

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024



Picture – Ouse Public Toilets



Contact Information

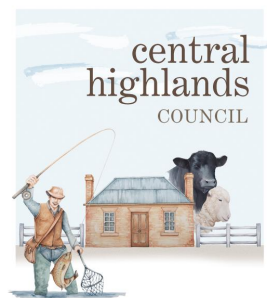
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Introduction

The Local Government Act 1993 requires every Council in Tasmania to produce an Annual Report. This gives an opportunity for the Council to inform the community of achievements and challenges in the last year, and review areas to be improved upon.

This includes the annual corporate planning and reporting cycle of the Central Highlands Council each year. This report covers the period of the **2023/2024** financial year.

The Council is required under Section 72 of *the Local Government Act 1993* to prepare a report that contains:

- a summary of the annual plan for the preceding financial year.
- a statement of its goals and objectives in relation to public health for the preceding year.
- a statement of the Council's activities and its performance in respect of goals and objectives set for the proceeding financial year.
- a statement of the number of Code of Conduct complaints that were received and the number that were upheld either wholly or in part during the preceding financial year.
- the total costs met by the council during the preceding financial year in respect to all code of conduct complaints dealt with under Division 3A of part 3 during the preceding financial year.
- the financial statements for the proceeding financial year.
- a statement of the operating, capital and competitive neutrality costs in respect of each significant business activity undertaken by the council during the preceding financial year together with a statement of revenue associated with that activity.
- a statement of the activities and performance of the Council in relation to any activity taken pursuant to Section 21 as compared with its objectives for the preceding financial year.
- a statement of the total allowances and expenses paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.
- a statement detailing the attendance of each Councillor at meetings of the Council and any Council Committee during the preceding financial year.
- a statement in accordance with Subsection 4 relating to the total remuneration paid to employees of Council who are key management personnel.
- a copy of the audit opinion for the proceeding financial year.
- a statement specifying details of any land donated by the Council under Section 177, including the name of the recipient, the reasons for the donation, and the value of the land.
- any other prescribed matter.

This report contains a series of chapters, each devoted to a function of Council, and an explanation of how these functions interact within the Central Highlands Council structure.

The report also contains audited standard, financial, and performance statements. This shows how monies raised via rates, charges, fees and grants received have been expended.

Each year the Council prepares an Annual Budget within the context of the actions identified in the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2024. The Strategic Plan and Annual Budget are used to inform the decisions and actions of Council for the coming year.

Central Highlands Council values the input of the community. Members of the community are invited to make submissions on the Annual Report for discussion at Council's **Annual General Meeting**, which will be held at **8.45am** on **Tuesday 10 December 2024**, at Bothwell.

Any person wishing to make a submission should do so by close of business **Wednesday 4 December 2024**.

Corporate Vision

To provide residents and visitors opportunities to participate in and enjoy a vibrant local economy, rewarding community life, cultural heritage and a natural environment that is world class.

Corporate Mission

Provide leadership to ensure that local government and other services are provided to satisfy the social, economic and environmental needs of the present-day community, whilst endeavouring to ensure the best possible outcomes for future generations.

Strategic Plan

Council's Strategic Plan 2015-2024 is available free of charge by contacting either the Bothwell or Hamilton Office or on Council's website at www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au



MAYOR'S REPORT 2023-2024

Welcome to the Mayor's Report for the Central Highlands Council financial year 2023/2024.

Even though this report is a statutory requirement of Council, I provide this report as a continuation of my commitment to true transparency of the Central Highlands Council commitments, behaviour and actions over the previous 12 months.

I welcome new residents who have chosen to join us in the beautiful Central Highlands. Our Council covers approximately 801,000 hectares of land, including national parks and world recognised wilderness heritage areas. We have some of the best fly and trout fishing across the world and ever-increasing interest in our tourism opportunities, including Council being approached regarding future tourism opportunities yet to be defined.

Tourism is certainly an ongoing and developing area across our central highlands and I'm always looking for opportunities for existing and new developments to provide employment to locals including the use of locally grown produce on our menus. With an ever strong agricultural and horticultural industries and several distilleries which also support local employment.

I am pleased that, as a Council, we have provided well managed and responsible budgets over the years.

Budget deliberations are always a significant challenge, with council needing to stay within our projected long-term financial plan and for us to remain a strong effective council.

Central Highlands Council are financially stable, and we endeavour to remain so.

Rate increases are inevitable; however, Council understands the impact of increased everyday living for our community, and we have agreed on a responsible rate increase.

These Budget Estimates have been increased in accordance with Councils adopted Long Term Financial Plan of March CPI plus 2%. Therefore, all expenditure and rate revenue projections have an average increase of 5.1% across all areas which will ensure Council is in the best fiscal position under the current economic climate.

Professional and Personal Development Opportunities

I strongly believe that Council employees and our elected Councillors should continue on a path of both professional and personal development. I have ensured several opportunities have been presented to elected Councillors and have noted that these opportunities can assist in a more informed understanding of Council. I deemed that a number of workshops were compulsory for Councillors and thus the attendance and engagement was crucial in the development of skills, understanding financial statements and reports, including the role and responsibilities as elected Councillors. This also includes the governance and operational processes, and functions of Council,

the elected arm and the employee/administrative arm, all expected to work together, with myself as a conduit working closely with our General Manager.

Councillors and I continue to be representatives on many committees across the Municipality. I thank those Councillors who put in their time and their effort.

There have been additional opportunities for me in attending the elected members Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) meetings and conferences, Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) and Mayors Round-table meetings. My continuing relationship with other Mayors is important, to talk and listen regarding issues and possible solutions to providing and retaining services to local communities.

Council, when conducting business as the Planning Authority need to remain unbiased and are guided by the Tasmanian Planning Scheme – Central Highlands and the (*Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*).

Township Structure Planning Project

The Township Structure Planning Project is important for the future of the Central Highlands Municipality.

Council has initiated a project to develop structure plans for the major townships in the Municipality. The impetus came from feedback received during public notification of the Central Highlands component of the new State Planning Scheme. Additionally, it is now more or less standard practice for the Tasmanian Planning Commission to require Structure Plans to support Planning Scheme Amendments in small rural towns such as ours.

Structure plan development is generally undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced independent consultants appointed by Council and working under the direction of a Council-appointed Steering Committee.

Council has engaged a planning consultancy, Niche Planning Studio, to work with the community, Council and infrastructure providers to undertake the project. This will be a once-in-a-generation opportunity for community members, community groups, business owners, and anyone with an interest in the future of these towns to contribute their ideas and help establish a 'vision' for each town. Substantial community involvement is essential to ensure the vision developed for a town is the best it can be, and the local community ultimately have ownership over the outcomes.

Council envisage that the structure planning process will be an exciting opportunity for township communities to come together to plan out the future of our towns. This will come together in 'Structure Plans' for each town. The project will develop municipal settlement and economic development strategies.

Key areas of focus will be liveability & sustainability, and long-term population and economic growth. The final Structure Plans will include recommendations for town improvements, planning scheme amendments, actions to achieve community goals, and other strategies desired by the community. There have been several opportunities to be involved including providing submissions and participating in community workshops in each town. This provides interested members of the community the opportunity to express their goals, desires, and priorities for the future.

Infrastructure in the Central Highlands

Our roads and bridges are crucial infrastructure and so that Council can keep the road safe for all users, we continue to identify further areas across the whole of the Central Highlands that may need strengthening and/or redevelopment, or maintenance. As always, I appreciate hearing from our Central Highlands community regarding infrastructure issues which need to be put forward to receive Council's attention.

The following completed Capital Works Projects have been achieved this financial year: -

ROADS	AMOUNT
Thousand Acre Lane reconstruction-further 2km	\$1,427,947
Stabilization Hollow Tree Road 2km	\$501,196
Stabilization Ellendale Road 1km	\$211,061
Stabilization Cook Street Ouse	\$79,987
Stabilization Arthurs Lake	\$131,574
Thiessen Crescent junction upgrades	\$39,090
Re-Sheeting of unsealed Roads	\$448,942
Bothwell Storm Water stage 2	\$244,698
FOOTPATHS	
High Street Bothwell asphalt and new kerb	\$79,175
Footpath front of Queens Park	\$16,865
Franklin Place Hamilton concrete footpath	\$172,229
PLANT	
Toyota Hilux	\$54,061
Fuso truck Hamilton	\$114,042
Toro out-front mower Bothwell	\$49,309
Ranger Ute	\$54,019
Ranger Ute	\$55,082
1.8 tonne Excavator	\$62,740
OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS	
Automatic Door Ouse Hall	\$7,121
Ouse Independent Living Units Upgrades	\$40,543
Ouse Toilet Upgrade	\$206,213
Archive Store Shed	\$107,222
Hamilton Truck Wash Bay Upgrade	\$76,352
Green Valley Bridge Replacement	\$429,489
Hamilton Office roof and Upgrade	\$405,915
Re-roof Cumberland Street House	\$34,000
Re-roof Ash Cottage	\$12,987

Medical Practices in the Central Highlands - Update on Health Services in Ouse

As my community are aware, for years now I've been Lobbying all tiers of Government, and non-government alternatives for the delivery of vital health services for the people of Ouse, and surrounds, in the Central Highlands.

Residents of Ouse and surrounds who require medical attention can still only access the community nurse (by appointment only) at the Ouse Medical Centre.

STILL, there is still NO GENERAL PRACITITIONER available at the Ouse Medical Centre.

I remain committed and trying hard to assist in the delivery of a GP service.

It's frustrating, time-consuming and some days deflating. I hope I can bring good news to the community, although at this stage I have no time frame.

Acknowledging the Federal government is predominantly responsible for funding GPs and primary care I continue to raise this issue, also with the State government. I have reminded Government that the Central Highlands local government area has an ageing population, with a high incidence of chronic diseases needing ongoing and consistent management and monitoring, including people needing doctors appointments, sometimes weekly, including ongoing prescriptions. I clearly stated that not having access to a doctor delivering primary healthcare does not meet human rights specifically at Ouse and our basic Human rights are not being met.

My recent conversation with the Deputy Premier Guy Barnett continues and has provided me with a slight glimmer of hope for the Ouse community. The government are committed to ensuring Ouse has access to a GP service and work is already underway to achieve this. Applications for the governments \$250,000 grant program for GP practices recently closed and are being assessed.

While this is a process independent of the Minister, I understand there has been some interest in utilising this program to expand into the Ouse region, which we certainly welcome. Should this eventuate, the government is also currently recruiting for a new GP NOW Rapid Response Team of 10 GP's. Ouse is a prime example of a community that will benefit from this initiative and insure the Central Highlands community can access the healthcare they deserve until a more sustainable solution is found.

Hopefully, this will be a positive announcement in the near future.

General Practice Bothwell

The Bothwell Doctors Medical Centre, managed by Dr Mary Lumsden, continues to be a thriving centre with doctors available for our Central Highlands community. Dr Mary has a kind and caring personality, and our community are very fond of her. Thank you to our doctors and their staff for their ongoing support.

Bushfest 10th Anniversary 2024

Central Highlands Council are excited to announce the 10th anniversary of the Highlands Bushfest held at the Bothwell recreation ground on the 23rd and 24th November 2024.

Hosted by council, Bushfest is a family friendly weekend and as always entry is a gold coin donation to allow everyone to experience and enjoy a great weekend. There is assessable parking, gluten-free dining options, live entertainment, free Wi-Fi and council's raffles are drawn each day, with organising well on its way and Councils' engagement of an Events Coordinator, Councillors, Council Staff and most importantly the Community endeavours to deliver a fantastic community event. It would be difficult to continue running this large-scale event without the support of our local volunteers and community groups.

Bushfest showcases the beautiful Central Highlands including its outdoor activities, such as camping, fishing, shooting and much more. Over the years, the festival has featured sheepdog demonstrations, wood chopping and carving, speed shearing competitions, historic machinery displays and Tasmanian reptiles.

Numerous displays, exhibition, and stalls will be something of interest for all age groups. Talented local cooks and our local produce will be an interesting drawcard, so come taste the good foods, not to forget scones, jam and cream direct from the oven.

Council is proud to support and showcase local businesses and artists from across the whole of the municipality. It strengthens our local community and fosters tourism, all while bringing our community together in celebration.

We invite everyone to come along and enjoy a family friendly weekend celebrating our 10th Anniversary of Bushfest 2024.

I am proud to be your Mayor of a wonderful strong caring community and appreciate your positive comments which I continue to receive. I will be continuing my visit around the Central Highlands townships and be available to meet and chat with everyone on their issues and concerns. As always, I appreciate your feedback on business with council and encourage any of your suggestions and ideas. In the near future some council workshops will be held around the towns. This will be advertised and there will be some time allocated for community members to attend. I hope to see as many people at those as possible.

This is an opportune time for me to thank all volunteers across the Central Highlands who give so much of their time for the many different activities throughout the year. I say thank you all, for your time and effort in helping across various roles throughout the year.

For the past year that we have completed, thank you to my fellow elected Councillors and our administrative arm, the employees of the Central Highlands Council.

Councillors, I appreciate your time, your effort, your commitment and your support and contribution in building a strong effective Council and in the delivery of services. As Mayor I shall continue to provide opportunities for discussion and difference of opinions around the table of elected members. The working relationship between myself as Mayor our newly appointed Acting General Manager, and our Deputy General Manager remains strong and is an asset of Council.

Bushfire Season

As Central Highlands Council and community await this coming bushfire season, we acknowledge the previous support provided by State Government departments including Tasmanian Fire Service, Tasmania Police, State Emergency Services, Parks & Wildlife Services, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, our Council employees, volunteers, local farmers, businesses, and residents in protecting our community in emergency circumstances.

As Mayor, I continue to appreciate the support and respect given to the position of Mayor and I look forward to the year ahead and working to continue to provide further opportunities and support across our Central Highlands.

**Mayor
Loueen Triffitt**

Current Councillors as of 30 June 2024



Loueen Triffitt
Mayor
0409 269 702



Jim Allwright
Deputy Mayor
0448 297 689



Anthony (Tony) Bailey
Councillor
0418 863 284



The Late
Scott Bowden
Councillor
(17/23-12/9/23)



Anthony Archer
Councillor
(9/10/23 onwards)
0427 215 558



Robert Cassidy
Councillor
0458 737 747



John Hall
Councillor
0448 595 620



Julie Honner
Councillor
0417 168 339



David Meacheam
Councillor
0421 073 513



Yvonne Miller
Councillor
0417 578 699

Councillor Attendance at Ordinary Council Meetings, Special Council Meetings & Annual General Meeting

	Meeting Attendance (including Annual Meeting & Special meetings)			
	Full	Part	Absent	Possible
Councillors on 30 June 2024				
Mayor Loueen Triffitt	14		1	15
Deputy Mayor James Allwright	15		-	15
Cr Anthony Archer (9/10/23 onwards)	11		1	12
Cr Anthony (Tony) Bailey	14		1	15
Late S Bowden (1/7/23-12/9/23)	-		2	2
Cr Robert Cassidy	13		2	15
Cr Julie Honner	15		-	15
Cr John Hall	15		1	15
Cr David Meacheam	12		3	15
Cr Yvonne Miller	12		3	15

Councillor attendance is recorded as part where the Councillor was recorded as arriving or leaving the meeting for a period in excess of 15 minutes but does not include leaving the meeting following a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or Perceived Interest.

Councillor Attendance at Committee Meetings & Workshops

	Attendance at Council Planning Committee & Audit Panel Meetings as members				Attendance at Council Workshops			
	Full	Part	Absent	Possible	Full	Part	Absent	Possible
Councillors on 30 June 2024								
Mayor Loueen Triffitt	6		2	8	11		2	13
Deputy Mayor James Allwright	4		1	13	13			13
Cr Anthony Archer (9/10/23 onwards)					8		3	11
Cr Anthony (Tony) Bailey	5		2	7	11		2	13
Late S Bowden (1/7/23-12/9/23)							2	2
Cr Robert Cassidy	8			8	13			13
Cr Julie Honner					13			13
Cr John Hall	8			8	13			13
Cr David Meacheam	3			3	13			13
Cr Yvonne Miller					13			13

Current Council Committee Representation as of 30 June 2024

Audit Panel

Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr A Bailey
Cr D Meacheam (Proxy)

Bothwell Cemetery Committee

Mayor L Triffitt (Chair)
Cr J Honner
Cr R Cassidy

Independent Living Units Committee

Mayor L Triffitt (Chair)
Cr A Bailey
Cr Y Miller

Bothwell Swimming Pool Committee

Mayor L Triffitt (Chair)
Cr J Honner

Planning Committee

Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Chair)
Mayor L Triffitt
Cr R Cassidy
Cr J Hall
Cr A Bailey (Proxy)

Highlands Tasmania Tourism Committee

Mayor L Triffitt (Chair)
Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr R Cassidy (Proxy)

Australia Day Committee

Cr A Bailey (Chair)
Mayor L Triffitt
Cr Y Miller

Waste Committee

Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Chair)
The late Cr S Bowden
Cr J Hall
Cr J Honner

Bothwell Football Club & Community Centre Committee

Cr J Honner (Chair)
Cr A Bailey
Cr J Hall
The late Cr S Bowden (Proxy)

Central Highlands Visitor Centre Management Committee

Cr J Honner (Chair)
Cr R Cassidy
Mayor L Triffitt (Proxy)

Township Structure Planning Project Steering Committee

Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Chair)
Cr R Cassidy (Deputy Chair)
Mayor L Triffitt
Cr A Bailey
The late Cr S Bowden
Cr J Honner
Cr Y Miller

External Committee Representation as of 30 June 2024

Australasian Golf Museum

Mayor L Triffitt
Cr R Cassidy
Cr J Hall (Proxy)

Central Highlands Men's Shed Steering Committee

Cr A Bailey
Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)

Derwent Catchment Project

Cr A Bailey
Cr D Meacheam

Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH)

Mayor L Triffitt
Cr Y Miller
Cr J Honner (Proxy)

Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)

Mayor L Triffitt
Deputy Mayor J Allwright

Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority

Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr D Meacheam (Proxy)

TasWater Owners Representative

Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr D Meacheam (Proxy)

Overview & Highlights

Anzac Day Services

Anzac Day Services were conducted by Council this year with the following services being held:

- Dawn Service at Gretna
- Dawn Service at Fentonbury
- 11.00am Service at Bothwell
- 11.00am Service at Hamilton



Picture – Bothwell 11.00 am Service 2024

Australia Day Awards

A morning tea was held at the Bothwell Recreation Ground for the presentation of the Australia Day Awards.

