to attract long day care providers to the northern area of the shire

A GROWING AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY



PRIORITY PROJECT

Pyramid Hill Community Centre Stage 2 and 3

The construction of Stage 2 and 3 will complete the project and will provide a fit for purpose facility creating a central hub for the community of Pyramid Hill. Neighbourhood house accommodating:

- Library
- Community Gymnasium
- Filipino association
- Museum and historical society
- Car parking and associated drainage and roadworks around the site

Funding is being sought for Stage 2 and 3 of the project to allow the project's construction to be delivered as one full and complete project.

- **Current status**
Detailed design ready to commence
- **Loddon contribution**
In-kind project management
- **Investment (funding being sought)**
\$5.12M
- **Total investment**
\$5.12M

A SUSTAINABLE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



PRIORITY PROJECT

Little Lake Boort Foreshore Precinct

The masterplan has been designed to reconnect and activate the various parklands around the Northern section of Little Lake Boort that incorporates Nolen's park, The Boort Tennis Club, Boort Bowls Club, Historic Park, Croquet Club, Swimming Pool and surrounding area. The zones have been developed to establish manageable projects that considers the likely financial impact on Council, combined with a logical staged sequence of development that is to be developed following finalisation of preferred design components.



- **Current status**
July 2024 – Concept
Masterplan is completed
- **Timeframe**
Masterplan ready for adoption September 2024
- **Loddon contribution**
\$950K – \$150K remaining funds, \$300K community planning ward funding and \$500K 24/25 strategic fund
- **Investment (funding being sought)**
\$1.45M
- **Total investment**
\$2.4M

A SUSTAINABLE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



PRIORITY PROJECT

Urban drainage Pyramid Hill

The stormwater drainage system in Pyramid Hill is a legacy system that no longer meets current industry standards and principles conforming to the requirements of Best Practice Environmental Guidelines for Urban Stormwater. Some of the known issues of the current system are pooling of stormwater in town for minor rainfall events, flat grades that lead to sedimentation of the system and the resultant localised pooling of stormwater, no major trunk lines, and undersized pumps.

To maintain and improve the future liveability of the township of Pyramid Hill, an upgrade to the stormwater drainage in the township is required to modernise the existing system. A Strategic Plan For Stormwater Drainage in Pyramid Hill has been completed which outlines the next steps to be community consultation, completing a feature survey, and engaging a consultant to develop a detailed design. It is proposed to seek funding for this plus the installation of the first construction stage of the project. Loddon Shire will progressively complete future construction stages of the project as additional funding becomes available.

- **Current status**
Strategic Plan completed
- **Timeframe**
Now
- **Loddon contribution**
\$0
- **Investment (funding being sought)**
\$6.2M

A SUSTAINABLE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



PRIORITY PROJECT



Skidders Flat Reservoir embankment upgrade works

The Skidders Flat reservoir is the former water supply reservoir for the township of Wedderburn that is now maintained for recreation. A Masterplan for the site has been developed to activate the site and improve amenity for locals and visitors.

The reservoir and associated structures have a number of identified deficiencies in their condition and design that warrant upgrade works. During the 2010-11 rainfall event the reservoir was very close to dam crest flood level and there was some erosion damage to the downstream spillway channel which has been repaired. Additional damage was incurred during the 2022 flood including scour progression at the downstream toe of the dam.

Skidders Flat reservoir requires upgrade works to repair damage sustained during the October 2022 flood event and to ensure the embankment and spillway meet the design and safety guidelines outlined by ANCOLD. Council is currently progressing a detailed design that will allow upgrade works to commence once suitable funding is secured.

- **Current status**
Detailed design in progress
- **Timeframe**
2025/2026 or after
- **Loddon contribution**
\$707,055
- **Investment (funding being sought)**
\$5M



ADVOCACY MATTERS



Advocacy Issues

Strong Families Strong Children

The Loddon Strong Families Strong Children program is a collaborative partnership between local government, health, community health, education and other agencies in the early childhood sector.

Strong Families, Strong Children – Loddon (SFSC-Loddon) has evolved from the Loddon Shire Early Years Network into a project designed to ensure all children in the Loddon Shire start school ready to learn.

Lead agency:

North Central Local Learning Employment Network

Strong Youth Strong Communities

The program focuses on key areas such as physical health, mental wellbeing, connectedness, and social & emotional development. Without addressing these critical elements, children and young people are significantly less likely to engage successfully with education and therefore reduce their opportunities into the future.

