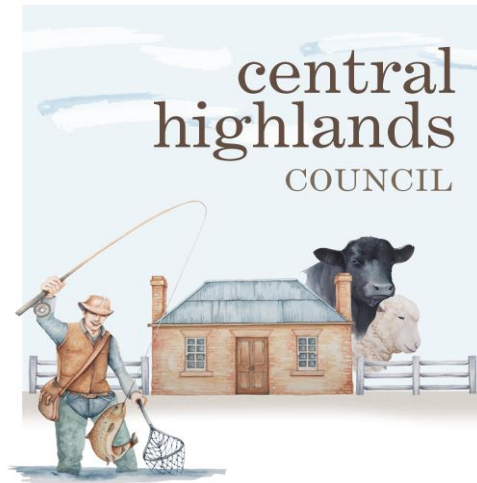
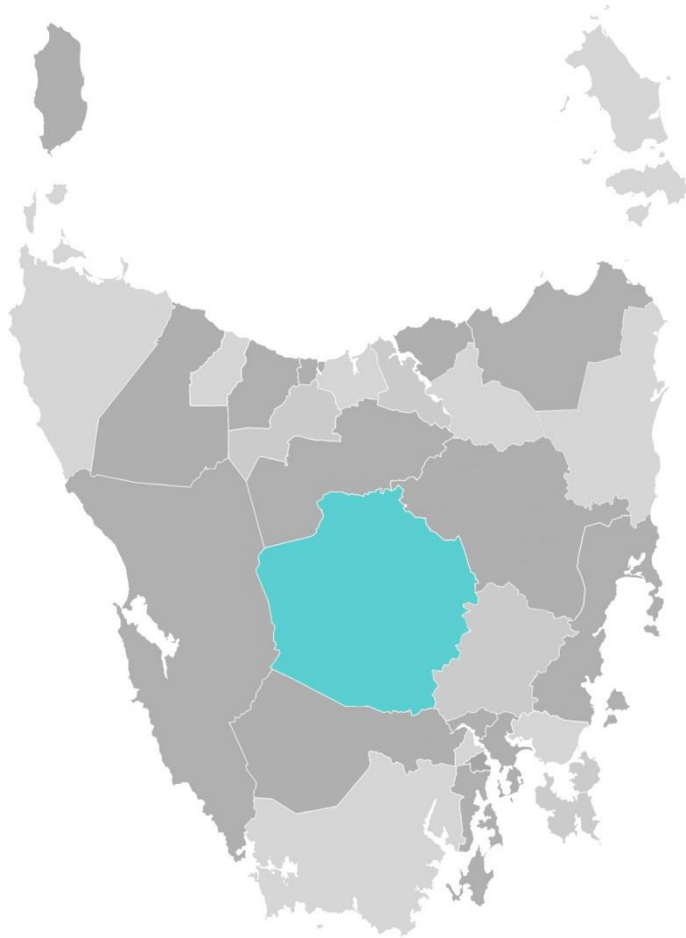




CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Picture – Platypus Walk Hamilton



Contact Information

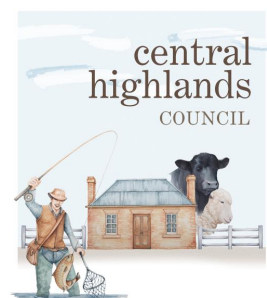
Administration & Works & Services

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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 **2024/2025** 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 **9.00am** on **Tuesday 9 December 2025**, at Bothwell.

Any person wishing to make a submission should do so by close of business **Wednesday 3 December 2025**.

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 2024 - 2025

Welcome to the Mayor's Report for the Central Highlands Council financial year 2024/2025.

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.

Council 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. First Nations people still live and work in the Central Highlands sharing their culture and history including the Council supported Native Garden in Bothwell. Dual naming continues in the Central Highlands such as: yingina/Great Lake, trawtha mukuminya/Gowan Brae and several more Aboriginal place names. 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.

Councillors attended Budget Workshops on 8th and 29th April 2025, which assisted Council to develop the 2025 - 2026 Budget Estimates. The budget estimates are required to be adopted by Council by absolute majority.

All expenditure and rate revenue projections have been increased by 5.1% across all areas which will ensure Council is in the best financial position under the current

economic climate. Council Budget Estimates are based on the March 2025 Council Cost Index of 3.1% plus 2%, as per Councils Long Term Financial Plan and Strategy.