The Central Highlands Australia Day Citizen of the Year was awarded to Mrs Tina Horne

Tina Horne is the Captain of the Bothwell Bunnies. Since joining Replay for Life in 2018, the Bothwell Bunnies have raised over \$68,000 for Cancer research.

Tina has always been and continues to be a well-known and active members of our community and volunteers with many groups. She is very active with the Bothwell Football Club and is often seen working in the kitchen during their home games.

She is also an active member of the FHW Bothwell exercise group.

Congratulations Tina and thank you for all you do for our community.

The Central Highlands Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Brodie Speed

Brodie is a talented young footballer who started at the Central Hawks Junior Football Club, then moving onto Lindisfarne and Clarence where he was lucky enough to be part of a premiership with Lindisfarne and this year with Clarence.

This year Brodie has been selected by the Tasmanian Devils Program on three occasions. He has competed in the Devils Under 16 Academy Program in NSW, the Northern Tasmania vs Southern Tasmania game and played in the School Australian Championships in July.

Brodie is highly regarded and supported by thy Bothwell Rabbits where he is included in training events when he is not participating in his training in town.

The Australia Day Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Greta Green Hotel's Community Makers Market

Since taking over the Greta Green Hotel, Brad and Tash have focussed on supporting the local community through playing host to community groups such as the Greta Green Crafters.

This award acknowledges their very successful Community Markers Markets including their recent Christmas Market. These markets which offer a great opportunity for local people to sell their wares, to socialise, and to be able to buy products which would not be available in our rural communities.

Australia Day Certificate of Appreciation

Katelyn Nichols has been nominated for an Australia Day award in recognition for her caring contribution to our local community.

Katelyn has shown a lot of caring for the younger students at the school and has volunteered her time in doing reading at the local ANZAC service



Picture – Australia Day 2024

Council Congratulates all our award nominees.



The Derwent Catchment Project

Central Highlands Council Annual Report

Summary of Key Activities and Achievements 2023-2024

General Overview

The Derwent Catchment Project (DCP) has made significant progress over the past year across weed management, river restoration, native plant nursery expansion, and community engagement projects. This report covers the period from July 2023 to June 2024, highlighting key activities, outcomes, and milestones achieved in these areas. Through collaboration with Central Highlands, Derwent Valley and Brighton councils, community groups, government agencies, and stakeholders, DCP continues to make a positive impact on the environment and local communities.

General Business Highlights

- **AGM & Community Engagement:**
 - **Annual General Meeting (AGM):** Held on September 1st, 2023, at Derwent Estate Vineyard's 'The Shed' restaurant, attended by 65 people. The event featured President Charles Downie and guest speaker Tom Allwright, discussing team success and DCP's achievements. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the progress and accomplishments of DCP over the past year.
 - **Community Events:** High public engagement at events such as the Hamilton Show and Bushfest. The team have provided advice and support around native plant identification, weed control methods, and land management practices with visitors. Quality conversations were had, and native plant sales were steady.
 - **Parliamentary Briefing on Feral Deer:** Participation in a briefing organised by the Invasive Species Council to discuss the impact of feral deer on the landscape. This meeting aimed to inform parliamentarians and advocate for effective control programs to mitigate the negative effects of feral deer on land management.
 - **Tasmanian Local Government Climate Capability Program:** Attendance at a workshop by the Tas Climate Change Office (TCCO) and Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) to promote climate action in local government policies.
- **Strategic Planning:**
 - **Annual Report 2023-24:** Designed for accessibility and engagement, showcasing achievements and available on the DCP website.
 - **Strategic Plan 2023-2028:** Finalised and published, outlining proposed actions and targets for the next five years.

Key Projects and Initiatives

Central Highlands Weeds Program

- **Objective:** To implement the **Central Highlands Weed Management Plan**, focusing on weed control priorities across the region, including road verges, townships, and high-priority eradication zones.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Active partnerships with Hydro Tasmania, TasNetworks, Parks and Wildlife Services, Property Services, State Growth, Biosecurity Tasmania, and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania.

Key Activities:

- **Tarraleah Broom Control:**
 - The Tarraleah Broom Program is focused on controlling broom infestations in the Tarraleah area. Extensive works involved initial herbicide applications followed by mechanical mulching once the herbicide had taken effect. This cross-tenure collaboration is being supported by partners such as Parks and Wildlife Service, Hydro, and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania. Intensive follow-up treatments will continue through the next year to prevent regrowth.
- **Dee Lagoon:**
 - Manual control efforts for gorse, broom, and holly have been conducted around the Dee Lagoon foreshore. The program received support from Hydro, STT, and TasNetworks, who are interested in continuing the efforts.
- **Orange Hawkweed:**
 - This intensive program uses scent detection dogs and targeted spot spraying to manage and contain orange hawkweed across multiple sites. Efforts this year included extensive monitoring, stakeholder meetings, and community engagement.
- **Roadside Weed Management:**
 - Expansion of the roadside weed management program to target weed species on Victoria Valley Road and Bashan Road. DCP's ground crews have focused on controlling species such as blackberry, gorse, and Californian thistle, with a marked reduction in weed density following multiple treatments.

- **Weed Monitoring and Reporting:**
 - DCP continues to monitor eradication zones to assess the effectiveness of previous control efforts, including the control of blackberry around Ellendale, with up to 90% control success, and a reduction of Fennel between Hamilton and Ouse down to 10% of its original density.
 - **Engagement with Local Communities:**
 - In March, DCP's Nursery Manager, Karen Phillips, attended the Planning Our Future workshop at Hamilton Hall, where the community provided feedback on the nursery expansion project and discussed the vision for Hamilton and the surrounding areas.
 - The Adopt a Shore program ran a successful weed education day with high public attendance. Residents learned about weed identification and control methods, and practical demonstrations were provided.
 - Friends of Great Lake workshops and education sessions focused on weed management and identification, fostering community involvement in land management.
-

Agri-Best Practice Programs

- **Objective:** To improve farm resilience and drought preparedness through the implementation of best practices in containment feeding/drought lotting, and sustainable land management.

Key Activities:

- **Containment Feeding/Drought Lotting Project:**
 - Funded by the Tas Farm Innovation Hub, this project aimed to train Tasmanian experts in containment feeding nutrition and drought management. These experts worked directly with farmers to develop individual drought lot plans, allowing farmers to manage livestock more effectively during dry periods.
 - **Workshops and Training:** Delivered containment feeding workshops, reaching numerous producers and providing practical advice on drought strategies. Feedback was positive, and many producers expressed interest in personalized containment plans.

- **One-on-One Advice:** Provided tailored drought lot plans and nutritional advice to individual producers. These plans help farmers make informed decisions about managing their livestock during dry conditions.
- **Drought Risk Assessment Tool:**
 - In collaboration with Rural Business Tas, DCP developed a Drought Risk Assessment tool for farmers. This scorecard-based tool helps farmers assess their vulnerability to drought and provides actionable steps to increase drought preparedness.
 - The tool was tested with a number of farmers in the region to refine its functionality and ensure its practical applicability.
- **Derwent Pasture Network:**
 - **Species Frequency Assessments:** Continued monitoring of phalaris and cocksfoot trial plots. Data collection and presentations highlight improvements in pasture performance, with cocksfoot showing consistent and persistent ground cover.
 - **Field Days and Workshops:** Secured a grant from the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR) to support drought resilience activities. These include field days, seminars, and workshops focused on pasture management and drought adaptation.
 - **Fertiliser Test Strips:** Ongoing assessments of pasture yield and species persistence. Results indicate significant responses to fertilisation, even under challenging conditions.
- **Farming Forecaster Extension:**
 - **Pasture Monitoring:** Continued data collection on pasture activity and soil moisture at various sites. Visual assessments link pasture condition to soil moisture status, providing valuable insights for farmers.
 - **Technical Support:** Participation in field days and workshops to share knowledge and support farmers in drought resilience and feed budgeting practices.

Restoration and Conservation

Platypus Walk Restoration

- **Objective:** To restore and maintain the Platypus Walk area, focusing on weed control, habitat restoration, and community engagement.

- **Key Activities:**
 - **Willow and Weed Control:** The restoration work continues with the control of willows, thistles, and hawthorn saplings. The area is maintained through spraying and brush cutting, and invasive species are monitored for regrowth.

Ouse River Township Restoration

- **Objective:** To restore and maintain the Ouse River township area, focusing on weed control and habitat restoration.
- **Key Activities:**
 - **Willow and Weed Control:** The restoration work continues with the control of willows and weeds. The area is maintained through spraying and brush cutting, and invasive species are monitored for regrowth.

Tyenna River Recovery – Willow Warriors Program

- **Objective:** To engage the community in willow control and riverbank restoration along the Tyenna River, with a focus on the restoration of riparian ecosystems.

Key Activities:

- **Willow Removal:**
 - Willow Warriors, a dedicated group of volunteers, continued their efforts along the Tyenna River. Over the past year, DCP has focused on willow control above Weir Road, where the willows are more sparse but the riverbanks are steeper and more challenging for restoration work.
- **Volunteer Engagement:**
 - The program has engaged a number of volunteers, including TAFE students, who participated in hands-on workshops where they learned about willow removal techniques and the restoration of riparian zones. This marked the beginning of a partnership with TAFE, providing students with practical, real-world experience in river restoration.
- **Community Workshops:**
 - DCP hosted 12 Willow Warrior Days, bringing together students and volunteers to work together on willows and other weeds along the Tyenna River. This included a National Tree Day event, where the community planted 42 trees along the Tyenna River.
- **Success Rate:**

- Over 85% success was achieved in willow control efforts, significantly improving the river's health and the quality of the surrounding habitat. The rehabilitation efforts have significantly improved the riparian zone of the Tyenna River
-

Native Plant Nursery Expansion

- **Objective:** To increase the capacity of the Hamilton Native Plant Nursery in response to growing demand for native plants used in local restoration projects.

Key Activities:

- **Nursery Expansion Plans:**
 - The nursery expansion will increase the nursery footprint by 250 m², taking the total area from its current capacity to meet the growing demand for native plants for river restoration projects, landholder revegetation, and nursery sales.
 - The expansion will focus on expanding the potting area and shed facilities. Earthworks for the expansion are expected to cost \$25,000 - \$35,000, with \$10,000 allocated to earthworks.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Interest in the expansion of the nursery has been strong, with potential buyers expressing interest in the increased availability of native tube stock.
- **Sales and Outreach:**
 - Throughout the year, the nursery has continued to produce and sell native plants, with a steady stream of tube stock being supplied to local restoration projects and directly to landholders for private revegetation efforts.

Grant Applications and Funding

- **Disaster Ready Fund – Clyde River Resilience Project:** \$1.97 million for willow removal and flood risk reduction on the Clyde River. This project will build on significant stormwater upgrades and bridge infrastructure projects to reduce flood risk and improve riverbank stability. *Successful.*
- **Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal:** \$20,000 - Small grant to support drought resilience field activities. Funds used for workshops, seminars, field days, and other educational events focused on drought adaptation and pasture management. *Successful.*
- **Tas Farm Innovation Hub:** \$120,000 - Funding for containment feeding project and ongoing drought resilience support. This includes training Tasmanian experts in containment feeding nutrition and developing 1:1 drought lot plans for producers. *Pending.*
- **Strategic Industry Partnership Program:** \$75,720 for developing a sowing rate and risk management guide. The guide will encourage better sowing rate decisions and increase awareness of pasture sowing risks. *Unsuccessful.*

Looking Forward: 2024-2025

In the coming year, DCP will continue to focus on:

- **Expanding the native plant nursery** to meet growing demand.
- **Building on willow control programs** on both the Clyde and Tyenna Rivers.
- **Collaborating on regional flood resilience** efforts to enhance preparedness for extreme weather events.
- **Further engagement with the community** in river restoration and sustainable farming practices.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank our partners, and all the volunteers who contributed to the success of these projects. Special thanks to the Central Highlands Council, Hydro Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, and TAFE for their collaboration enabling on ground action across the Highlands.

Conclusion

The Derwent Catchment Project has had a hugely successful year, making progress in restoration, community engagement, and the expansion of our nursery facilities. Through the efforts of our dedicated team, partners, and volunteers, we have laid a strong foundation for continued progress in the coming year, with a focus on flood resilience, weed management, and sustainable agriculture.

Key Focus Areas

Goal 1 Community Building: *Build Capacity to enhance community spirit and sense of well being*

Strategies

- Continue to upgrade existing public open spaces and sporting facilities and encourage community use.
- Advocate for improved health, education, transport and other government and non-government services within the Central Highlands.
- Continue to strengthen partnerships with all tiers of government.
- Support and encourage social and community events within the Central Highlands.
- Provide support to community organisations and groups.
- Foster and develop an inclusive and engaged community with a strong sense of ownership of its area.
- Foster and support youth activities in the Central Highlands.

Initiatives

<p>Continue support of local organisations and groups.</p>	<p>Council continues to support local organisations and groups by way of in-kind support such as provision of plant and labour, photocopying, and free or subsidised use of Council premises, to name a few.</p> <p>Groups to benefit were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bothwell Exercise Group – waive hall hire fees Bothwell Hall for exercise classes. ➤ Ouse On-Line Access Centre – lease of premises no charge ➤ Great Lake Community Centre Inc. – lease of premises no charge ➤ The Derwent Catchment Project – use of premises no charge ➤ Ellendale Hall Committee – use of Ellendale Hall no charge
<p>Continue the support of community groups and clubs through in-kind assistance as well as through Council’s Community Grants Program.</p>	<p>Council provided assistance through the Community Grants Program to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Great Lake Volunteer Fire Brigade \$867 ➤ Security Cameras Gretna \$2,683 ➤ Bothwell Football/Cricket Clubs Wifi \$160 ➤ Gretna Volunteer Fire Brigade \$850 ➤ Tas Highland Gathering \$1,000 ➤ Gretna Cricket Club Wifi \$320 ➤ Bothwell District High School Breakfast Club \$2,800 ➤ Gretna Cricket Club Trophies \$250

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Autumn Festival \$1,000 ➤ Bothwell Family Fun Day \$1,894 ➤ Camp drafting Tasmania \$300 ➤ Ouse Country Club \$1,132 ➤ Logan Smythe and Cooper Smythe - Australian All Schools Track and Field Championships \$500
<p>Provide annual bursaries for a child at each school continuing further education and Annual citizenship awards.</p>	<p>Council provides continuing education bursaries to Central Highlands Year 10 students at Bothwell District High School, Glenora District High School and New Norfolk High School and to Year 6 students at Westerway Primary School to assist with costs to further their education. Council also provided annual citizenship awards to students at Bothwell, Glenora and Westerway Schools.</p>
<p>Provide assistance to continue the home day care facility at Bothwell.</p>	<p>Council continually contributed \$5,000 to the Brighton Family Day Care towards providing day care facilities in the Central Highlands. Council is actively assisting to help establish services throughout the Municipal area.</p>
<p>Continue to allocate funds to the provision of medical services to Ouse and Bothwell.</p>	<p>Council continues to make an annual allocation to the Central Highlands General Practice and Bothwell Doctors to support the provision of medical services to our community. Council is continuing to work with the State Government to seek a new provider for Ouse, but due to GP shortages, this is proving very difficult. Council will continue its lobbying of the State Government to seek a solution.</p>
<p>Support programs and activities that promote the health and wellbeing of our community.</p>	<p>Council continues to work with HATCH to deliver programs and activities that promote health.</p> <p>Council has provided financial assistance to the breakfast program at Bothwell District High School.</p> <p>Playgroups are held in Bothwell and Ouse and are well supported.</p> <p>In partnership with HATCH under the Highlands Healthy Connect Program, monthly community walking programs are held followed by a picnic lunch.</p> <p>The Meal Delivery Program, which provides frozen meals to Central Highlands residents at a nominal cost continues and our thanks go to Tracey Turale and HATCH.</p> <p>Other Health and Wellbeing programs partnering with HATCH are held over the year e.g. yoga and relaxation, Freedom Health & Wellness exercise classes, girls connect program, strength and balance program to name a few.</p>

<p>Continue to support Regional Groups of benefit to Central Highlands residents.</p>	<p>Council is a member of the following regional groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority ➤ Destination Southern Tasmania ➤ South Central Sub-Region Group ➤ Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) ➤ Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority
<p>Advocate on behalf of our community on Regional, State and National issues.</p>	<p>Council continues to advocate for the best outcomes for the Central Highlands.</p>
<p>Continue review of the New Residents Kit to ensure that the information is still relevant and accurate.</p>	<p>Staff update the New Residents Kit as required. It is forwarded to new residents when notified and is available on Council’s website.</p>
<p>Continue with implementation of the priorities listed in the Central Highlands Health & Wellbeing Plan.</p>	<p>Council continues to implement the priorities of the Health & Wellbeing Plan 2020-2025. Our Community Relations Officer continues to work through programs identified within the Plan.</p>
<p>Continue to support and participate as a member of the Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH).</p>	<p>Council continues to support HATCH and has membership on the Group. Council is a partner with HATCH under the Highlands Healthy Connect Program and supports HATCH in its funding applications.</p>

Goal 2 Infrastructure and Facilities – *Manage Council’s physical assets in an efficient and effective manner.*

Strategies

- Develop and implement a 10-year asset management plan for all classes of assets.
- Continue to work at regional and state levels to improve transport and infrastructure.
- Seek external funding to assist with upgrading of existing infrastructure and funding of new infrastructure and facilities.
- Ensure that the standard of existing assets and services are maintained in a cost-effective manner.

Initiatives

Allocate funds to ensure that existing services and assets are maintained.	Council budgets sufficient funds to ensure that its assets and services are maintained.
Annually review the 10-year asset management plan to include all classes of assets.	Council has a Long-Term Asset Management Plan for roads, bridges and buildings are continually reviewed by Senior Staff and Council.
Construct a Multi-Purpose Recovery building at Hamilton	Works have been undertaken and completed
Widen and upgrade Wentworth Bridge, 14 Mile Road	Works have been undertaken and completed
Bridge Replacement – Green Valley Road Hollow Tree	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Re-Roof Hamilton Office	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Ash Cottage Upgrades	Works have been undertaken and completed.
1.8t Excavator with Trailer and Attachments	Purchase Completed
Purchase New Truck Bothwell	Waiting Delivery

High St Bothwell asphalt footpath and new kerb	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Footpath front of Queens Park	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Clyde Street, Hamilton kerb	Design and Survey works complete
Ellendale toilets	Works have been undertaken and completed
Thousand Acre Lane reconstruction - Further 2km	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Stabalisation Hollow Tree Road 2km	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Stabalisation Arthurs Lake Road 530m 6m	Works have been undertaken and completed.