Lead agency:

North Central Local Learning Employment Network (NCLLEN)

ADVOCACY MATTERS



Swimming pools modernisation funding

Loddon Shire Council owns and maintains five outdoor swimming pools, located in Boort, Pyramid Hill, Mitiamo, Inglewood and Wedderburn. In total at these five locations, there is one 50-metre pool, three 33-metre pools and one 25-metre pool, two toddler pools and five infant wading pools and all associated infrastructure i.e. pipework and plant rooms. Kiosks, storage, changerooms and shade structure support the use of swimming pools.

The Loddon swimming pools are well-loved community assets that not only provide access to learn-to-swim programs for young families, but also important community gathering places during the long hot summer and heatwaves typical of the Loddon Mallee area. Loddon Shire contains a multitude of rivers, creeks, dams and irrigation channels.

Loddon's swimming pools provide a supervised safe place to swim and gather that significantly reduce risk of drownings. The pool shells and associated infrastructure were originally built by volunteers and local trades not specialised in pool construction. Loddon's pools were all constructed with funding from the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Pool funding program and the pool shells, pipework and the majority of changerooms and kiosk facilities are in excess of 60 years of age.

The outdoor pools across the Loddon Mallee region that have served local communities so well are falling into disrepair and are in desperate need of renewal if they are to effectively serve the needs of the local communities. The annual cost to maintain these original pools and infrastructure to the level needed to prevent catastrophic failure is increasingly exponentially as the pool shells and infrastructure start to significantly exceed their life span. For small rural councils, such as Loddon, the cost to maintain the pools to the required standards is now impacting on Council's abilities to fund the operation of the pools i.e. adequate opening hours, programs and facilities.

The current "management model" for aquatics in Loddon is effective, yet unavoidably expensive. The current financial input of public money is unsustainable. The need to explore and evaluate other potential partnership management models is critical and must occur over the next three years in order to preserve any chance of retaining the current number of aquatic facilities beyond 2028

We are seeking a dedicated rural community swimming pools funding program dedicated to revitalising and modernising antiquated and dilapidated facilities.

ADVOCACY MATTERS



Continuation and indexation of road funding

The support that Council receives from both State and Commonwealth Governments is vital for the ongoing provision of a safe, suitable and efficient road network. Council's Asset Plan 2022 showed a renewal gap of \$22 million that Council is unable to manage without the support of external funding.

Where required Council will strategically upgrade assets to ensure service levels adapt to evolving community and industry requirements. This particularly applies to upgrading roads and bridges on strategic freight routes as larger vehicles are used to transport goods. At a local level, high efficiency agriculture relies on the ability to transport increasingly larger agricultural machinery on Council's local road network which Council continues to improve in support of the agricultural industry in the region.

Council is seeking to ensure that programs, that support the provision of funding for roads that have a low cost of participation and deliver practical and effective results will continue. Some of the essential funding streaming that Council relies on include:

- State Grants Commission Funding
- Commonwealth Roads to Recovery Program
- Commonwealth Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program

ADVOCACY MATTERS



Continuing and indexation of general purpose grants

Increase in national pool of funding for 2024-25 is estimated at 5.4% (2023-24 was 5.0%); Increase in largest costs for Loddon (employee costs was 2.8% under Enterprise Agreement; materials was 3.8% in CPI over the twelve months to June 2024, estimated increases of insurance and software and online security is expected to exceed 10.0%); grants were frozen for three years to 2018, this impact lowered the base by 12.5% once indexation recommenced; originally 1970s by Whitlam annual increment tied to level of income tax (equal to about 40% of assessed needs of Councils; annual increment now based on change in CPI and growth in population rather than level of income tax); advocate for 1%

Healthy Loddon Campaspe

The Healthy Loddon Campaspe program has allowed Council to work with local communities to enhance opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing outcomes through local place based initiatives.

Mobile and digital connectivity advocacy

Large areas of Loddon Shire still have no mobile phone connectivity and reliable internet service.

Businesses without reliable internet or mobile phone coverage miss out on economic growth opportunities and the ability to compete with their counterparts in locations with better connectivity. Poor connectivity infrastructure limits their operations and prevents them from performing basic tasks such as emails, electronic transactions, or calling employees and clients.

Supporting growth of our towns with precinct structure plans

- Encourage a diverse and sustainable housing supply which supports economic growth by attracting and retaining residents and workers, while strengthening existing townships.
- Establish annual dwelling targets through settlement planning and/or township structure plans, to support a steady release of new housing.
- Develop precinct plan for Bridgewater and Inglewood to support coordinated growth and infrastructure investment.







Loddon Shire Council

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10.6 APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION - PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987**File Number:****Author:** Lisa Clue, Manager Governance**Authoriser:** Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate**Attachments:** 1. Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation - Planning and Environment Act 1987**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council, in the exercise of the powers conferred by s147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, resolves that:

- (a) the members of Council staff referred to in the instrument attached to this Agenda report be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.
- (b) the instrument comes into force immediately after it is signed by Council's Chief Executive Officer, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation was most recently considered by Council in November 2021.

BACKGROUND

In order for Council officers to effectively and efficiently discharge their duties, specific delegations, appointments and authorisations are required under a range of Acts and Regulations.

This report seeks to vary the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation of officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation attached to this Agenda report varies the Instrument currently in place by including two additional members of staff, Darcy Jackson (Statutory Planning Officer) and Raymond Chalkley (Community Compliance Coordinator).

COST/BENEFITS

There are no financial impacts associated with this matter.

RISK ANALYSIS

Updating this Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation will ensure Council staff have the powers required to undertake their roles.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Staff undertaking or managing planning compliance were engaged during the preparation of this report.

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*)

In this instrument "officers" mean -

**Steven Phillips
Glenn Harvey
Carolyn Stephenson
Louise Johnston
Darcy Jackson
David Price
Raymond Chalkley**

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Loddon Shire Council -

1. under s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* - appoints the officers to be authorised officers for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and
2. under s 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officers either generally or in a particular case to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument -

- comes into force immediately upon its execution;
- remains in force until varied or revoked.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Loddon Shire Council on [meeting date].

**Lincoln Fitzgerald
Chief Executive Officer
Loddon Shire Council**

Date:

11 INFORMATION REPORTS

Nil

12 COMPLIANCE REPORTS**12.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE UPDATE****File Number:****Author:** Michelle Stedman, Director Corporate**Authoriser:** Lincoln Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer**Attachments:** Nil**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives and notes the Summary of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 2 September 2024.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest for any Council staff member involved in the preparation of this report, or involved in the subject matter of the report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council most recently received an update on a Loddon Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) meeting at its May 2024 meeting.

BACKGROUND

Council's ARC has been established in accordance with section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to support it in discharging its oversight responsibilities related to financial and performance reporting, risk management, fraud prevention systems and control, maintenance of a sound internal control environment, assurance activities including internal and external audit, and Council's performance with regard to compliance with its policies and legislative and regulatory requirements.

This report is a requirement of the ARC Charter which states:

'A summary of each ARC meeting will be reported at the next meeting of the Council.'

ISSUES/DISCUSSIONSummary of meeting

Below is a summary of the ARC meeting held on Monday, 2 September 2024 in the Loddon Shire Council Chambers.

Member attendees:

Rod Poxon – Independent Member (Chair)

Rachelle Tippett – Independent Member (online from 4.03pm)

Amber Currie – Independent Member

Cr Gavan Holt – Councillor Representative

Officer attendees:

Lincoln Fitzgerald – Chief Executive Officer

Michelle Stedman – Director Corporate

Lisa Clue – Manager Governance

Michelle Hargreaves – Administration Officer Governance

Deanne Caserta – Manager Financial Services

Other attendees:

Brad Ead – AFS and Associates Pty Ltd
 Mahesh Silva and Shivam Goel – RSD Audit

Apologies:

Marg Allan – Independent Member

The following matters were considered by the ARC at the meeting:

Report	Discussion points
Status of actions generated during ARC meetings	The ARC acknowledged and noted all resolutions arising from the 6 May 2024 Audit and Risk Committee meeting decision and compliance reports have been acted upon; and one action requested by the Audit and Risk Committee during the course of meetings is deemed complete, six actions are progressing and five actions have not yet started or are not yet due. As requested by the ARC, target dates for completion of actions are now identified and included in these reports.
Audit issues encountered during the course of the final audit	Audit issues encountered during the course of the external audit were discussed with the ARC.
Financial and performance statements year ending 30 June 2024 – for endorsement	<p>The ARC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted the Principal Accounting Officer may need to make amendments to the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 that may be requested by RSD Audit or the Victorian Auditor-General; 2. Endorsed the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024; and 3. Recommended to Council adoption of the Financial Statements and Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.
Report on new and emerging risks and fraud related incidents	The ARC noted the CEO's report on new and emerging risks and fraud related incidents including matters relating to financial and reputational risk.
Strategic Internal Audit Program (SIAP) review of program and scopes and status update	The ARC noted the delivery status of the Strategic Internal Audit Program (SIAP) as amended; and endorsed amendments to the number and timing of internal audit topics.

Internal Audit Reports – Depot Operations; Occupational Health Safety and Wellbeing; and Human Resources	The ARC endorsed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the <i>Internal Audit Report – Depot Operations</i> and accepted four recommended actions in full, and two in part; 2. the <i>Internal Audit Report – Occupational Health Safety and Wellbeing</i> and accepted eight recommended actions in full, and two in part; and 3. the <i>Internal Audit Report – Human Resources – Workforce and Succession Planning, Recruitment and Retention</i> and accepted four recommended actions in full.
Progress on open audit recommendations	The ARC received a report on the status of actions from past internal audits, noting the progress by management on open audit recommended actions and endorsing seven completed audit actions to be closed.
Risk Implementation Plan Progress Report	The ARC received a report on the Risk Management Implementation Plan, including the status of 22 actions, five of which have been recently deemed complete. The ARC endorsed the Risk Management Implementation Plan v3, with the addition of commentary on adjusted due dates for outstanding actions, ahead of its presentation to Council.
ARC Charter Review	The ARC progressed a review of its Charter and resolved to review and provide feedback on the draft Loddon Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee Charter 2024-2026 (v12) to the Director Corporate by 1 October 2024. The ARC will consider for endorsement, a final draft of the Charter at its November meeting, ahead of its presentation to Council to be considered for approval.
Management Responses to External Audit Findings	The ARC received a report on management responses to audit findings, noting Council has one outstanding action.
Recommendations from the results of the 2022/23 Audits; Local Government and impact on the Interim Management Letter	The ARC received an update on additional unresolved findings added to Loddon Shire Council's Interim Management Letter as a result of a late request from the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.
External Audit Outcomes review	The ARC received a verbal update on the outcomes of the external audit from RSD Audit.
Review reimbursement of Councillors expenses	The ARC received, and subsequently noted a report on Councillor expenses, including allowances and reimbursements; and comparative quarterly data.
Council's overall risk profile	The ARC received an update on Council's risk profile; the status of very high and high rated risks contained within Council risk registers and, where applicable associated risk treatment plans; and identified new and emerging risks.

Review of key policies	The ARC received and noted a report on the current status of documents specifically referenced in the ARC Charter, including current target review dates.
Industry update – regulatory and integrity agency findings relevant to Local Government	The ARC received and noted an update on examinations and investigations undertaken by regulatory and integrity agencies, and their findings, relevant to the local government sector.
General Business	<p>End of term – Council appointed ARC representative:</p> <p>Mayor Holt spoke of his time on the ARC as a Councillor representative, including attending 80 ARC meetings.</p> <p>Rod Poxon thanked Mayor Holt for his contribution over the years.</p> <p>Next meeting:</p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting, originally scheduled for 11 November be held over until after the 2024 Council elections. The meeting date will be decided amongst members over coming weeks.</p>

COST/BENEFITS

This report provides Council with oversight of the work of the ARC, providing a level of surety that services are undertaken efficiently and effectively.

There are no costs associated with development of this report, however there are modest costs associated with the ARC and undertaking regular internal and external auditing of Council activities. These costs are provided for in Council's approved budget.

RISK ANALYSIS

The ARC has risk management oversight for the Council and monitors, reviews, endorses and advises Council on matters as set out in the Charter.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Officers involved in the conduct of the ARC meeting were consulted in the preparation of this report.

12.2 NOTICE OF MOTION - NEWBRIDGE SEWERAGE AND WATER

File Number:

Attachments: Nil

MOTION

That a report be provided to Council at a meeting in November 2024 on:

- 1) the next steps required to expand the work undertaken by SGS regarding the feasibility of Newbridge Sewerage and Water to ensure a project concept is ready for funding;
and
- 2) the opportunity to fund this further concept work from Council's Strategic Fund.