Goal 3 Financial Sustainability – Manage Council’s finances and assets to ensure long term viability and sustainability of Council.

Strategies

- Manage finances and assets in a transparent way to allow the maximization of resources to provide efficient and consistent delivery of services.
- Review annually, Council’s Long Term Financial Management Plan and Council’s Long Term Asset Management Plan.
- Where efficiency gains can be identified, resource share services with other local government councils.
- Endeavour to, and continue to lobby for, an increase in the level of grant income.
- Encourage development to expand Council’s rate base.
- Identify revenue streams that could complement / substitute for existing resources.
- Develop and maintain sound risk management processes.

Initiatives

<p>Identify appropriate grant funding to leverage Council funding for projects.</p>	<p>Grants received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Financial Assistance Grants from the State Grants Commission - \$3,096,668 ➤ Federal Road to Recovery Grant - \$845,730 ➤ Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grants - \$589,126 ➤ Wild Cattle Hill - \$13,445 ➤ River Clyde Flood Mapping and Study - \$40,782 ➤ MPS Recovery Building - \$152,750 ➤ Flood Study River Clyde - \$7,000 ➤ Active Tasmania - \$2,354 ➤ Open Spaces - \$94,500
<p>Continually review and update policies and Council’s Risk Register.</p>	<p>Council’s Risk Register and Policies are updated by staff as required and is reviewed at each Audit Panel Meeting.</p>

<p>Continue participation in the Local Government Shared Services and South-Central Sub-Region Group and identify other services that can be resource shared.</p>	<p>Council continues to use Local Government Shared Services to access resource sharing opportunities. Council currently use this service from Southern Midlands Council for the provision of all Planning Services and a Dog Control Officer.</p> <p>The South-Central Sub-Region (SCS) was form over 5 years ago with the Brighton, Central Highlands, Derwent Valley and Southern Midlands Councils endorsing an intent to work together as much as possible on matters of common interest or where benefits can be achieved by working collaboratively. The SCS meets approximately every two months and continues to be funded from the Tasmanian Community Fund for its Workforce Development Project.</p> <p>The South-Central Jobs Tasmania Hub is located at Pontville (renamed Southcentral Workforce Network Jobs Hub) covers the Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Southern Midlands and Brighton municipal areas.</p>
<p>Provide financial management reports to Council monthly.</p>	<p>Financial reports are prepared by Council's Accountant on a monthly basis and are tabled on the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda each month.</p>
<p>Ensure Annual Financial Statements are completed within the statutory timeframe.</p>	<p>Council's Annual Financial Statements were completed and lodged within the statutory timeframe.</p>

Goal 4 Natural Environment – Encourage responsible management of the natural resources and assets in the Central Highlands.

Strategies

- Continue to fund and support the Derwent Catchment Project.
- Continue with existing waste minimisation and recycling opportunities.
- Promote the reduce, reuse, recycle, recover message.
- Continue the program of weed reduction in the Central Highlands.
- Ensure the Central Highlands Emergency Management Plan is reviewed regularly to enable preparedness for natural events and emergencies.
- Strive to provide a clean and healthy environment.
- Support and assist practical programs that address existing environmental problems and improve the environment.

Initiatives

<p>Allocate funds to continue our support of the Derwent Catchment Project to implement on ground projects and provide a link between Council and the community on natural resource management issues.</p>	<p>Council continues to fund natural resource management through funding to the Derwent Catchment Project of \$40,000 per year. Additional funds are provided to support grant applications of benefit to the Central Highlands.</p>
<p>Work with other stakeholders, land managers and government agencies to ensure strategic weed control.</p>	<p>Council continues to work closely with the Derwent Catchment Project to implement its Weed Strategy and allocated funds to carry out weed management.</p>
<p>Actively participate as a member of the newly created Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority.</p>	<p>Council has actively participated as a member of the Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority, with an Elected Member representing Council on the Board and Council’s Environmental Health Officer at an officer level, attending meeting and reporting back to Council</p>

<p>Monitor the usage of Council Waste Transfer Stations and refuse site to ensure that the facilities meet the needs of our ratepayers and are maintained at an acceptable standard.</p>	<p>Council operates one controlled refuse site at Hamilton which has available a DrumMUSTER facility. A DrumMUSTER compound is also available at the Bothwell Waste Transfer Station.</p> <p>The opening hours for the manned sites was reviewed with standard opening days and hours introduced. Manned waste transfer sites are available at Bothwell, Miena and Bronte Park. A Refuse Disposal site is located at Hamilton.</p> <p>Two Bulky Waste Collections per year are provided throughout the municipal area which is designed to allow residents to place items out for collection that are too bulky or unsuitable for the door-to-door collection.</p> <p>Council provided a relatively comprehensive kerbside collection service for waste & recycling to the residents of Bothwell, Ellendale, Fentonbury, Gretna, Hamilton, Ouse, Osterley, Wayatinah and Westerway. Thorpe Waste currently holds the contract. All waste is taken to the Hamilton Refuse Disposal Site and the recyclables taken to Hobart for processing.</p> <p>Roadside stand-alone bins are placed at Reynolds Neck, Brandum Bay, Jillet Road, Doctors Point, Haulage Hill, Interlaken, Cramps Bay, Wilburville, Arthurs Lake and Derwent Bridge. The bins are designed to accept domestic waste only, can be accessed 24/7 and have proved to be very successful in most areas.</p> <p>All waste and recycling collected is reported to the NRE annually.</p>
<p>Provide education and encouragement of recycling within the Municipality to expand the life of the Hamilton Refuse Site.</p>	<p>Council provides recycling facilities throughout the Municipal area and have a fortnightly door to door recycling collection throughout our towns.</p> <p>Council engages a contractor, Thorp Recycling, to collect recycling from static sites and ensure that sites are clean. Thorp Recycling are continuously improving the way that recyclable material is managed at the sites.</p>
<p>Facilitate regular meetings of the Central Highlands Emergency Management Committee and ensure that the Central Highlands Emergency Management Plan is reviewed and remains current.</p>	<p>No meetings were held during the year.</p> <p>The Central Highlands Municipal Emergency Plan was approved and signed by the Commissioner Darren Hines on 15th July 2021. Changes within the whole Emergency Services sector have been occurring which has impacted the State. Council's Emergency Management Plan will be discussed during 2024/2025.</p>

Goal 5 Economic Development – Encourage economic viability within the Municipality.

Strategies

- Encourage expansion in the business sector and opening of new market opportunities.
- Support the implementation of the Southern Highlands Irrigation Scheme.
- Continue with the Highlands Tasmania and Bushfest branding.
- Encourage the establishment of alternative industries to support job creation and increase permanent residents.
- Promote our area’s tourism opportunities, destinations and events.
- Support existing businesses to continue to grow and prosper.
- Develop partnerships with State Government, industry and regional bodies to promote economic and employment opportunities.
- Work with the community to further develop tourism in the area.

Initiatives

Continue as a member of Destination Southern Tasmania	Council is a current member of Destination Southern Tasmania.
Continue as a member of STCA and LGAT	Council continues its membership and participation in the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) and Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT).
Continue with the annual Highlands Bushfest	A successful Highlands Bushfest was held at Bothwell in November 2023 with 2,050 people attending over the weekend.
Continue with providing the tourism brochure through the Brochure Exchange facility, Brooke Street Pier, Spirit of Tasmania and other visitor centres.	Council’s “Journey to the Centre of the Earth” Brochure continues to be placed at the Hobart Airport, Brooke Street Pier and on both Spirit of Tasmania vessels which is maintained by the Tourism Brochure Exchange.
Continue the roll out of the Highlands Tasmania Touring Map	The Highlands Tasmania Touring Map is placed in businesses throughout the Central Highlands and state-wide.

<p>Engage and strengthen the community by supporting community events and local initiatives that enhance visitation to the Central Highlands.</p>	<p>Council provides funding and in-kind support to community groups providing events in the Central Highlands.</p> <p>Council continues to support the annual Hamilton Show event held in March each year.</p>
<p>Promotion of Central Highlands through production of material and via Council’s website and Council’s Facebook page.</p>	<p>Council’s website and Facebook page is updated regularly by Staff. Council’s brochure and maps are distributed widely throughout the State.</p>
<p>Continue support of the Highland Digest to enable it to provide community information to residents.</p>	<p>Council provides an allocation of \$10,800 to the Ouse On-line Access Centre to assist with the production of the Highland Digest which provides a valuable avenue for dissemination of information and news about the Central Highlands.</p>
<p>Continue to support local events that encourage visitation to the Central Highlands.</p>	<p>Council supported the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hamilton Show ➤ Sheep Station Cup - Bothwell (Golf Event) ➤ Sheep Dog Trials ➤ CWA / Lions Club Functions ➤ Communities for Children Colour Run ➤ Rural Alive and Well ➤ Tasmanian Camp Drafting
<p>Continue to support the Central Highlands Visitor Management Committee to optimise the use of the Centre and the disbursement of information to tourists and visitors to the Central Highlands and provide funding for the purchase of goods for sale that promote the Central Highlands.</p>	<p>The Central Highlands Visitor Centre, home of the Tasmanian Tartan, is manned by a dedicated group of volunteers.</p> <p>The Centre has items for sale that promotes the Central Highlands, displays and sell local products on consignment.</p>
<p>Work with the South-Central Sub-Region Group through the Workforce Development Coordinator to provide training for jobseekers and connecting job seekers with relevant local employers.</p>	<p>The Workforce Development Coordinator continues to support and engage with local jobseekers and businesses alike.</p>

Goal 6 Governance and Leadership – Provide governance and leadership in an open, transparent, accountable and responsible manner in the best interests of our community as a whole.

Strategies

- Ensure Council fulfils its legislative and governance responsibilities, and its decision making is supported by sustainable policies and procedures.
- Ensure that Council members have the resources and skills development opportunities to effectively fulfil their responsibilities.
- Ensure appropriate management of risk associated with Council’s operations and activities.
- Provide a supportive culture that promotes the well-being of staff and encourages staff development and continuous learning.
- Provide advocacy on behalf of the community and actively engage government and other organisations in the pursuit of community priorities.
- Consider Council’s strategic direction in relation to resource sharing with neighbouring councils and opportunities for mutual benefit.
- Support and encourage community participation and engagement.
- Ensure that customers receive quality responses that are prompt, accurate and fair.
- Council decision making will be always made in open council except where legislative or legal requirements determine otherwise.

Initiatives

<p>Annually review Council’s Long Term Financial Plan and Strategy and Long-Term Asset Management Plans.</p>	<p>Council’s Asset Management Plans were updated and adopted by Council and are continuously reviewed by Senior Staff.</p> <p>Council’s Long Term Financial Management Plan and Strategy are current and are continuously reviewed by Senior Staff.</p>
<p>Continually monitor and review Council’s financial situation and report findings to Council in a clear and transparent format on a monthly basis.</p>	<p>Council engages a Contracted Accountant who provides regular updates and reports to Council at monthly Council Meetings and to Audit Panel Meetings.</p>

<p>Encourage staff to undertake training to further develop their skills.</p>	<p>Council encourages staff to undertake any training they may require.</p> <p>The following training was provided in 2023/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CERT 3 in Civil Operations on going x 2 employees. ➤ Loader assessments ➤ Excavator assessment ➤ Traffic Management
<p>Support Elected Members to take advantage of seminars, training and workshops that assist them in their position as a Councillor and their duty to engage in ongoing professional development.</p>	<p>Information regarding seminars, training etc. is disseminated to Councillors.</p> <p>With Council elections being held in October 2022, the State Government introduced a Local Government Learning and Development Framework. This has online learning modules for all Elected Members to undertake and is reported to Councils quarterly basis.</p> <p>Currently this is not mandatory.</p>
<p>Review the Risk Register at each Audit Panel Meeting</p>	<p>Council's Risk Register is updated regularly and presented at each Audit Panel Meeting.</p>
<p>Ensure ongoing compliance with all legislation, regulations and codes of practice which impact upon Council.</p>	<p>Council endeavours to ensure that it complies with the requirements of all legislation, regulations and codes of practice applicable to Local Government.</p>
<p>Continue to provide information to our community and ratepayers via newsletters, Mayor's article in the Highland Digest, our website and our Facebook page to all ratepayers.</p>	<p>Council sends out a newsletter with rates instalment notices as required.</p> <p>Council's Mayor provides a monthly column for the Highland Digest.</p> <p>Additional information is posted to Council's Facebook page and website.</p>
<p>Continually review Council Policies</p>	<p>Council's policies are continually reviewed and updated where necessary.</p> <p>A Policy Index is provided to the Audit Panel to ensure that all policies are reviewed by their due review date.</p> <p>New Policies are adopted as and when required.</p>
<p>Participate in the Future of Local Government Review</p>	<p>Mayor, Councillors and employees had the opportunity to participate in the forums and share their thoughts, ideas and aspirations for the future of local government in Tasmania.</p>

Public Health Statement

Council will:

- Conduct immunisation sessions as required and promote the need for immunisation.
- Ensure proper provision of on-site effluent disposal in compliance with the current regulatory framework, codes, standards and best environmental practice.
- Undertake routine inspection of places of public assembly, food premises, public health risk activities and water carters to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Promptly investigate environmental health complaints.
- Maintain an effective analysis program for food, recreational waters and general complaints.
- Continue to promote safe food handling through the provision of the I'M ALERT free online food safety training program.
- Ensure that Council complies with public Health requirements for the recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Monitor COVID-19 cases within the organisation.
- Provide Staff and Councillors with influenza vaccinations.

Environmental and Public Health Report 2023-24

Councils within Tasmania have statutory responsibilities for promoting acceptable standards of environmental health within their municipal area through the administration of legislation, provision of environmental health services and community education. Key legislation administered to promote acceptable standards of environmental health at the local level includes the *Public Health Act 1997*, *Food Act 2003*, *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*, *Local Government Act 1993* and *Building Act 2016*

Council has performed its functions under the Public Health Act 1997 and Regulations, the Food Act 2003 and Regulations and Standards the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 and Regulations, as detailed below.

Council employs a part-time Environmental Health Officer (EHO).

The main functions in **Environmental Health** are:

- Disease control, including immunisation services, public health risk activities and notifiable disease investigations
- Food regulation and surveillance
- Maintenance of appropriate standards for public-use buildings
- Health education and promotion
- Drinking water quality monitoring and remediation
- Surveillance of recreational water bodies including swimming pools and swimming beaches
- Surveillance of public health risk activities and regulated systems. (Council have no public health risk activities or regulated systems)

The principle statutes are the *Public Health Act 1997* and the *Food Act 2003*.

Council activities in relation to Environmental Health:

- 51 Food Business Registrations - Inspections conducted regularly.

- Council has a subscription for Highfield Learning Food Safety Training available on Council's Website, free of charge to the community as a Food Safety Initiative. All Food premises now have at least one person trained in Food Safety. As of the 30th June the site continues to be used by any new employees to food businesses.
- All premises that require a Food Safety Supervisor now have one and Council has helped in the training and information required for this new legislative requirement.
- Participating in the Health Departments Food Surveillance Program.
- Distribution as well as using Councils website and Facebook for Posters and Pamphlets relating to Health Education, new legislative requirements and Food Safety Promotion.
- Investigation of notifiable diseases
- A DrumMUSTER collection facility continues to operate at the Hamilton Regional Disposal and Recycling Site and the Bothwell site and will provide an ongoing service with one employee trained as a DrumMUSTER inspector.
- Waste Management and monitoring including current EPN for Hamilton Landfill. Groundwater testing has been completed for 2024 and has been sent to the EPA as required by the Hamilton Landfill Permit. Survey for the landfill has been completed and sent to NRE as required by the landfill Levy Regulations.
- AWTS Service Monitoring of which Council has 50 systems, service records kept for all systems.
- Monitoring of EPN's issued by Council.
- Council has an ongoing silage and ag pipe recycling point at the Hamilton Landfill, and Bothwell WTS this service is free of charge to residents.
- School immunisation was carried out in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council Immunisation Schedule and was conducted by Council's Medical Officer of Health at the Bothwell Medical Office.
- Council has a current Covid 19 Safety Plan which is updated if and when restrictions change.
- "Free" infant immunisation continues to be offered by appointment at the Bothwell Medical Centre as per the national immunisation schedule.
- Recreational Water quality monitoring, lakes and rivers, including Bothwell Public Swimming Pool. Once yearly sampling as approved.
- Annual Reporting done by the 30th September each year for Recreational Water monitoring, Private Water Licences, Food Premises and Waste Reporting.

'Environmental Management' is an integrated approach to achieve a sustainable future. When applied to activities or developments, it involves:

- The application of the principles of ecology, pollution control and environmental planning; and
- The methodology of monitoring the impact of proposed development.

The main functions in environmental management are:

- Environmental water and air quality monitoring and remediation
- The assessment and issuing of special plumbing permits for on-site wastewater management systems
- Monitoring and response to environmentally relevant activities including level 1 Activities
- Assessment of existing developments and new applications for development
- Response to environmental nuisances.

The principle statutes are the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*, the *Land Use Planning Approvals Act 1993*, the *Building Act 2016* and the *Litter Act 2007*.

Council activities in relation to Environmental Management:

- Environmental Nuisances / complaints are followed up by inspections and may require the issue of abatement notices, Environmental Protection Notices and / or infringement notices.
- Issuing of Environmental Protection Notices when required and follow up and monitoring of conditions of Notices.
- Septic tank installation assessments and permits. Monitoring and recording services for 50 Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Monitoring of Private Sewage Treatment systems.
- Environmental Assessment of potentially harmful activities (e.g. composting, sewage treatment plants and private water plants).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Annual

- Recreational Water Quality Report (Council & DHHS) – by 30 September each year
- Swimming Pool Annual Report
- Annual Public Health Statement (Council) – Required in accordance with S.71 and S.72 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. To be provided by end of October each year
- Environmental Health Officer Annual Register (DHHS) - by 30 September each year
- Annual Food Safety Report (DHHS) - by 30 September each year
- Private Water Licence reporting
- Waste management reporting
- Regulated systems (Council do not have any regulated systems)

Covid 19

Council has abided by all Covid 19 Government and Statutory requirements, Council has a Covid 19 Safety Plan which is updated on a regular basis. Signage has been installed where required. Council strives for ongoing and measurable improvements to community health through responsive, educative, monitored, participative and enforcement programs.

These objectives and strategies form part of Council's Strategic Plan, and this was developed in consultation with the Central Highlands community. Thus, the programs implemented by Council can be seen to be meeting at least part of the needs of members of the community.

Development Statistics

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total No Applications	60	80	84	114	134	79	77
No. Permitted	5	10	12	28	26	14	18
No. Discretionary	40	39	33	47	68	49	43
Subdivision Applications	2	11	9	5	14	12	6
No. Lots	3	32	5	4	77	64	13
Planning Scheme Amendments	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
No Permit Required	13	20	30	39	40	16	16

Building Statistics

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total No. Buildings	53	65	61	65	68	73	53
Permit Work	-	23	21	21	7	11	10
Notifiable Work	-	36	33	29	45	47	31
Low Risk Work	-	6	7	15	16	15	12
Total No. Plumbing	36	32	34	45	54	59	42
Permit Work	-	21	20	23	15	29	13
Notifiable Work	-	6	10	15	18	10	13
Low Risk Work	-	5	4	7	21	20	16

Pool Attendance Statistics

Season Passes	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Family	1	3	-	2	1	-	-
Junior	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Daily Attendance							
Junior	802	935	559	694	1008	922	491
Adult	187	107	90	174	311	362	246
Spectators	-	-	-	-	-	167	83

Dog Control Statistics

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Dogs Registered	1044	995	1005	983	947	968	997
Kennel Licenses	33	30	43	29	30	29	52
Infringement Notices	16	21	7	8	-	26	18
Impounded Dogs	10	8	6	6	3	6	9
Declared Dangerous Dogs	-	1	1	1	1	1	1

Remissions and Small Debt Write Offs

03-0201-03706	\$483.22	02-0103-01320	\$558.97
04-0017-03967	\$611.51	01-0858-04109	\$619.50
10-0400-03595	\$192.00	03-0224-01205	\$24.47
03-0254-03749	\$30.92	03-0218-00298	\$19.32
03-0234-01549	\$27.71	03-0244-03833	\$19.50
03-0205-00243	\$17.46	01-0852-03774	\$788.59
01-0870-02220	\$25.55	03-0104-03932	\$16.60
01-0805-02805	\$672.11	01-0805-03728	\$60.60
01-0838-02982	\$192.00	02-0101-04010	\$59.10
03-0218-00298	\$47.33	End of Year - Small Balances	\$20.95
03-0218-00298	\$1586.19		
TOTAL = \$6,073.60			

Remissions given on Building, Plumbing & Development Applications 2023/2024:

PDA Surveyors obo Central Highlands Council

DA2022/64 – Sealing Fee (Subdivision 1 Lot & Balance) - \$225.00

Central Highlands Council

DA 2023/41 – Shed Replacement - \$690.00

Tasmania Fire Service

DA 2024/36 - Shipping Container for Storage - \$599.00

Under Section 72 of the Local Government Act 1993, the following is reported:

Total Remuneration Bracket	No Of Senior Employees
\$110,001 - \$120,000	3
\$140,001 - \$160,000	1

- Total remuneration includes salary, employer superannuation contribution, value of use of motor vehicle provided, value of other allowances and benefits paid to an employee.
- Total allowances, expenses and reimbursements paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors were **\$158,559** as per below table -

Councillor Remuneration						
2024						
Short term employee benefits						
Position	Period	Allowances	Vehicles	Total Compensation AASB 124	Expenses ¹	Total allowances and expenses section 72
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mayor	Full year	37,004	4,608	41,612	546	42,158
Deputy Mayor	Full year	22,520	-	22,520	5,449	27,969
Councillors	Full year	76,223	-	76,223	12,209	88,432
Total		135,747	4,608	140,355	18,204	158,559

Donation of Land Statement Section 177 Local Government Act 1993

Section 177 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to report on any land donated by Council during the year. It is reported that no land was donated during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Public Interest Disclosures Statement

Statement required under Section 86 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002*.

Council has established a written procedure in accordance with the Act. A copy of the Central Highlands Council Public Interest Disclosure Procedures Manual is available on Council's website www.centralhighlands.tas.gov.au

Number of Disclosures made to Council & determined to be a public interest disclosure	0
Number of disclosures investigated by Council	0
Number of disclosed matters referred by the Ombudsman	0
Number of disclosures referred by Council to the Ombudsman	0
Number of disclosures taken over by the Ombudsman from Council	0
Number of disclosed matters Council declined to investigate	0
Number of disclosed matters that were substantiated	0
Number of recommendations made by the Ombudsman to Council	0

Code of Conduct Complaint Information

Section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires a Council to report in its annual report the number of Code of Conduct complaints that were upheld by the Code of Conduct Panel during the preceding financial year and the total costs met by the Council during the preceding financial year in respect of all code of conduct complaints.

Five Code of Conducts were received in 2023/2024. Council are still waiting on the Tax Invoice for the cost of the Code of Conduct Panel.

Ombudsman's Complaints

Council received no registered complaint under the *Ombudsman Act 1978*, from the Ombudsman Office during 2023/2024.

Applications made pursuant to the *Right to Information Act 2009*

Council received no applications for Assessed Disclosure in accordance with Section 23 of the *Right to Information Act 2009* during this reporting period.

Integrity Commission Complaints

Council has not received any advice on complaints from the Integrity Commission during 2023-2024.

Enterprise Powers Statement

Council has not exercised any powers or undertaken any activities in accordance with Section 21 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Significant Business Activities (per Section 72 (1) of the Local Government Act 1993)

		Hamilton and Bothwell Camping Grounds	
		2024	2023
		\$	\$
Revenue			
	User Charges	32,536	23,186
	Total Revenue	32,536	23,186
Expenditure			
<i>Direct</i>			
	Employee Costs	1,064	2,247
	Materials and Contacts	1,872	966
	Utilities	1,009	1,662
<i>Indirect</i>			
	Engineering & Administration	213	450
	Total Expenses	4,158	5,325
<i>Notional cost of free services received</i>			
<i>Capital Costs</i>			
	Depreciation	273	273
	Opportunity cost of capital	3,185	3,181
	Total Capital Costs	3,458	3,454
<i>Competitive neutrality adjustments</i>			
	Rates, water and land tax	18,769	17,129
		18,769	17,129
<i>Calculated Surplus/(Deficit)</i>		6,150	(2,722)
	Tax Equivalent rate	25%	30%
	Taxation equivalent	1,538	(817)
Competitive neutrality costs		20,307	16,312

Contracts for supply or provision of goods and services valued at or above \$250,000.

Description	Period of Contract	Value inc GST	Successful Contractor	Business Address of Successful Contractor
Hollow Tree Road Stabilising & Resealing	November 2023 to July 2024	\$477,469	Andrew Walter Constructions Pty Ltd	PO Box 5, Claremont
Bridge Replacement Green Valley Road, Hollow Tree	September 2023 to June 2024	\$395,039	Tas Span	Po Box 225, Latrobe
Thousand Acre Lane Widening, Stabilisation and Seal (Stage 3)	August 2023 to June 2024	\$1,025,947	Stabilised Pavements Australia	1/27 Crooked Billet Drive, Bridgewater
Gravel Crushing	September 2023 to June 2024	\$346,774 p.a.	Dennis Fieldwick Pty Ltd	Po Box 131E Devonport East 7310

Non-Application of Public Tender Process

A Council is to report in its Annual Report all instances where the public tender process (Regulation 23) has not been applied.

- The public tender process has been applied in all instances.

Financial Performance Indicators

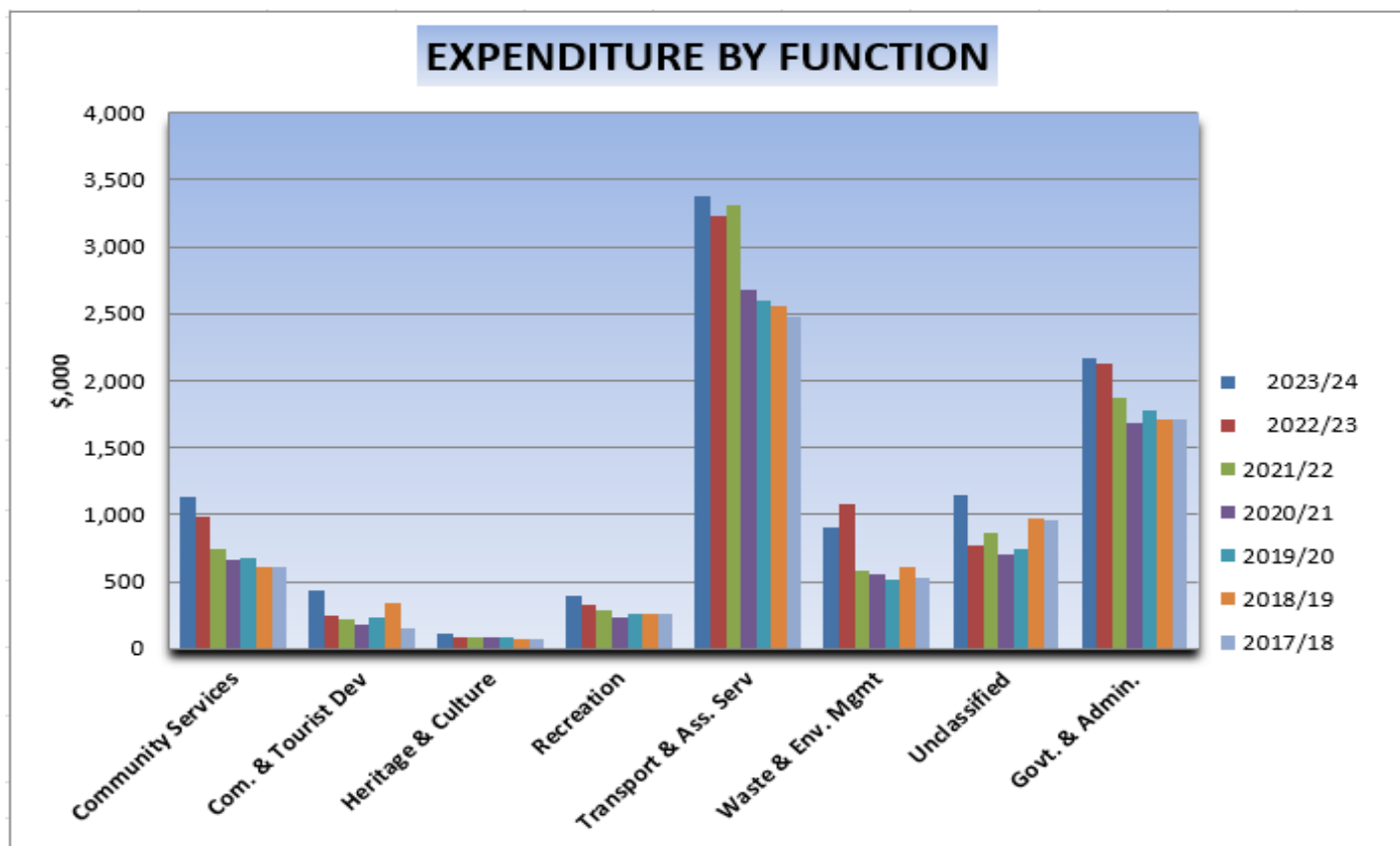
Comparative Financial Performance Indicators are provided for the current and previous eight years.

Indicator	2024 %	2023 %	2022 %	2021 %	2020 %	2019 %	2018 %	2017 %
Rate Revenue Analysis Rate Income: Total Revenue	49.9	41.7	47.0	52.80	52.5	50.1	50.7	50.3
Working Capital Ratio Current Assets: Current Liabilities	30.92	21.17	15.11	18.70	16.03	13.41	14.10	12.13
Debt Ratio Total Liabilities: Total Assets	1.90	1.99	1.65	2.02	2.00	1.60	1.53	1.28

Expenditure by Function

	23/24 \$'000	22/23 \$'000	21/22 \$'000	20/21 \$'000	19/20 \$'000	18/19 \$'000	17/18 \$'000	16/17 \$'000
Community Services	1,134	979	750	664	675	609	612	502
Com. & Tourist Development	429	249	219	176	235	343	151	173
Heritage & Culture	110	89	84	84	86	77	67	72
Recreation	395	324	293	235	263	253	255	242
Transport & Asset Services	3,378	3,223	3,314	2,672	2,604	2,560	2,478	2,549
Waste & Env. Management	902	1080	588	554	519	613	527	566
Unclassified	1153	770	859	698	748	966	960	597
Govt. & Admin	2,165	2,125	1,877	1,686	1,784	1,713	1,717	1,728

EXPENDITURE BY FUNCTION

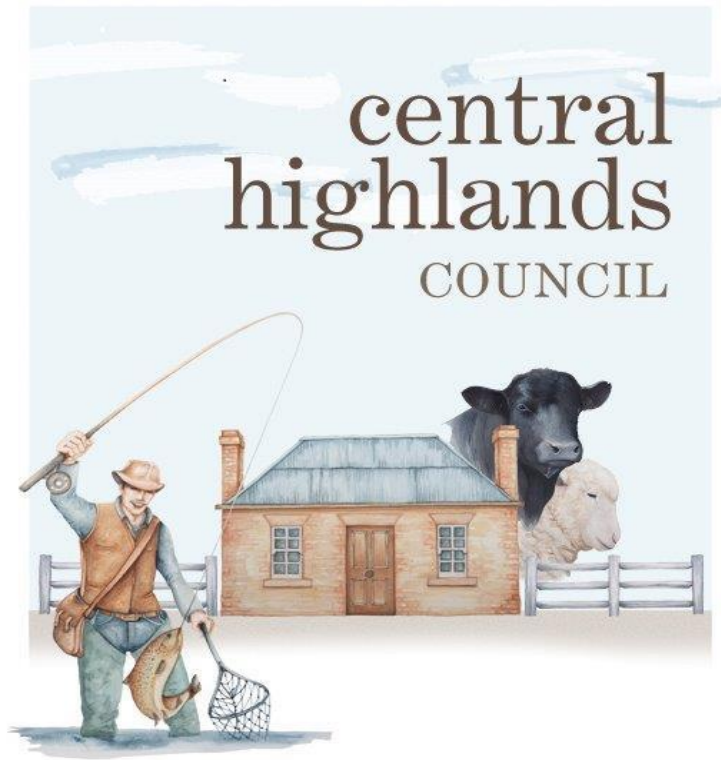


Reserves

Reserves	\$'000 2024	\$'000 2023	\$'000 2022	\$'000 2021	\$'000 2020	\$'000 2019	\$'000 2018	\$'000 2017
Plant Replacement	453	453	453	453	453	453	453	453
Bridges	377	377	377	377	377	377	377	377
Sundry	151	151	151	147	145	242	143	143
Long Service Leave	401	401	401	417	444	404	354	371
Regional Refuse Site	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
Quarry Reserve	180	180	180	180	180	80	80	80
Grants	0	0	0	0	0	9	44	170
Total	1,642	1,642	1,642	1,654	1,679	1,645	1,531	1,674

Non-Current Assets

Non-Current Asset	30-Jun-24 Asset value \$'000	30-Jun-23 Asset value \$'000	Increase/ (Decrease) \$'000
Land	6,528	6,322	206
Buildings	9,503	8,023	1480
Plant, Machinery & Equipment	2,625	2,369	256
Office Equipment	201	220	(19)
Computer Equipment	26	34	(8)
Infrastructure	1310	949	361
Roads	74,074	71,984	2,090
Drainage Systems	2,728	1,797	931
Bridges	9,149	8,985	164
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	2,153	1,207	946
Works in Progress	1,053	4,384	(3,331)
Investment in TasWater	8,511	8,059	452
Land Under Roads	3,129	1,111	2018
TOTALS	120,990	115,445	5,546



Central Highlands Council

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Central Highlands Council
Financial Report
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Statement of Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Budget 2024 \$	Actual 2024 \$	Actual 2023 \$
Income				
Income from continuing operations				
Rates and charges	5	4,469,863	4,477,083	4,097,346
Statutory fees and fines	6	355,450	38,399	41,003
User fees	7	-	553,183	863,076
Grants	8	3,123,426	3,096,668	4,126,802
Contributions	9		44,739	27,662
Interest	10	200,000	341,154	293,383
Other income	11	253,200	299,058	257,878
Investment revenue from water corporation	13		122,400	122,400
		8,401,939	8,972,684	9,829,550
Capital income				
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	8	1,570,078	845,730	1,417,729
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	12	-	(716,242)	(187,041)
		1,570,078	129,488	1,230,688
Total income from continuing operations		9,972,017	9,102,172	11,060,238
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee benefits	14	(2,553,663)	(2,606,871)	(2,392,749)
Materials and services	15	(2,012,016)	(2,830,812)	(2,672,242)
Depreciation and amortisation	16	(2,260,000)	(2,525,741)	(2,306,993)
Other expenses	17	(1,715,852)	(1,705,361)	(1,467,259)
Total expenses from continuing operations		(8,541,531)	(9,668,785)	(8,839,243)
Net result for the year		1,430,486	(566,613)	2,220,995
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to net result				
Financial assets available for sale reserve				
Fair Value adjustment on equity investment assets	27(b)	-	451,944	280,305
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement)	27(a)	-	2,018,821	8,066,969
Total Other Comprehensive Income		-	2,470,765	8,347,274
Total Comprehensive result		1,430,486	1,904,152	10,568,269

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	19	6,653,636	10,540,697
Trade and other receivables	20	383,333	239,456
Inventories	21	35,434	17,141
Other assets	22	75,910	75,213
Total current assets		7,148,313	10,872,507
Non-current assets			
Investment in water corporation	18	8,511,465	8,059,521
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	23	112,484,156	107,385,022
Total non-current assets		120,995,621	115,444,543
Total assets		128,143,934	126,317,050
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	24	1,024,895	1,254,570
Trust funds and deposits	25	340,747	235,267
Provisions	26	844,428	812,340
Total current liabilities		2,210,070	2,302,177
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	26	229,361	214,522
Total non-current liabilities		229,361	214,522
Total liabilities		2,439,431	2,516,699
Net Assets		125,704,503	123,800,351
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		38,278,151	38,844,764
Reserves	27	87,426,352	84,955,587
Total Equity		125,704,503	123,800,351

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Note	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Rates	4,415,149	4,063,731
Statutory fees and fines	38,399	45,103
User charges and other fines	604,772	878,416
Grants	3,096,668	4,126,802
Interest	351,957	287,574
Investment revenue from water corporation	122,400	122,400
Other receipts	343,797	285,540
Net GST refund/payment	528,879	265,834
Payments to suppliers	(5,465,908)	(3,847,691)
Payments to employees	(2,552,088)	(2,442,788)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	1,484,025	3,784,921
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(6,414,612)	(5,854,759)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	92,316	26,182
Capital grants	845,730	1,417,729
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(5,476,566)	(4,410,848)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Repayment of trust funds and deposits	105,480	21,729
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	105,480	21,729
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(3,887,061)	(604,198)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	10,540,697	11,144,895
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	6,653,636	10,540,697

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Accumulated Surplus 2024 \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve 2024 \$	Fair Value Reserve 2024 \$	Other Reserves 2024 \$	Total 2024 \$
2024						
Balance at beginning of the financial year		38,844,764	84,412,844	(1,098,799)	1,641,542	123,800,351
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		(566,613)	-	-	-	(566,613)
Other Comprehensive Income:						
Fair Value adjustment on equity investment assets	18	-	-	451,944	-	451,944
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement) reversals	27	-	2,018,821	-	-	2,018,821
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		38,278,151	86,431,665	(646,855)	1,641,542	125,704,503
		Accumulated Surplus 2023 \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve 2023 \$	Fair Value Reserve 2023 \$	Other Reserves 2023 \$	Total 2023 \$
2023						
Balance at beginning of the financial year		36,623,769	76,345,875	(1,379,104)	1,641,542	113,232,082
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		2,220,995	-	-	-	2,220,995
Other Comprehensive Income:						
Fair Value adjustment on equity investment assets	18	-	-	280,305	-	280,305
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement) reversals	27	-	8,066,969	-	-	8,066,969
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		38,844,764	84,412,844	(1,098,799)	1,641,542	123,800,351

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes.