RATIONALE

On 2 September 2024 Councillor Linda Jungwirth gave the Chief Executive Officer written notice that she wishes to move a notice of motion. The motion included the following rationale in support of the motion:

The community of Newbridge have been asking Council to work with them to advocate for sewerage and water for many years.

They are very clear on the need for appropriate infrastructure and planning to allow for natural and encouraged growth.

Two studies have been undertaken previously with both showing benefits to providing the town with sewerage and water. The most recent business case was undertaken as an action of the Loddon-Mallee Action Plan.

The Action Plan identified four prospective projects to increase housing in the Loddon-Mallee area. One of these is the potential for providing sewerage and water in the town of Newbridge to allow for growth. The preliminary business case was conducted by SGS Economics and recommended a housing support worker position be created to help the region with solutions to the current housing crisis.

In relation to Newbridge, Loddon-Mallee Housing Action Plan; Newbridge Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Preliminary Business Case states – "This Business Case considers the wider economic benefits of the project which **justify** alternative financing options including the use of the National Housing and Infrastructure Facility to address infrastructure gaps. The options could be helpful to other regional councils (or water authorities) facing similar financing barriers. The Newbridge project aligns with Strategy 2 of the housing action plan on bridging infrastructure gaps." (Pg. 80 Loddon-Mallee Housing Action Plan)

The SGS preliminary analysis regarding sewerage and water for Newbridge concludes that there is a prima facie case for applying for external financing and seeking the involvement of a state agency guarantor to enable the Newbridge Sewerage and Water infrastructure project, given the net benefits to Victoria. The report states that further analysis is needed before moving ahead with the expanded option which would provide for 330 new homes in Newbridge.

The key barrier to the project is sourcing external funding and a third-party financing guarantor. Providing a strong business case to funding bodies such as the NHFIC is a possible way forward as reported in the Loddon-Mallee Housing Action Plan.

Conducting an in-depth analysis of the project in preparation for future funding opportunities would benefit Newbridge and Loddon Shire as a whole if the outcome provided evidence for the benefits of pursuing the project.

12.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - AMENDMENT TO GOVERNANCE RULE 65

File Number:

Attachments: Nil

MOTION

That a report be provided to Council at a meeting in December 2024 or January 2025 on:
an amendment of Loddon Shire Council's Governance Rules to -

- a. removing 65, item (4)(b) - must relate to a matter of business on the meeting agenda
- b. amending Rule 65, item (4)(c) to add a time period. Ie. Must not relate to subject matter previously responded to by Council in the last six months

RATIONALE

On 2 September 2024 Councillor Linda Jungwirth gave the Chief Executive Officer written notice that she wishes to move a notice of motion. The following rationale statement was provided with the motion:

The Local Government Act 2020 states:- the role of a Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community. As such, it's important to me that we work with the community to achieve their vision. Transparency is vital and a matter of good governance. We should encourage the community to show interest in council matters and allow them to participate in issues that affect them. Rule 65, item (4) (b) that a question must relate to matter of business on the meeting agenda, does not allow for the community to ask questions of their choosing regarding Council matters. Allowing an opportunity for community members to ask questions which are of interest to them encourages transparency and fosters a sense of partnership.

Currently the wording in Loddon Shire Council's Governance Rule 65, item (4) (c) must not relate to subject matter previously responded to by Council and does not allow a matter to be raised at a future meeting even if it were still of importance to the community. The reason for the clause is to ensure repetition is not disruptive to Council meetings. Adding a time period allows the community to raise a question again if it remains relevant but ensures questions are not disruptive. This amendment provides transparency and allows the municipal community to participate in council matters relevant to them.

13 URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, Clause 53 provides that at a scheduled or special meeting of Council, business that is not included in the agenda notice must only be considered if no more than one Councillor is absent and the Council resolves that the matter is urgent.

Despite this requirement, a matter that is not included in the agenda notice must not be considered at a Council meeting if it will:

- (a) directly and significantly affect the exercise of a person's rights;
- (b) alter the Council Plan or the budget; or
- (c) commit the Council to expenditure exceeding \$20,000.

14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of Council will be held on 22 October 2024 at Wedderburn commencing at 3.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at .

Confirmed this.....day of..... 2024