Introduction

Note 1 Reporting Entity

- (a) The Central Highlands Council (the Council) was established in 1993 and is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal.
Council's main office is located at 6 Tarleton Street, Hamilton, Tasmania.
- (b) The purpose of the Council is to:
- provide for health, safety and welfare of the community;
 - represent and promote the interests of the community;
 - provide for the peace, order and good government in the municipality.

Note 2 Basis of accounting

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Statement of Comprehensive Income, Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, and notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the *Local Government Act 1993* (LGA1993) (as amended). Council has determined that it does not have profit generation as a prime objective. Consequently, where appropriate, Council has elected to apply options and exemptions within accounting standards that are applicable to not-for-profit entities.

This financial report has been prepared on the accrual and going concern basis.

All amounts are presented in Australian dollars and unless stated, have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

This financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, except where specifically stated in notes 18, 23, 26 and 39.

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.

Note 3 Use of judgements and estimates

Judgements and Assumptions

In the application of Australian Accounting Standards, Council is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Council has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. Judgements made by Council that have significant effects on the financial report are disclosed in the relevant notes as follows:

Employee benefits

Assumptions are utilised in the determination of Council's employee entitlement provisions. These assumptions are discussed in note 26.

Defined benefit superannuation fund obligations

Actuarial assumptions are utilised in the determination of Council's defined benefit superannuation fund obligations. These assumptions are discussed in note 30.

Fair value of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment

Assumptions and judgements are utilised in determining the fair value of Council's property, plant and equipment including useful lives and depreciation rates. These assumptions are discussed in note 23.

Investment in water corporation

Assumptions utilised in the determination of Council's valuation of its investment in TasWater are discussed in note 18.

Note 4 Functions/Activities of the Council

(a) Revenue, expenditure and assets attributable to each function as categorised in (c) below:

	Grants	Other	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Assets
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Government and administration						
2023 - 2024	1,382,791	4,110,943	5,493,734	2,165,374	3,328,360	3,598,595
2022 - 2023	1,719,471	3,730,912	5,450,382	2,124,499	3,325,883	3,011,258
Roads, streets and bridges						
2023 - 2024	2,345,630	(793,326)	1,552,304	3,378,509	(1,826,205)	91,326,150
2022 - 2023	3,368,775	22,207	3,390,982	3,223,484	167,498	85,181,897
Waste management						
2023 - 2024	40,782	773,747	814,529	902,320	(87,791)	403,132
2022 - 2023	-	702,115	702,115	1,080,166	(378,050)	427,274
Heritage and Culture						
2023 - 2024	-	388	388	110,261	(109,873)	2,145,335
2022 - 2023	-	7,719	7,719	89,374	(81,655)	2,154,067
Community services						
2023 - 2024	166,195	423,259	589,454	1,134,372	(544,918)	4,829,167
2022 - 2023	406,286	215,415	621,701	979,064	(357,363)	4,267,577
Recreation facilities						
2023 - 2024	7,000	34,873	41,873	395,453	(353,580)	4,080,064
2022 - 2023	50,000	25,745	75,745	323,646	(247,901)	4,040,141
Commercial and Tourism						
2023 - 2024	-	487,488	487,488	429,241	58,247	1,427,392
2022 - 2023	-	680,203	680,203	249,376	430,827	987,789
Other - not attributable						
2023 - 2024	-	122,400	122,400	1,153,253	(1,030,853)	20,334,099
2022 - 2023	-	131,391	131,391	769,633	(638,242)	26,247,047
Total						
2023 - 2024	3,942,398	5,159,772	9,102,170	9,668,783	(566,613)	128,143,934
2022 - 2023	5,544,532	5,515,707	11,060,238	8,839,243	2,220,995	126,317,051

(b) Reconciliation of Assets from note 4 (a) with the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current assets	7,148,313	10,872,507
Non-current assets	120,995,621	115,444,543
	128,143,934	126,317,051

(c) *Governance and administration*

Operation and maintenance of council chambers, administration offices, and councillors.

Roads, streets and bridges

Construction, maintenance and cleaning of road, streets, footpaths, bridges, parking facilities and street lighting.

Waste Management

Collection, handling, processing and disposal of all waste materials.

Heritage and Culture

Provision and maintenance of public halls and civic centres, provision of library services and development of facilities relative to heritage and cultural requirements of the Municipality.

Community services

Administration and operation of dog registration, operation of pounds, control of straying stock, and noxious weeds. Operation of the Child Care Centre, operation and support of the performing arts, museum and the presentation of festivals. Community Development which provides for the implementation of a process by which strategies and plans can be developed so that the Council can fulfil their general responsibility for enhancing the quality of life of the whole community.

Recreation facilities

Operation and maintenance of sporting facilities (includes swimming pools, active and passive recreation and recreation centres).

Commercial and Tourism

Development and promotion of tourism and economic services within the Municipality. Provision of community facilities and the development and administration of town planning schemes, processing of subdivisions, development and building applications, and inspection of building structures.

Other - not attributable

Rates and charges and work not attributed elsewhere.

2024 2023
\$ \$

Note 5 Rates and charges

Council uses Assessed Annual Value as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipality. The Assessed Annual Value within Central Highlands is 4% of its Capital Value.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2022-23 was \$69.214 million (2021-22 \$42.786 million). The 2022-23 rate in the AAV dollar was 2.594008 cents (2021-22, 3.52092 cents).

General Rate	3,462,092	3,163,883
Fire Levy	253,870	237,528
Garbage charge	761,121	695,935
Total rates and charges	4,477,083	4,097,346

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipality was 2022, and the valuation will be first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2023.

Accounting policy
Council recognises revenue from rates and annual charges for the amount it is expected to be entitled to at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate, or when the charge has been applied. Rates and charges in advance are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period to which they relate.

Note 6 Statutory fees and fines

Statutory Fees	38,399	41,003
Total statutory fees and fines	38,399	41,003

Accounting policy
Statutory fee and fine income
Fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.

Note 7 User fees

Rental Housing	95,331	100,586
Planning Fees	346,171	651,625
Building Fees	10,387	10,970
Tips and Waste Transfer Stations	12,572	12,980
Hall Hire	388	869
Camp Ground Fees	32,536	23,186
Animal licences	21,939	21,049
Food & Public Assembly Licences	17,591	16,551
Sewer Connection Fees	11,663	17,315
Cemetery Charges	4,360	7,550
Other fees and charges	245	395
Total user fees	553,183	863,076

User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised over time	112,922	117,137
User fees recognised at a point in time	440,261	745,939
Total user fees	553,183	863,076

Accounting policy
User fee income
Fee income is recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.
Rental income
Rents are recognised as revenue when the payment is due. Rental payments received in advance are recognised as a payable until they are due.
Operating leases as lessor
Council is a lessor and enters into agreements with a number of lessees. These include commercial and non-commercial agreements.
Where leases are non-commercial agreements, these are generally with not for profit, such as sporting, organisations. In these cases subsidised or peppercorn rents are charged because Council recognises part of its role is community service and community support. In these situations, Council records lease revenue on an accruals basis and records the associated properties as part of land and buildings within property, plant and equipment. Buildings are recognised at depreciated replacement cost.
Where leases are commercial agreements, but properties leased are part of properties predominantly used by Council for its own purposes, Council records lease revenue on an accruals basis and records the associated properties as part of land and buildings within property, plant and equipment. Buildings are recognised at depreciated replacement cost.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 8 Grants		
Grants were received in respect of the following :		
Summary of grants		
Federally funded grants	3,096,668	5,232,195
State funded grants	845,730	312,336
Total	3,942,398	5,544,531
Grants - Recurrent		
Financial assistance grant	3,042,441	3,858,301
Bothwell Bi-Centenary event funding	-	15,000
Health Tas local lift fund	-	20,000
Prepare residential structure plans	-	80,000
Highlands Healthy Connect Stage 2	-	100,000
Wild cattle hill grants	13,445	40,965
River Clyde flood mapping and study	40,782	-
Other	-	12,536
Total recurrent grants	3,096,668	4,126,802
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets		
Commonwealth Government - roads to recovery	589,126	589,128
Local roads and community infrastructure	-	575,089
Black Snake Lane bridge	-	8,835
Variable message boards	-	5,927
Bushfire recovery - MPS Recovery Building	152,750	148,250
Bushfire recovery - Bronte Park play equipment	-	40,500
Ouse basketball court	-	50,000
Flood study Clyde River	7,000	-
Open spaces	94,500	-
Active Tasmania equipment grant	2,354	-
Total capital grants	845,730	1,417,729

Unspent grants and contributions

Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be spent for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:

Operating

Balance of unspent funds at 30 June -

Capital

Balance of unspent funds at 30 June -

Accounting policy under AASB 15 and AASB 1058

Council recognises untied grant revenue and those without performance obligations when received. In cases where funding includes specific performance obligations or is to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset, a liability is recognised for funds received in advance and recognises income as obligations are fulfilled.

The performance obligations are varied based on the agreement, but include completion of the agreed asset.

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control and within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

If the transaction is a transfer of a financial asset to enable Council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset to be controlled by Council (i.e. an in-substance acquisition of a non-financial asset), a contract liability is recognised for the excess of the fair value of the transfer over any related amounts recognised and revenue as the unspent funds are expended at the point in time at which required performance obligations are completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project as there is no profit margin. For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

All grants are assessed in accordance with AASB 15 and AASB 1058 and there are no grants identified where income already received is required to be deferred.

The Australian Commonwealth Government provides untied Financial Assistance Grants to Council for general purpose use and the provision of local roads. In accordance with AASB1004: *Contributions*, Council recognised these grants as revenue when it received the funds and obtained control.

The Commonwealth has made early payment of all instalments in 2022-23 and 2023-24 for the following years. The early receipt of instalments resulted in Commonwealth Government Financial Assistance Grants being above that originally budgeted in 2023-24 by \$43,875, (2022-23, \$1,132,332). This has impacted the Statement of Comprehensive Income resulting in the Net result being higher by the same amount.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 9		
Contributions		
Cash		
Heavy Vehicle Contribution Fees	22,207	22,207
Other	22,532	5,455
Total	<u>44,739</u>	<u>27,662</u>
Non-monetary assets		
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Accounting policy

Council recognises contributions without performance obligations when received. In cases where the contributions is for a specific purpose to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset, a liability is recognised for funds received in advance and income recognised as obligations are fulfilled.

Note 10		
Interest		
Interest on financial assets	341,154	293,383
Total	<u>341,154</u>	<u>293,383</u>

Accounting policy

Interest income

Interest is recognised progressively as it is earned.

Note 11		
Other income		
Private Works	119,044	106,590
Reimbursements	125,279	107,416
Penalties and interest	54,735	43,872
Total other income	<u>299,058</u>	<u>257,878</u>
User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised over time	-	-
User fees recognised at a point in time	299,058	257,878
Total user fees	<u>299,058</u>	<u>257,878</u>

Accounting policy

Other income

Private Works jobs, reimbursements and penalties and interest are recognised as revenue when the payment is due or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.

Note 12		
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	92,316	26,182
Write down value of assets disposed	(808,558)	(213,223)
Total	<u>(716,242)</u>	<u>(187,041)</u>

Accounting policy

Gains and losses on asset disposals

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

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 13		
Investment revenue from water corporation		
Dividend revenue received	122,400	122,400
Total investment revenue from water corporation	<u>122,400</u>	<u>122,400</u>

Accounting policy

Investment revenue

Dividend revenue is recognised when Council's right to receive payment is established and it can be reliably measured.

Note 14		
Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	2,373,902	2,218,231
Workers compensation	27,429	18,985
Sick Leave	45,766	65,668
Superannuation	253,186	209,853
Fringe benefits tax	39,342	39,016
Total employee benefits	<u>2,739,625</u>	<u>2,551,753</u>
Less amounts capitalised	<u>(132,754)</u>	<u>(159,004)</u>
Total operating employee benefits	<u>2,606,871</u>	<u>2,392,749</u>

Accounting policy

Employee benefits

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

Note 15		
Materials and services		
Contract payments	1,575,039	1,367,793
Building maintenance	86,522	48,485
Plant and equipment maintenance, hire and fuel	525,623	277,252
Consultants	130,841	418,020
Materials and services	398,366	455,823
Other	114,421	104,869
Total materials and services	<u>2,830,812</u>	<u>2,672,242</u>

Accounting policy

Materials and services expense

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. 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.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 16 Depreciation and amortisation		
<i>Property</i>		
Buildings	168,322	161,009
<i>Plant and Equipment</i>		
Plant, machinery and equipment	315,931	319,533
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	28,674	28,838
Computers and telecommunications	9,962	13,750
<i>Infrastructure</i>		
Roads	1,542,488	1,355,821
Bridges	258,842	233,738
Footpaths and cycleways	72,648	55,655
Drainage	28,972	25,204
Infrastructure	99,902	90,445
<i>Other Assets</i>	-	23,000
Total depreciation and amortisation	2,525,741	2,306,993

Accounting policy

Depreciation and amortisation expense

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed 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.

Land and 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.

Major depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year except for road pavements and seals which has changed from 12-60 years in 2022 to 15-80 years in 2023. The category road substructure is now included in road pavement and seals.

	Period
Land improvements	50 years
Buildings	
buildings	10-100 years
building improvements	10-20 years
Leasehold improvements	
leasehold building improvements	10-20 years
Plant and Equipment	
plant, machinery and equipment	2-30 years
fixtures, fittings and furniture	5-20 years
computers and telecommunications	2-10 years
leased plant and equipment	2-15 years
Roads	
road pavements and seals	15-80 years
road formation and earthworks	Infinite
road kerb, channel and minor culverts	50-80 years
Bridges	
bridges deck	20-80 years
bridges substructure	25-50 years
Other Infrastructure	
footpaths and cycleways	5-80 years
drainage	100 years
recreational, leisure and community facilities	10-100 years
waste management	10-50 years
parks, open space and streetscapes	10-100 years
off street car parks	10-20 years

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 17 Other expenses		
External auditors remuneration (Tasmanian Audit Office)	45,897	36,013
Councillors allowances	160,467	146,724
Fire Levy	253,491	237,275
Light and Power	114,813	103,562
Insurance	457,707	395,497
Valuation Fees	30,050	13,336
Communications and Telephones	48,631	59,318
Community Support and Donations	39,409	25,596
Land Tax	50,495	49,247
Subscriptions and membership	32,009	38,265
Advertising	31,547	39,521
Legal Fees	134,543	27,692
Printing and Stationery	14,828	13,910
Bank Fees	22,164	21,763
Payroll Tax	67,295	75,097
Water, Sewerage and Rates	135,699	127,064
Other	66,316	57,379
Total other expenses	1,705,361	1,467,259

Accounting policy

Other expenses

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Note 18 Investment in water corporation		
Opening Balance	8,059,521	7,779,216
Fair Value adjustments on equity investment assets	451,944	280,305
Total investment in water corporation	8,511,465	8,059,521

Council has derived returns from the water corporation as disclosed at note 13.

Accounting policy

Equity Investment

As Council's investment in TasWater is held for long-term strategic purposes, Council has elected under AASB 9: Financial Instruments to irrevocably classify this equity investment as designated as fair value through other comprehensive income. Subsequent changes in fair value on designated investments in equity instruments are recognised in other comprehensive income (for fair value reserve, refer Note 28) and not reclassified through the profit or loss when derecognised. Dividends associated with the equity investments are recognised in profit and loss when the right of payment has been established and it can be reliably measured.

Fair value was determined by using Council's ownership interest against the water corporation's net asset value at balance date. At 30 June 2024, Council holds a 0.45% (2023: 0.46%) ownership interest in TasWater which is based on Schedule 2 of the Corporation's Constitution.

Note 19 Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand	550	550
Cash at bank	3,901,313	2,222,972
Short term investments	2,751,773	8,317,175
Total cash and cash equivalents	6,653,636	10,540,697

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to a number of external restrictions and internal commitments that limit amounts available for discretionary or future use. These include:

Restricted funds

- Trust funds and deposits (note 25)	340,747	235,267
- Unspent grant funds with conditions (note 8)	-	-
- Grants received in advance ()	2,782,241	-
	3,122,988	235,267

Internal committed funds

- Landfill restoration (note 26)	100,150	108,006
- Employee provisions (note 26)	973,639	918,856
	4,196,777	1,262,129

Committed funds

	4,196,777	1,262,129
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Total uncommitted funds	2,456,859	9,278,568
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Accounting policy

Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, 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.

Restricted funds

i) Includes refundable building, contract and other refundable amounts held in trust by Council for completion of specific purposes.

ii) Represents grant funding received in advance until specific performance obligations required under funding arrangements are completed.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 20		
Trade and other receivables		
<i>Current</i>		
Rates debtors	194,976	133,042
Other debtors	49,546	66,487
Net GST receivable	138,811	39,927
Total trade and other receivables	383,333	239,456

Accounting policy

Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at amortised cost, which represents their transaction value. Impairment is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis. When determining whether the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, and when estimating the ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience, an informed credit assessment and forward-looking information. Council has established a provision matrix to facilitate the impairment assessment.

For rate debtors, Council takes the view that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold unless there are circumstances where a property is likely to be unsaleable. For non-rate debtors, Council uses the presumptions that assets more than 30 days past due have a significant increase in credit risk and those more than 180 days will likely be in default. Council writes off receivables when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery.

Note 21	Inventories		
	Inventories held for consumption	35,434	17,141
	Total inventories	35,434	17,141

Accounting policy

Inventories

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. Other inventories are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Where inventories are acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, the cost shall be the current replacement cost as at the date of acquisition.

Note 22	Other assets		
	<i>Current</i>		
	Prepayments - municipal property valuation	69,000	57,500
	Accrued income*	6,910	17,713
	Total	75,910	75,213

* Accrued income only includes interest receivable.

Accounting policy

Deferred expenditure

The Valuer General revalues the properties within the municipality every six years. Council uses those valuations as the basis of calculating general rates for the following six years and the cost of the revaluation is amortised over that period.

Note 23

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Summary		
at cost	7,774,479	10,705,476
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,867,808)</u>	<u>(3,698,280)</u>
	3,906,671	7,007,196
at fair value at 30 June	138,361,395	129,119,879
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(29,783,910)</u>	<u>(28,742,053)</u>
	108,577,485	100,377,826
Total	112,484,156	107,385,022
Property		
Land		
at fair value at 30 June	<u>6,528,149</u>	<u>6,322,000</u>
	6,528,149	6,322,000
Land under roads		
at Council valuation at 30 June	<u>3,129,945</u>	<u>1,111,124</u>
	3,129,945	1,111,124
Total Land	9,658,094	7,433,124
Buildings		
at fair value at 30 June	10,070,470	8,422,046
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(567,197)</u>	<u>(398,874)</u>
Total Buildings	9,503,273	8,023,172
Total Property	19,161,367	15,456,296

Valuation of land (excluding land under roads) and buildings was undertaken by the Valuer-General as at 30 June 2022. The valuation of buildings is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation at the date of valuation. The valuation of land is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Land under roads were revalued in 2023-24 based on unit rate per hectare provided by the Valuer General through the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

Note 23	<i>Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)</i>	2024	2023
		\$	\$
	<i>Plant and Equipment</i>		
	Plant, machinery and equipment		
	at cost	6,148,024	5,759,895
	Less accumulated depreciation	(3,522,236)	(3,390,885)
		<u>2,625,788</u>	<u>2,369,010</u>
	Fixtures, fittings and furniture		
	at cost	378,483	369,411
	Less accumulated depreciation	(177,482)	(149,266)
		<u>201,001</u>	<u>220,145</u>
	Computers and telecommunications		
	at cost	194,737	192,517
	Less accumulated depreciation	(168,090)	(158,129)
		<u>26,647</u>	<u>34,388</u>
	Total Plant and Equipment	<u>2,853,436</u>	<u>2,623,543</u>
	Infrastructure		
	Roads		
	at fair value at 30 June	89,971,567	87,338,014
	Less accumulated depreciation	(15,896,613)	(15,354,061)
		<u>74,074,954</u>	<u>71,983,953</u>
	Bridges		
	at fair value at 30 June	18,664,101	18,319,611
	Less accumulated depreciation	(9,514,708)	(9,334,492)
		<u>9,149,393</u>	<u>8,985,119</u>
	Footpaths, kerbs and gutters		
	at fair value at 30 June	4,099,651	3,130,839
	Less accumulated depreciation	(1,945,969)	(1,924,075)
		<u>2,153,682</u>	<u>1,206,764</u>
	Drainage		
	at fair value at 30 June	3,447,619	2,487,185
	Less accumulated depreciation	(719,567)	(690,595)
		<u>2,728,052</u>	<u>1,796,590</u>
	Infrastructure		
	at fair value at 30 June	2,449,893	1,989,061
	Less accumulated depreciation	(1,139,856)	(1,039,955)
		<u>1,310,037</u>	<u>949,106</u>
	Total Infrastructure	<u>89,416,118</u>	<u>84,921,531</u>
	A full valuation of roads and footpaths was undertaken by independent valuers, Moloneys Asset Management Systems, effective July 2020 and indexed 30 June 2023. Bridges were revalued by AusSpan effective January 2023. Drainage and other infrastructure have not been revalued due to the immaterial amount of assets in these classes.		
	Works in progress		
	Buildings at cost	172,469	620,724
	Roads at cost	531,848	2,009,496
	Infrastructure	70,533	274,243
	Drainage	45,267	698,056
	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	6,560	-
	Footpaths, kerbs and gutters	-	758,463
	Bridges	226,558	22,670
	Total Works in progress	<u>1,053,235</u>	<u>4,383,652</u>
	Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	<u>112,484,156</u>	<u>107,385,022</u>

Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)

Reconciliation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

2024	Balance at beginning of financial year	Acquisition of assets	Revaluation increments (decrements) (note 27)	Depreciation and amortisation (note 16)	Written down value of disposals	Transfers	Balance at end of financial year
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Property							
land	6,322,000	206,149	-	-	-	-	6,528,149
land under roads	1,111,124	-	2,018,821	-	-	-	3,129,945
Total land	7,433,124	206,149	2,018,821	-	-	-	9,658,094
buildings	8,023,172	5,000	-	168,323	-	1,643,424	9,503,273
Total buildings	8,023,172	5,000	-	168,323	-	1,643,424	9,503,273
Total property	15,456,296	211,149	2,018,821	168,323	-	1,643,424	19,161,367
Plant and Equipment							
plant, machinery and equipment	2,369,010	574,728	-	315,932	2,018	-	2,625,788
fixtures, fittings and furniture	220,145	9,530	-	28,674	-	-	201,001
computers and telecommunications	34,388	2,221	-	9,962	-	-	26,647
Total plant and equipment	2,623,543	586,479	-	354,568	2,018	-	2,853,436
Infrastructure							
roads	71,983,952	-	-	1,542,488	764,562	4,398,053	74,074,955
bridges	8,985,119	-	-	258,842	6,375	429,491	9,149,393
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	1,206,764	-	-	72,648	21,840	1,041,406	2,153,682
drainage	1,796,590	-	-	28,972	-	960,433	2,728,051
infrastructure	949,105	-	-	99,902	-	460,834	1,310,037
Total infrastructure	84,921,530	-	-	2,002,852	792,777	7,290,217	89,416,118
Works in progress							
roads	2,009,495	2,920,411	-	-	-	(4,398,053)	531,853
buildings	620,724	1,195,169	-	-	-	(1,643,424)	172,469
infrastructure	274,243	257,120	-	-	-	(460,834)	70,529
drainage	698,056	307,644	-	-	-	(960,433)	45,267
fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	6,560	-	-	-	-	6,560
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	758,464	282,942	-	-	-	(1,041,406)	-
bridges	22,671	633,377	-	-	-	(429,491)	226,557
Total works in progress	4,383,653	5,603,223	-	-	-	(8,933,641)	1,053,235
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	107,385,022	6,400,851	2,018,821	2,525,743	794,795	-	112,484,156

Note 23 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)

Reconciliation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

2023	Balance at beginning of financial year	Acquisition of assets	Revaluation increments (decrements) (note 27)	Depreciation and amortisation (note 16)	Written down value of disposals	Transfers	Balance at end of financial year
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Property							
land	6,322,000	-	-	-	-	-	6,322,000
land under roads	1,111,124	-	-	-	-	-	1,111,124
Total land	7,433,124	0	0	0	0	0	7,433,124
buildings	8,037,503	-	-	161,009	-	146,678	8,023,172
Total buildings	8,037,503	0	0	161,009	0	146,678	8,023,172
Total property	15,470,627	0	0	161,009	0	146,678	15,456,296
Plant and Equipment							
plant, machinery and equipment	2,297,615	399,770	-	319,533	8,842	-	2,369,010
fixtures, fittings and furniture	208,258	33,910	-	28,838	-	6,815	220,145
computers and telecommunications	22,413	25,725	-	13,750	-	-	34,388
Total plant and equipment	2,528,286	459,405	-	362,121	8,842	6,815	2,623,543
Infrastructure							
roads	65,454,588	-	6,920,926	1,355,821	204,381	1,168,640	71,983,952
bridges	8,193,110	-	1,025,747	233,738	-	-	8,985,119
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	1,135,130	-	120,296	55,655	-	6,993	1,206,764
drainage	1,788,549	-	-	25,204	-	33,245	1,796,590
infrastructure	946,570	-	-	90,445	-	92,980	949,105
Total infrastructure	77,517,947	-	8,066,969	1,760,863	204,381	1,301,858	84,921,530
Works in progress							
roads	209,164	3,009,209	-	-	-	(1,208,878)	2,009,495
buildings	194,489	572,913	-	-	-	(146,678)	620,724
infrastructure	33,182	334,041	-	-	-	(92,980)	274,243
drainage	-	698,056	-	-	-	-	698,056
fixtures, fittings and furniture	6,815	-	-	-	-	(6,815)	-
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	-	758,464	-	-	-	-	758,464
bridges	-	22,671	-	-	-	-	22,671
Total works in progress	443,650	5,395,354	-	-	-	(1,455,351)	4,383,653
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	95,960,510	5,854,759	8,066,969	2,283,993	213,223	-	107,385,022

Accounting policy	
Recognition and measurement of assets	
Acquisitions of assets are initially recorded at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs	
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment received in the form of contributions, are recognised as assets and revenues at fair value by	
Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during	
The following classes of assets have been recognised. In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits detailed below have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year:	
	Threshold
	\$
Land	
land	5,000
land improvements	5,000
land under roads	5,000
Buildings	
buildings	5,000
building improvements	5,000
heritage buildings	5,000
Plant and Equipment	
plant, machinery and equipment	1,000
fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,000
computers and telecommunications	1,000
leased plant and equipment	1,000
Roads	
road pavements and seals	5,000
road substructure	5,000
road formation and earthworks	5,000
road kerb, channel and minor culverts	5,000
Bridges	
bridges deck	5,000
bridges substructure	5,000
Other Infrastructure	
footpaths and cycleways	5,000
drainage	5,000
recreational, leisure and community facilities	5,000
waste management	5,000
parks, open space and streetscapes	5,000
off street car parks	5,000
Intangible assets	
intangible assets	1,000
Revaluation	
Council has adopted the following valuation bases for its non-current assets:	
Land	fair value
Land improvements	cost
Plant and machinery	cost
Furniture, fittings and office equipment	cost
Stormwater and drainage infrastructure	fair value
Roads and streets infrastructure	fair value
Bridges	fair value
Buildings	fair value
Intangibles	cost
Parks, recreation facilities and community amenities	cost
Investment in water corporation	fair value

Note 23 *Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)*

Accounting policy (cont.)

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, furniture and fittings and computers, are measured at their fair value in accordance with AASB 116 *Property, Plant & Equipment* and AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*. At balance date, Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset class materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date the class of asset was revalued.

In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis to ensure valuations represent fair value. The valuation is performed either by experienced Council officers or independent experts.

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.

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

Impairment of assets

Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income under other expenses.

Reversals of impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income under other revenue.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 24 Trade and other payables		
Trade payables	705,287	984,610
Rates and charges in advance	145,341	171,245
Accrued expenses	94,932	50,455
Other	79,335	48,260
Total trade and other payables	1,024,895	1,254,570

Accounting policy

Trade and other payables

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services provided to Council as at balance date whether or not invoices have been received. General creditors are unsecured, not subject to interest charges and are normally settled within 30 days of invoice receipt.

Rates and charges in advance represents amounts received by Council prior to the commencement of the rating or charging period. Revenue is recognised by Council at the beginning of the rating or charge period to which the advance payment relates

Note 25 Trust funds and deposits

Refundable building deposits	4,492	1,200
Retention amounts	250,270	137,280
Other refundable deposits	85,985	96,787
Total trust funds and deposits	340,747	235,267

Accounting policy

Tender deposits

Amounts received as tender deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as Trust funds until they are returned or forfeited.

Note 26 Provisions

	Annual leave & RDO's	Long service leave	Sick Leave	Landfill Restoration	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2024						
Balance at beginning of the financial year	212,179	400,732	199,392	108,006	106,553	1,026,862
Additional provisions	198,144	192,975	67,394	-	49,698	508,211
Adjustment to provision	-	-	-	(7,856)	-	(7,856)
Amounts used	(164,383)	(158,583)	(80,764)	-	(49,698)	(453,428)
Balance at the end of the financial year	245,940	435,124	186,022	100,150	106,553	1,073,789
Current	245,940	315,683	186,022	-	96,783	844,428
Non-Current	-	119,441	-	100,150	9,770	229,361
Total	245,940	435,124	186,022	100,150	106,553	1,073,789
2023						
Balance at beginning of the financial year	200,408	400,873	255,462	103,926	116,232	1,076,901
Additional provisions	176,154	158,442	24,694	4,080	40,019	403,389
Amounts used	(164,383)	(158,583)	(80,764)	-	(49,698)	(453,428)
Balance at the end of the financial year	212,179	400,732	199,392	108,006	106,553	1,026,862
Current	212,179	306,278	199,392	-	94,491	812,340
Non-Current	-	94,454	-	108,006	12,062	214,522
Total	212,179	400,732	199,392	108,006	106,553	1,026,862

2024 **2023**

(a) Employee benefits

The following assumptions were adopted in measuring the present value of employee benefits:

Weighted average increase in employee costs	4.50%	18.23%
Weighted average discount rates	4.09%	2.97%
Weighted average settlement period	12	12

Employee Numbers - FTE

27 27

Accounting policy

Employee benefits

i) Short term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

ii) Other long term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long service leave, annual leave and sick leave which is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

iv) Defined benefit plans

A liability or asset in respect of defined benefit superannuation plans would ordinarily be recognised in the statement of financial position, and measured as the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date plus unrecognised actuarial gains (less unrecognised actuarial losses) less the fair value of the superannuation fund's assets at that date and any unrecognised past service cost. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is based on expected future payments which arise from membership of the fund to the reporting date, calculated annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. However, when this information is not reliably available, Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans i.e as an expense when it becomes payable.

Council makes superannuation contributions for a number of its employees to the Quadrant Defined Benefits Fund, which is a sub fund of the Tasplan Superannuation. The Quadrant Defined Benefits Fund has been classified as a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided under paragraph 34 of AASB 119 Employee Benefits, Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

v) Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

(b) Landfill restoration

Under legislation Council is obligated to restore its landfill site to a particular standard. Current projections indicate that stage two of the landfill site will be due for rehabilitation in 2024/25. The forecast life of the landfill site is expected to be 40 years based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for 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. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

Council does not expect to receive reimbursement from a third party

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	4.24%
- index rate	4.50%

Note 27 Reserves

	Balance at beginning of reporting year	Increment	(decrement)	Balance at end of reporting year
(a) Asset revaluation reserve	\$	\$	\$	\$
2024				
Property				
Land	4,914,534	-	-	4,914,534
Land under roads	153,728	2,018,821	-	2,172,549
Buildings	4,521,639	-	-	4,521,639
Fixtures and fittings	4,530	-	-	4,530
	9,594,431	2,018,821	-	11,613,252
Infrastructure				
Roads	63,009,560	-	-	63,009,560
Bridges	8,267,692	-	-	8,267,692
Footpaths and cycleways	2,944,239	-	-	2,944,239
Drainage	596,922	-	-	596,922
	74,818,413	-	-	74,818,413
Total asset revaluation reserve	84,412,844	2,018,821	-	86,431,665
2023				
Property				
Land	4,914,534	-	-	4,914,534
Land under roads	153,728	-	-	153,728
Buildings	4,521,639	-	-	4,521,639
Fixtures and fittings	4,530	-	-	4,530
	9,594,431	-	-	9,594,431
Infrastructure				
Roads	56,088,634	6,920,926	-	63,009,560
Bridges	7,241,945	1,025,747	-	8,267,692
Footpaths and cycleways	2,823,943	120,296	-	2,944,239
Drainage	596,922	-	-	596,922
	66,751,444	8,066,969	-	74,818,413
Total asset revaluation reserve	76,345,875	8,066,969	-	84,412,844

The asset revaluation reserve was established to capture the movements in asset valuations upon the periodic revaluation of Council's assets.

	Balance at beginning of reporting year	Increment	(decrement)	Balance at end of reporting year
(b) Fair value reserve	\$	\$	\$	\$
2024				
Equity Investment assets				
Investment in water corporation	(1,098,799)	451,944	-	(646,855)
Total fair value reserve	(1,098,799)	451,944	-	(646,855)
2023				
Equity Investment assets				
Investment in water corporation	(1,379,104)	280,305	-	(1,098,799)
Total fair value reserve	(1,379,104)	280,305	-	(1,098,799)

Council has to designate its investment in Taswater as an equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income. Subsequent changes in fair value are reflected in the reserve and will not be reclassified through the profit or loss when derecognised.

Note 27 Reserves (cont)

	Balance at beginning of reporting year	Transfer from accumulated surplus	Transfer to accumulated surplus	Balance at end of reporting year
	\$	\$	\$	\$
(c) Other reserves				
2024				
Other Reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542
Total Other reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542
2023				
Other Reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542
Total Other reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542

	2024 \$	2023 \$
(a) Asset revaluation reserve	86,431,665	84,412,844
(b) Fair value reserve	(646,855)	(1,098,799)
(c) Other reserves	1,641,542	1,641,542
Total Reserves	87,426,352	84,955,587

Note 28 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to net result for the year

Result from continuing operations	(566,613)	2,220,995
Depreciation/amortisation	2,525,741	2,306,993
(Profit)/loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure	716,242	187,041
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	(845,730)	(1,417,729)
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	(143,877)	(98,131)
Decrease/(increase) in other assets	(8,553)	(5,809)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	(18,293)	(4,574)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(229,675)	646,174
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	54,783	(50,039)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	1,484,025	3,784,921

Note 29 Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents (see note 19)	6,653,636	10,540,697
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Note 30 Superannuation

Council makes superannuation contributions for a number of its employees to the Quadrant Defined Benefits Fund (the Fund). The Fund was a sub-fund of the Tasplan Superannuation Fund up to 31 March 2021. On 1 April 2021, the Tasplan Superannuation Fund merged (via a Successor Fund Transfer) into the MTAA Superannuation Fund to become Spirit Super. The Fund has been classified as a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided under paragraph 34 of AASB 119 Employee Benefits, Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.¶

For the year ended 30 June 2024 the Council contributed 0% (2023: 0%) of employees' gross income to the Fund. Assets accumulate in the fund to meet member benefits as they accrue, and if assets within the fund are insufficient to satisfy benefits payable, the Council is required to meet its share of the deficiency.

Deloitte Consulting Pty Ltd undertook the last actuarial review of the Fund at 30 June 2023. The review disclosed that at that time the net market value of assets available for funding member benefits was \$48,442,000, the value of vested benefits was \$39,789,000, the surplus over vested benefits was \$8,653,000, the value of total accrued benefits was \$39,479,000, and the number of members was 77. These amounts relate to all members of the Fund at the date of valuation and no asset or liability is recorded in the Spirit Super's financial statements for Council employees.¶

The financial assumptions used to calculate the Accrued Benefits for the Fund were:

- Net Investment Return 4.50% p.a.
- Salary Inflation 3.00% p.a.
- Price Inflation n/a

The actuarial review concluded that:

- The value of assets of the Fund was adequate to meet the liabilities of the Fund in respect of vested benefits as at 30 June 2023.
- The value of assets of the Fund was adequate to meet the value of the liabilities of the Fund in respect of accrued benefits as at 30 June 2023.

- Based on the assumptions used, and assuming the Employer contributes at the levels described below, the value of the assets is expected to continue to be adequate to meet the value of the liabilities of the Fund in respect of vested benefits at all times during the period up to 30 June 2028.

Given the strong financial position of the Fund, the Actuary recommended that Council continue their contribution holiday and contribute 0% of salaries towards the defined benefit arrangements in the Fund from 1 July 2024 until 1 July 2027. This contribution rate is subject to normal review processes which include reviewing the contribution rate if needed to respond to extreme movements in financial markets. In addition, employers pay contributions towards defined benefit members' accumulation accounts where required by agreements.

The Actuary will continue to undertake a brief review of the financial position of the Fund at the end of each financial year to confirm that the contribution rates remain appropriate. The next full triennial actuarial review of the Fund will have an effective date of 30 June 2026 and is expected to be completed late in 2026.

Council also contributes to other accumulation schemes on behalf of a number of employees; however the Council has no ongoing responsibility to make good any deficiencies that may occur in those schemes.

During the year Council made the required superannuation contributions for all eligible employees to an appropriate complying superannuation fund as required by the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.

As required in terms of paragraph 148 of *AASB 119 Employee Benefits*, Council discloses the following details:

- The 2023 actuarial review used the "aggregate" funding method. This is a standard actuarial funding method. The results from this method were tested by projecting future fund assets and liabilities for a range of future assumed investment returns. The funding method used is consistent with the method used at the previous actuarial review in 2020.

Under the aggregate funding method of financing the benefits, the stability of the Councils' contributions over time depends on how closely the Fund's actual experience matches the expected experience. If the actual experience differs from that expected, the Councils' contribution rate may need to be adjusted accordingly to ensure the Fund remains on course towards financing members' benefits.

- In terms of Rule 15.2 of the Spirit Super Trust Deed (Trust Deed), there is a risk that employers within the Fund may incur an additional liability when an Employer ceases to participate in the Fund at a time when the assets of the Fund are less than members' vested benefits. Each member of the Fund who is an employee of the Employer who is ceasing to Participate is required to be provided with a benefit at least equal to their vested benefit. However, there is no provision in the Trust Deed requiring an employer to make contributions other than its regular contributions up to the date of cessation of contributions.¶

Note 30 Superannuation (cont.)

- The application of Fund assets on Spirit Super being wound-up is set out in Rule 20.2. This Rule provides that expenses and taxation liabilities should have first call on the available assets. Additional assets will initially be applied for the benefit of the then remaining members and/or their Dependants in such manner as the Trustee considers equitable and appropriate in accordance with the Applicable Requirements (broadly, superannuation and taxation legislative requirements and other requirements as determined by the regulators).¶

The Trust Deed does not contemplate the Fund withdrawing from Spirit Super. ¶

- The Fund is a defined benefit Fund.
- The Fund has been classified as a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. Thus the Fund is not able to prepare standard AASB119 defined benefit reporting.¶
- During the reporting period the amount of superannuation contributions paid to defined benefits schemes was nil (2022-23, \$nil, and the amount paid to accumulation schemes was \$253 186 (2022-23, \$209 853).

During the next reporting period the expected amount of superannuation contributions to be paid to defined benefits schemes is nil, and the amount to be paid to accumulation schemes is \$297 000.

- As reported on the first page of this note, Assets exceeded accrued benefits as at the date of the last actuarial review, 30 June 2023. Favourable investment returns, since that date, has seen further improvement in the financial position of the Fund. The financial position of the Fund will be fully investigated at the actuarial review as at 30 June 2026.
- An analysis of the assets and vested benefits of sub-funds participating in the Scheme, prepared by Deloitte Consulting Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2023, showed that the Fund had assets of \$48.44 million and members' Vested Benefits were \$39.79 million. These amounts represented 0.17% and 0.15% respectively of the corresponding total amounts for Spirit Super.
- As at 30 June 2023 the Fund had 77 members and the total employer contributions and member contributions for the year ending 30 June 2023 were \$738,101 and \$190,798 respectively.¶

	2024	2023
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to super funds	253,186	209,853
	<u>253,186</u>	<u>209,853</u>

Note 31 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.

	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
2024	\$	\$	\$	\$
Contractual commitments				
Contractual commitments at end of financial year but not recognised in the financial report				
Recycling and garbage collection contracts (expires 2025)	551,095	-	-	551,095
Total	<u>551,095</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>551,095</u>

	Not later than 1 year	Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	Later than 5 years	Total
2023	\$	\$	\$	\$

Capital expenditure commitments

Stormwater	45,881	-	-	45,881
Buildings	408,842	-	-	408,842
Total	454,723	-	-	454,723

Contractual commitments

Contractual commitments at end of financial year but not recognised in the financial report

Recycling and garbage collection contracts (expires 2025)	551,095	551,095	-	1,102,190
	551,095	551,095	-	1,102,190

Note 32 Contingent liabilities

Council is presently involved in confidential legal matters, which are being conducted through Council's solicitors.

As these matters are yet to be finalised, and the financial outcomes are unable to be reliably estimated, no allowance for these contingencies has been made in the financial report.

Note 33 Financial Instruments

(a) Interest Rate Risk

The exposure to interest rate risk and the effective interest rates of financial assets and financial liabilities, both recognised and unrecognised, at balance date are as follows:

2024

	Weighted average interest rate	Floating interest rate	Fixed interest maturing in:			Total
			1 year or less	Over 1 to 5 years	Non-interest bearing	
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	4.01%	3,901,863	2,751,773	-	-	6,653,636
Trade and other receivables		194,976	-	-	188,357	383,333
Investment in water corporation		-	-	-	8,511,465	8,511,465
Total financial assets		4,096,839	2,751,773	-	8,699,822	15,548,434
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables		-	-	-	1,024,895	1,024,895
Trust funds and deposits		-	-	-	340,747	340,747
Total financial liabilities		-	-	-	1,365,642	1,365,642
Net financial assets (liabilities)		4,096,839	2,751,773	-	7,334,180	14,182,792

2023

	Weighted average interest rate	Floating interest rate	Fixed interest maturing in:			Total
			1 year or less	Over 1 to 5 years	Non-interest bearing	
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	4.36%	2,223,523	8,317,174	-	-	10,540,697
Trade and other receivables		133,042	-	-	106,414	239,456
Investment in water corporation		-	-	-	8,059,521	8,059,521
Total financial assets		2,356,565	8,317,174	-	8,165,935	18,839,674
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables		-	-	-	1,254,570	1,254,570
Trust funds and deposits		-	-	-	235,267	235,267
Total financial liabilities		-	-	-	1,489,837	1,489,837
Net financial assets (liabilities)		2,356,565	8,317,174	-	6,676,098	17,349,837

Note 33 Financial Instruments (cont.)

(b) Fair Value

The aggregate net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities, both recognised and unrecognised, at balance date are as follows:

Financial Instruments	Total carrying amount as per the Statement of Financial Position		Aggregate net fair value	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	6,653,636	10,540,697	6,653,636	10,540,697
Trade and other receivables	383,333	239,456	383,333	239,456
Investment in water corporation	8,511,465	8,059,521	8,511,465	8,059,521
Total financial assets	15,548,434	18,839,674	15,548,434	18,839,674
Financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	1,024,895	1,254,570	1,024,895	1,254,570
Trust funds and deposits	340,747	235,267	340,747	235,267
Total financial liabilities	1,365,642	1,489,837	1,365,642	1,489,837

(c) Credit Risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date in relation to each class of recognised financial asset is represented by the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position.

(d) Managing financial risk

The General Manager has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of Council's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by Council, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

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. Council's exposures to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk. Components of market risk to which we are exposed are discussed below.

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. Interest rate risk arises from interest bearing financial assets and liabilities that we use. Non derivative interest bearing assets are predominantly short term liquid assets. Our interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes us to fair value interest rate risk.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 1993*. We manage interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- conformity with State and Federal regulations and standards,
- capital protection,
- appropriate liquidity,
- diversification by credit rating, financial institution and investment product,
- monitoring of return on investment,
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

Maturity will be staggered to provide for interest rate variations and to minimise interest rate risk.

Note 33 Financial Instruments (cont.)
(d) Risks and mitigation (cont.)

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 have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in our Statement of Financial Position. To help manage this risk:

- we have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities we deal with;
- we may require collateral where appropriate; and
- we only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in our Investment policy.

Credit risk arises from Council's financial assets, which comprise cash and cash equivalents, and trade and other receivables. Council's exposure to credit risk arises from potential default of the counterparty, with a maximum exposure equal to the carrying amount of these instruments. Exposure at balance date is addressed in each applicable policy note. Council generally trades with recognised, creditworthy third parties, and as such collateral is generally not requested, nor is it Council's policy to securitise its trade and other receivables.

It is Council's policy that some customers who wish to trade on credit terms are subject to credit verification procedures including an assessment of their credit rating, financial position, past experience and industry reputation.

In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that Council's exposure to bad debts is not significant.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the Statement of Financial Position, such as when we provide a guarantee for another party.

Credit quality of contractual financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired

	Financial Institutions (AAA credit rating)	Government agencies (BBBB credit rating)	Other (min BBB credit rating)	Total
2024				
Cash and cash equivalents	3,901,863	-	-	3,901,863
Trade and other receivables	-	138,811	244,522	383,333
Investments and other financial assets	2,751,773	-	-	2,751,773
Total contractual financial assets	6,653,636	138,811	244,522	7,036,969
2023				
Cash and cash equivalents	2,223,522	-	-	2,223,522
Trade and other receivables	-	39,927	199,529	239,456
Investments and other financial assets	8,317,175	-	-	8,317,175
Total contractual financial assets	10,540,697	39,927	199,529	10,780,153

Ageing of Trade and Other Receivables

At balance date other debtors representing financial assets were past due but not impaired. These amounts relate to a number of independent customers for whom there is no recent history of default. The ageing of the Council's Trade and Other Receivables was:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current (not yet due)	173,408	73,471
Past due by up to 30 days	6,978	5,432
Past due between 31 and 180 days	878	25,804
Past due between 181 and 365 days	1,968	1,477
Past due by more than 1 year	5,125	230
Total Trade & Other Receivables	188,357	106,414

Note 33 Financial Instruments (cont.)
(d) Risks and mitigation (cont.)
Credit risk (cont.)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of our operational liquidity requirements:

- we will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction on the date;
- we will be forced to sell financial assets at a value which is less than what they are worth; or
- we may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset at all.

To help reduce these risks we:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments;
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Councils exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods data and current assessment of risk.

The table below lists the contractual maturities for Financial Liabilities

These amounts represent the discounted cash flow payments (ie principal only).

2024	6 mths or less	6-12 months	1-2 years	Contracted Cash Flow	Carrying Amount
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade and other payables	1,024,895	-	-	1,024,895	1,024,895
Trust funds and deposits	340,747	-	-	340,747	340,747
Total financial liabilities	1,365,642	-	-	1,365,642	1,365,642

2023	6 mths or less	6-12 months	1-2 years	Contracted Cash Flow	Carrying Amount
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade and other payables	1,254,570	-	-	1,254,570	1,254,570
Trust funds and deposits	235,267	-	-	235,267	235,267
Total financial liabilities	1,489,837	-	-	1,489,837	1,489,837

Note 33 Financial Instruments (cont.)
(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% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.4%.

The table below discloses the impact on net operating result and equity for each category of financial instruments held by Council at year-end, if the above movements were to occur.

		Interest rate risk			
		-1 %		+1%	
		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2024		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	6,653,636	(66,536)	(66,536)	66,536	66,536

		Interest rate risk			
		-1 %		+1%	
		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2023		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	10,540,697	(105,407)	(105,047)	105,407	105,407

Note 34 Events occurring after balance date

- (a) No matters have occurred after balance date that warrant disclosure in this report.

Note 35 Related party transactions

(i) Responsible Persons

Names of persons holding the position of a Responsible Person at the Council at any time during the year are:

Councillors Councillor Loueen Triffit (Mayor)
Councillor James Allwright (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Anthony Bailey
Councillor Robert Cassidy
Councillor Julie Honner
Councillor Scott Bowden (to 12/09/2023)
Councillor Yvonne Miller
Councillor John Hall
David Meacham
Councillor Anthony Archer (from 09/10/2023)

General Manager Kim Hossack from (21/11/22 to 5/5/2024)
Lyn Eyles to 17/10/22

Senior Managers Adam Wilson (acting General Manager 6/5/2024)
Jason Branch
Graham Rogers

(ii) Councillor Remuneration

2024

Short term employee benefits

Position	Period	Allowances	Vehicles	Total Compensation AASB 124	Expenses ¹	Total allowances and expenses section 72
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mayor	Full year	37,004	4,608	41,612	546	42,158
Deputy Mayor	Full year	22,520	-	22,520	5,449	27,969
Councillors	Full year	76,223	-	76,223	12,209	88,432
Total		135,747	4,608	140,355	18,204	158,559

2023

Short term employee benefits

Position	Period	Allowances	Vehicles	Total Compensation AASB 124	Expenses ¹	Total allowances and expenses section 72
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mayor	Full year	35,651	5,843	41,494	1,602	43,096
Deputy Mayor	Full year	21,651	-	21,651	1,751	23,402
Councillors	Full year	73,266	-	73,266	8,520	81,786
Total		130,568	5,843	136,411	11,873	148,284

¹ Section 72(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993 requires the disclosure of expenses paid to Councillors.

(iii) Key Management Personnel Remuneration

2024	Remuneration band	Number of employees	Short term employee benefits			Post employment benefits			Total \$
			Salary ¹ \$	Vehicles ² \$	Other Allowances and Benefits ³ \$	Superannuation ⁴ \$	Termination Benefits ⁵ \$	Non-monetary Benefits ⁶	
	\$100 000 - \$120 000	3	337,367	81,464	1,455	35,332	-	11,567	467,185
	\$140 001 - \$160 000	1	156,105	31,751		16,695	-	(3,345)	201,206
	Total		493,472	113,215	1,455	52,027	-	8,222	668,391

2023	Remuneration band	Number of employees	Short term employee benefits			Post employment benefits			Total \$
			Salary ¹ \$	Vehicles ² \$	Other Allowances and Benefits ³ \$	Superannuation ⁴ \$	Termination Benefits ⁵ \$	Non-monetary Benefits ⁶	
	\$100 001 - \$120 000	2	176,357	24,595	-	30,393		7,144	238,489
	\$160 001 - \$180 000	1	305,135	3,597		4,882		(159,048)	154,566
	\$150 001 - \$170 000	1	212,995	30,637	1,730	35,352		66,621	347,335
	Total		694,487	58,829	1,730	70,627	-	(85,283)	740,390

1 Gross Salary includes all forms of consideration paid and payable for services rendered, compensated absences during the period and salary sacrifice amounts.

2 Includes total cost of providing and maintaining vehicles provided for private use, including registration, insurance, fuel and other consumables, maintenance cost and parking (including notional value of parking provided at premises that are owned or leased and fringe benefits tax).

3 Other benefits includes all other forms of employment allowances (excludes reimbursements such as travel, accommodation or meals), payments in lieu of leave, and any other compensation paid and payable.

4 Superannuation means the contribution to the superannuation fund of the individual. Superannuation benefits for members of a defined benefit scheme were calculated at 0% of employees gross income.

5 Termination benefits include all forms of benefit paid or accrued as a consequence of termination.

6 Other non-monetary benefits include annual and long service leave movements.

(iv) Remuneration Principles

Councillors

Councillors are entitled to an allowance based on the number of voters in the Local Government area (LGA) and the revenue of the council.

Councillors are also entitled to reimbursement for telephone, travel, child care and other expenses in accordance with the council's policy.

Executives

The employment terms and conditions of senior executives are contained in individual employment contracts and prescribe total remuneration, superannuation, annual and long service leave, vehicle and salary sacrifice provisions. In addition to their salaries, Council also provides non-cash benefits and contributes to post-employment superannuation plans on their behalf.

The performance of each senior executive, including the General Manager, is reviewed annually which includes a review of their remuneration package. The terms of employment of each senior executive, including the General Manager, contain a termination clause that requires the senior executive or Council to provide a minimum notice period of up to 3 months prior to termination of the contract. Whilst not automatic, contracts can be extended.

(v) Transactions with related parties

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties.

Nature of the transaction	Amount of the transactions during the year	Outstanding balances, including commitments at year end	Terms and conditions
Supply of gravel ¹	\$10,522	nil	30-day terms on invoices

1 Council purchased gravel during the year from a company which has a member of Councils KMP as a director. Amounts were billed based on normal rates for such supplies and were due and payable under normal payment terms.

In accordance with s84(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, no interests have been notified to the General Manager in respect of any body or organisation with which the Council has major financial dealings.

(vi) Transactions with related parties that have not been disclosed

Most of the entities and people that are related parties of council live and operate within the municipality. Therefore, on a regular basis ordinary citizen transactions occur between Council and its related parties. Some examples include:

- Payment of rates on a primary residence
- Dog registration
- Use of Council's swimming pool

Council has not included these types of transaction in its disclosure, where they are made on the same terms and conditions available to the general public.

Note 36 Other material accounting policies and pending accounting standards

(a) Taxation

Council is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax, Payroll Tax and the Goods and Services Tax.

Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

(b) Impairment of non-financial assets

At each reporting date, 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 asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of Comprehensive Income, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation reserve 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. For non-cash generating assets of Council such as roads, drains, public buildings and the like, value in use is represented by the deprival value of the asset approximated by its written down replacement cost.

(c) Allocation between current and non-current

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next twelve months, being Council's operational cycle, or if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

(d) Financial guarantees

Financial guarantee contracts are recognised as a liability at the time the guarantee is issued. The liability is initially measured at fair value, and if there is material increase in the likelihood that the guarantee may have to be exercised, at the higher of the amount determined in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets* and the amount initially recognised less cumulative amortisation, where appropriate. In the determination of fair value, consideration is given to factors including the probability of default by the guaranteed party and the likely loss to Council in the event of default.

(e) Contingent assets, contingent liabilities and commitments

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Commitments are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value inclusive of the GST payable.

(f) Budget

The estimated revenue and expense amounts in the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income represent original budget amounts and are not audited.

(g) Adoption of new and amended accounting standards

In the current year, Council has reviewed and assessed all the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and determined that none would have a material effect on Council's operations or financial reporting.

(h) Pending Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2023 reporting periods. Council's assessment of the impact of the relevant new standards and interpretations is set out below.

AASB 2022- 6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Non-current Liabilities with Covenants

This Standard 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 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.

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.

This Standard modifies AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement for application by not-for-profit public sector entities such as Council. It includes authoritative implementation guidance when fair valuing non-financial assets, not held primarily for their ability to generate cash inflows. This includes guidance and clarification regarding the determination of an asset's highest and best use, the development and use of internal assumptions for unobservable inputs and allows for greater use of internal judgements when applying the cost approach in the measurement and determination of fair values. Although Council is yet to fully determine the impact of this standard, the changes will be evaluated in the future assessment of all property and infrastructure assets measured at fair value. The Standard applies prospectively to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025, with earlier application permitted.

This Standard modifies AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement for application by not-for-profit public sector entities such as Council. It includes authoritative implementation guidance when fair valuing non-financial assets, not held primarily for their ability to generate cash inflows. This includes guidance and clarification regarding the determination of an asset's highest and best use, the development and use of internal assumptions for unobservable inputs and allows for greater use of internal judgements when applying the cost approach in the measurement and determination of fair values. Although Council is yet to fully determine the impact of this standard, the changes will be evaluated in the future assessment of all property and infrastructure assets measured at fair value. The Standard applies prospectively to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024, with earlier application permitted.

impact.

Note 37 Significant Business Activities

The operating capital and competitive neutrality costs of the Council's significant business activities:

	Hamilton and Bothwell Camping Grounds	
	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Revenue		
User Changes	32,536	23,186
Total Revenue	32,536	23,186
Expenditure		
<i>Direct</i>		
Employee Costs	1,064	2,247
Materials and Contacts	1,872	966
Utilities	1,009	1,662
<i>Indirect</i>		
Engineering & Administration	213	450
Total Expenses	4,158	5,325
<i>Notional cost of free services received</i>		
<i>Capital Costs</i>		
Depreciation	273	273
Opportunity cost of capital	3,185	3,181
Total Capital Costs	3,458	3,454
<i>Competitive neutrality adjustments</i>		
Rates, water and land tax	18,769	17,129
	18,769	17,129
<i>Calculated Surplus/(Deficit)</i>	6,150	(2,722)
Tax Equivalent rate	25%	30%
Taxation equivalent	1,538	(817)
Competitive neutrality costs	20,307	16,312

Accounting policy

Significant business activities

Council is required to report the operating, capital and competitive neutrality costs in respect of each significant business activity undertaken by the Council. Council's disclosure is reconciled above. Council has determined, based upon materiality that Camping Grounds as defined above are considered significant business activities. Competitive neutrality costs include notional costs i.e. income tax equivalent, rates and loan guarantees.

Note	38	Management indicators	Benchmark	2024 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
		(a) Underlying surplus or deficit					
		Net result for the year		(566,613)	2,220,995	1,906,703	1,820,396
		Less non-operating income					
		Capital grants		(845,730)	1,417,729	1,758,823	1,741,592
		FAGs in advance		249,145	986,909	761,962	(5,995)
		Add non-operational expenses					
		Flood/Fire damage		-	-	467,537	-
		Loss on disposal of assets		716,242	204,181	143,927	-
		Planning appeal		-	-	-	-
		Underlying surplus/deficit	0	<u>(446,956)</u>	<u>20,538</u>	<u>(2,618)</u>	<u>84,799</u>
		The intent of the underlying result is to show the outcome of a council's normal or usual day to day operations. Good result in the past four years.					
		(b) Underlying surplus ratio					
		<u>Underlying surplus or deficit</u>		<u>(446,956)</u>	<u>20,538</u>	<u>(2,618)</u>	<u>84,799</u>
		Recurrent income*		9,221,829	8,842,641	7,515,975	7,130,434
		Underlying surplus ratio %	0%	(4.85%)	0.23%	(0.03%)	1.19%
		This ratio serves as an overall measure of financial operating effectiveness. Good result in the past four years.					
		(c) Net financial liabilities					
		Liquid assets less		7,036,969	10,780,153	11,286,220	10,456,037
		total liabilities		<u>2,439,431</u>	<u>2,516,699</u>	<u>1,898,835</u>	<u>2,170,049</u>
		Net financial asset	0	<u>4,597,538</u>	<u>8,263,454</u>	<u>9,387,385</u>	<u>8,285,988</u>
		This measure shows whether Council's total liabilities can be met by its liquid assets. An excess of total liabilities over liquid assets means that, if all liabilities fell due at once, additional revenue would be needed to fund the shortfall. Good result in all years.					
		(d) Net financial liabilities ratio					
		<u>Net financial liabilities</u>		<u>4,597,538</u>	<u>8,263,454</u>	<u>9,387,385</u>	<u>8,285,988</u>
		Recurrent income*		9,221,829	8,842,641	7,515,975	7,130,434
		Net financial liabilities ratio %	0% - (50%)	50%	93%	125%	116%
		This ratio indicates the net financial obligations of Council compared to its recurrent income. Good result in all years.					
		(e) Asset renewal funding ratio					
		An asset renewal funding ratio has been calculated in relation to each asset class required to be included in the long-term strategic asset management plan of Council.					
		<i>Transport Infrastructure</i>					
		<u>Projected capital funding outlays**</u>		<u>1,340,000</u>	<u>1,340,000</u>	<u>1,340,000</u>	<u>2,488,000</u>
		Projected capital expenditure funding***		1,340,000	1,340,000	1,340,000	2,488,000
		Asset renewal funding ratio %	90-100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

** Current value of projected capital funding outlays for an asset identified in Council's long-term financial plan.

*** Value of projected capital expenditure funding for an asset identified in Council's long-term strategic asset management plan.

This ratio measures Council's capacity to fund future asset replacement requirements.

Council is providing sufficient funding to renew assets in accordance with its asset renewal plans.

Note	38	Management indicators (cont.)	2024 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	0
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(f) **Asset consumption ratio**

An asset consumption ratio has been calculated in relation to each asset class required to be included in the long-term strategic asset management plan of Council.

Roads

<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>		74,074,954	71,983,953	65,454,588	63,042,233
Current replacement cost (Gross)		89,971,567	87,338,014	78,710,250	75,902,068
Asset consumption ratio %	60%	82.3%	82.4%	83.2%	83.1%

Buildings

<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>		9,503,273	8,023,172	8,037,503	5,042,251
Current replacement cost (Gross)		10,070,470	8,422,046	8,275,368	5,818,043
Asset consumption ratio %	60%	94.4%	95.3%	97.1%	86.7%

Drainage

<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>		2,728,052	1,796,590	988,604	1,004,906
Current replacement cost (Gross)		3,447,619	2,487,185	1,630,155	1,630,155
Asset consumption ratio %	60%	79.1%	72.2%	60.6%	61.6%

Bridges

<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>		9,149,393	8,985,119	8,193,110	8,214,449
Current replacement cost (Gross)		18,664,101	18,319,611	16,286,659	16,184,436
Asset consumption ratio %	60%	49.0%	49.0%	50.3%	50.8%

Footpaths and Cycleways

<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>		2,153,682	1,206,764	1,135,130	1,192,122
Current replacement cost (Gross)		4,099,651	3,130,839	2,825,078	2,825,078
Asset consumption ratio %	60%	52.5%	38.5%	40.2%	42.2%

Other infrastructure assets

<u>Depreciated replacement cost</u>		1,310,037	949,106	946,570	745,806
Current replacement cost		2,449,893	1,989,061	1,896,081	1,615,420
Asset consumption ratio %	60%	53.5%	47.7%	49.9%	46.2%

This ratio measures Council's capacity to fund future asset replacement requirements.

The result for all categories except footpaths and cycleways is within an acceptable range. A result close to 50% to 60% suggests that council has sufficient service capacity remaining in these asset classes

(g) **Asset sustainability ratio**

<u>Capex on replacement/renewal of existing assets</u>		5,290,414	3,176,769	2,475,137	2,250,004
Annual depreciation expense		2,525,741	2,306,993	2,189,609	2,100,532
Asset sustainability ratio %	100%	209.5%	137.7%	113.0%	107.1%

This ratio calculates the extent to which Council is maintaining operating capacity through renewal of their existing asset base.

Good results in 2021 to 2023. Below benchmark in 2020 due to major upgrades taking priority to convert gravel roads to sealed.

	Capital renewal expenditure	Capital new/upgrade expenditure	Total Capital Expenditure
	\$	\$	\$
By asset class			
Buildings	-	1,648,424	1,648,424
Land	-	206,149	206,149
Plant, machinery and equipment	574,728	-	574,728
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	9,530	9,530
Computers	-	2,221	2,221
Roads	3,047,274	1,350,779	4,398,053
Footpaths, kerbs and gutters	934,538	106,868	1,041,406
Drainage	17,519	942,914	960,433
Other infrastructure	286,864	173,970	460,834
Bridges	429,491	-	429,491
Total	5,290,414	4,440,855	9,731,269

Note 39 Fair Value Measurements

Council measures and recognises the following assets at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Investment in water corporation
- Property, infrastructure plant and equipment
 - Land
 - Buildings, including footpaths & cycleways
 - Roads
 - Bridges
 - Other infrastructure

Council does not measure any liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis.

(a) Fair Value Hierarchy

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a level in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1	Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.
Level 2	Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
Level 3	Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The table below shows the assigned level for each asset and liability held at fair value by the Council. The table presents the Council's assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value at 30 June 2024.

The fair values of the assets are determined using valuation techniques which maximise the use of observable data, where it is available, and minimise the use of entity specific estimates. If one or more of the significant inputs is not based on observable market data, the asset is included in level 3. This is the case for Council infrastructure assets, which are of a specialist nature for which there is no active market for similar or identical assets. These assets are valued using a combination of observable and unobservable inputs.

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Recurring fair value measurements					
Investment in water corporation	18	-	-	8,511,465	8,511,465
Land	23	-	6,528,149	-	6,528,149
Buildings	23	-	9,503,273	-	9,503,273
Land under roads	23	-	3,129,945	-	3,129,945
Roads, including footpaths & cycleways	23	-	-	76,228,637	76,228,637
Bridges	23	-	-	9,149,393	9,149,393
Drainage	23	-	-	2,728,051	2,728,051
Other Infrastructure	23	-	-	1,310,037	1,310,037
		-	19,161,367	97,927,583	117,088,950

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Recurring fair value measurements					
Investment in water corporation	18	-	-	8,059,521	8,059,521
Land	23	-	6,322,000	-	6,322,000
Buildings	23	-	8,023,172	-	8,023,172
Land under roads	23	-	1,111,124	-	1,111,124
Roads, including footpaths & cycleways	23	-	-	73,190,716	73,190,716
Bridges	23	-	-	8,985,119	8,985,119
Drainage	23	-	-	1,796,590	1,796,590
Other Infrastructure	23	-	-	949,105	949,105
		-	15,456,296	92,981,051	108,437,347

There were no transfers between levels 1 and 2 during the year, nor between levels 2 and 3.

(b) Highest and best use

All assets valued at fair value in this note are being used for their highest and best use.

Note 39 Fair Value Measurements (cont.)

(c) Valuation techniques and significant inputs used to derive fair values

Investment in water corporation

Refer to Note 18 for details.

Land and buildings

Valuation of land (excluding land under roads) and buildings was undertaken by the Valuer-General as at 30 June 2022. The valuation of buildings is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation at the date of valuation. The valuation of land is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions.

While the unit rates based on square metres can be supported by market evidence (level 2), the estimates of residual value and useful life that are used to calculate accumulated depreciation comprise unobservable inputs (level 3). Where these other inputs are significant to the valuation the overall valuation has been classified as level 3. The table at (d) below summarises the effect that changes in the most significant unobservable inputs would have on the valuation.

Land under roads

Land under roads is based on valuations determined by the Valuer-General effective 1 July 2024, using site values adjusted for engloblo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights, private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation.

Infrastructure assets

All Council infrastructure assets are fair valued using written down current replacement cost. This valuation comprises the assets current replacement cost (CRC) less accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset. Council first determined the gross cost of replacing the full service potential of the asset and then adjusted this amount to take account of the expired service potential of the asset.

CRC was measured by reference to the lowest cost at which the gross future economic benefits of the asset could currently be obtained in the normal course of business. The resulting valuation reflects the cost of replacing the existing economic benefits based on an efficient set of modern equivalent assets to achieve the required level of service output.

The level of accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets was determined based on the age of the asset and the useful life adopted by Council for the asset type. Estimated useful lives and residual values are disclosed in Note 23.

The calculation of CRC involves a number of inputs that require judgement and are therefore classed as unobservable. While these judgements are made by qualified and experienced staff, different judgements could result in a different valuation. The table at (d) below summarises the effect that changes in the most significant unobservable inputs would have on the valuation.

The methods for calculating CRC are described under individual asset categories below.

Roads, including footpaths & cycleways

Council categorises its road infrastructure into urban and rural roads and then further sub-categorises these into sealed and unsealed roads. All road segments are componentised into formation, pavement and seal (where applicable). Council assumes that environmental factors such as soil type, climate and topography are consistent across each segment. Council also assumes a segment is designed and constructed to the same standard and uses a consistent amount of labour and materials. A full revaluation of roads, including footpaths and cycleways was undertaken by independent valuer, Moloneys Asset Management Systems effective 30 June 2020 and indexed 30 June 2023. The next full valuation is planned for 30 June 2028.

Note 39 Fair Value Measurements (cont.)

CRC is based on the road area multiplied by a unit price; the unit price being an estimate of labour and material inputs, services costs, and overhead allocations. For internal construction estimates, material and services prices are based on existing supplier contract rates or supplier price lists and labour wage rates are based on Council's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA). Where construction is outsourced, CRC is based on the average of completed similar projects over the last few years.

Bridges

A full valuation of bridge assets was undertaken by independent valuers, AusSpan, effective January 2023. Each bridge is assessed individually and componentised into sub-assets representing the deck and sub-structure. Each bridge is assessed individually and componentised into sub-assets representing the deck and sub-structure. The valuation is based on the material type used for construction and the deck and sub-structure area.

Consistent with roads, Council assumes that environmental factors such as soil type, climate and topography are consistent across each segment and that a segment is designed and constructed to the same standard and uses a consistent amount of labour and materials.

Other Infrastructure

Other infrastructure is not deemed to be significant in terms of Council's Statement of Financial Position.

(d) Unobservable inputs and sensitivities

Asset / liability category*	Carrying amount (at fair value)	Key unobservable inputs *	Expected range of inputs	Description of how changes in inputs will affect the fair value
Roads	\$ 74,074,955	Unit replacement cost per sqm	from \$9/sqm (unsealed) up to \$40/sqm (sealed)	The higher the unit cost, the higher the fair value
		Useful life	Refer Note 1e	The longer the useful life, the higher the fair value
Bridges	\$ 9,149,393	Useful life	Refer Note 1e	The longer the useful life, the higher the fair value
Investment in Water Corporation	\$ 8,511,465	Useful life	Refer Note 1e	The longer the useful life, the higher the fair value
Buildings	\$ 9,503,273	Useful life	Refer Note 1e	The longer the useful life, the higher the fair value

(e) Valuation processes

Council's current policy for the valuation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment, investment in water corporation and investment property (recurring fair value measurements) is set out in notes 18 and 23.

Non-recurring fair value measurements are made at the point of reclassification by a registered valuer.

(f) Assets and liabilities not measured at fair value but for which fair value is disclosed

Council does not have assets and liabilities which are not measured at fair value.

The carrying amounts of trade receivables and trade payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature (Level 2).

Certification of the Financial Report

The financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Central Highlands Council as at 30 June 2024 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.



Stephen Mackey
Acting General Manager

Date : 23-October-2024