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 widening, stabilisation and seal (stage 4)	\$1,464,820
Hollow Tree Road stabilisation	\$196,827
Bothwell Town Streets resealing	\$157,073
Wayatinah Town Streets resealing	\$147,543
Arthurs Lake Road resealing	\$119,040
Re-sheeting of unsealed roads	\$495,764
Patrick Street, Bothwell asphalt works on verges	\$76,000
River Street, Hamilton design	\$7,960
Old Mans Head Black Spot	\$107,010
Cramps Bay junction upgrade	\$33,200
BRIDGES	
Wentworth Bridge widening	\$241,429
PLANT	
Excavator 13 Tonne replacement tracks	\$18,777
JCB Backhoe	\$242,000
Prime Mover Kenworth	\$390,783
Toyota Hilux	\$57,655
OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS	
Ouse Toilet ash felt work	\$19,890
Ouse Hall automatic door, landing & ramp	\$11,755
Hamilton Recreation Ground power upgrade	\$249,775
Derwent Catchment Project Nursey expansion	\$15,505
Gretna Cricket Club Changerooms upgrade	\$65,736
Wayatinah Refurbish Toilets and Playground	\$176,251
Wayatinah Sports & Golf Club building	4,297
Fence - Patrick & George St, Bothwell	\$8,345

Rating of Renewable Energy Operations in Central Highlands

Residents may not be aware that for complex legal reasons, renewable energy operations in the Central Highlands pay no rates. Under a Federal Government requirement, Hydro Tasmania pays a rate equivalent, to the State Government, therefore nothing is paid to Council

Mainland governments commonly impose on energy producers payment of a rates equivalent, with the billing going to the energy companies.

Council lobbying the State Government, has enabled Council to rate property owners on land where renewable energy plants are sited, not the renewable energy operators.

This is not Council's preferred method. This approach is administratively difficult, however it should in the longer term add substantially to Council's income.

Council will continue to work toward a simpler approach to be able to directly rate the energy plant owners. I will keep you informed as we progress.

Community Partnerships

Council continues to provide support to the various community groups, schools, activities, and through individual scholarships.

On behalf of the council, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who generously dedicate their time and provide invaluable support to our communities. Councillors and I continue to be representatives on many committees across the municipality. I thank those councillors who put in their time and effort.

Professional and Personal Development Opportunities

There have been additional opportunities for me in attending the elected members Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) meetings and conferences especially the 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 our local communities.

I strongly believe that Council employees and our elected Councillors should continue on a path of both professional and personal development opportunities. 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.

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).

Structure Plans for Bothwell, Hamilton and Ouse

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

The project will develop municipal settlement and economic development strategies. Council envisage that the structure planning process will be an exciting opportunity for townships to come together to plan out the future of our towns.

Council's project to strategically plan for the future of Bothwell, Hamilton and Ouse has been completed, with the final 'Structure Plans' being endorsed at the July Council meeting. These plans set out a vision for each town and contain a range of strategies for Council to pursue. They were developed with significant input from each community and included funding assistance from the State Government.

The recommendations within each plan are categorised as either *implement, facilitate or advocate*, depending on Council's role within a particular subject area. They are further classified as either short, medium or long term strategies. It is intended that Council will develop an implementation plan for each 'Structure Plan'.

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.

Update on Health Services in Ouse

As our 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 PRACITIONER 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 timeframe.

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. As your Mayor and spokesperson of Council, with Council's support I will continue to lobby all tiers of Government for these vital services for our Central Highlands Community.

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.

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 2025



Loueen Triffitt
Mayor
0409 269 702



Jim Allwright
Deputy Mayor
0448 297 689



Anthony (Tony) Bailey
Councillor



Anthony Archer
Councillor
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 2025				
Mayor Loueen Triffitt	14		-	14
Deputy Mayor James Allwright	13		1	14
Cr Anthony Archer	13	1	-	14
Cr Anthony (Tony) Bailey	13		1	14
Cr Robert Cassidy	14		-	14
Cr Julie Honner	14		-	14
Cr John Hall	14		-	14
Cr David Meacheam	13		1	14
Cr Yvonne Miller	14		-	14

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 2025								
Mayor Loueen Triffitt	3			3	12		2	14
Deputy Mayor James Allwright	9			9	14			14
Cr Anthony Archer					11		3	14
Cr Anthony (Tony) Bailey	3		3	6	12		2	14
Cr Robert Cassidy	3			3	12		2	14
Cr Julie Honner					14			14
Cr John Hall	3			3	14			14
Cr David Meacheam	5		1	6	13		1	14
Cr Yvonne Miller					12		2	14

Current Council Committee Representation as of 30 June 2025

Audit Panel

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

Plant Committee

Cr A Archer (Chair)
Cr A Bailey
Cr J Hall

Independent Living Units Committee

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

Finance Committee

Cr (Dr) Meacheam (Chair)
Cr A Archer
Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr J Hall (Proxy)

Economic Development Special Committee

Cr (Dr) Meacheam (Chair)
Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr R Cassidy
Community Members (4)

Community Development Special Committee

Mayor L Triffitt (Chair)
Cr J Honner
Cr Y Miller
Community Members (4)

External Committee Representation as of 30 June 2025

Derwent Catchment Project

Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr R Cassidy (Proxy)

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 (Proxy)

Southern Tasmanian Council Authority (STCA)

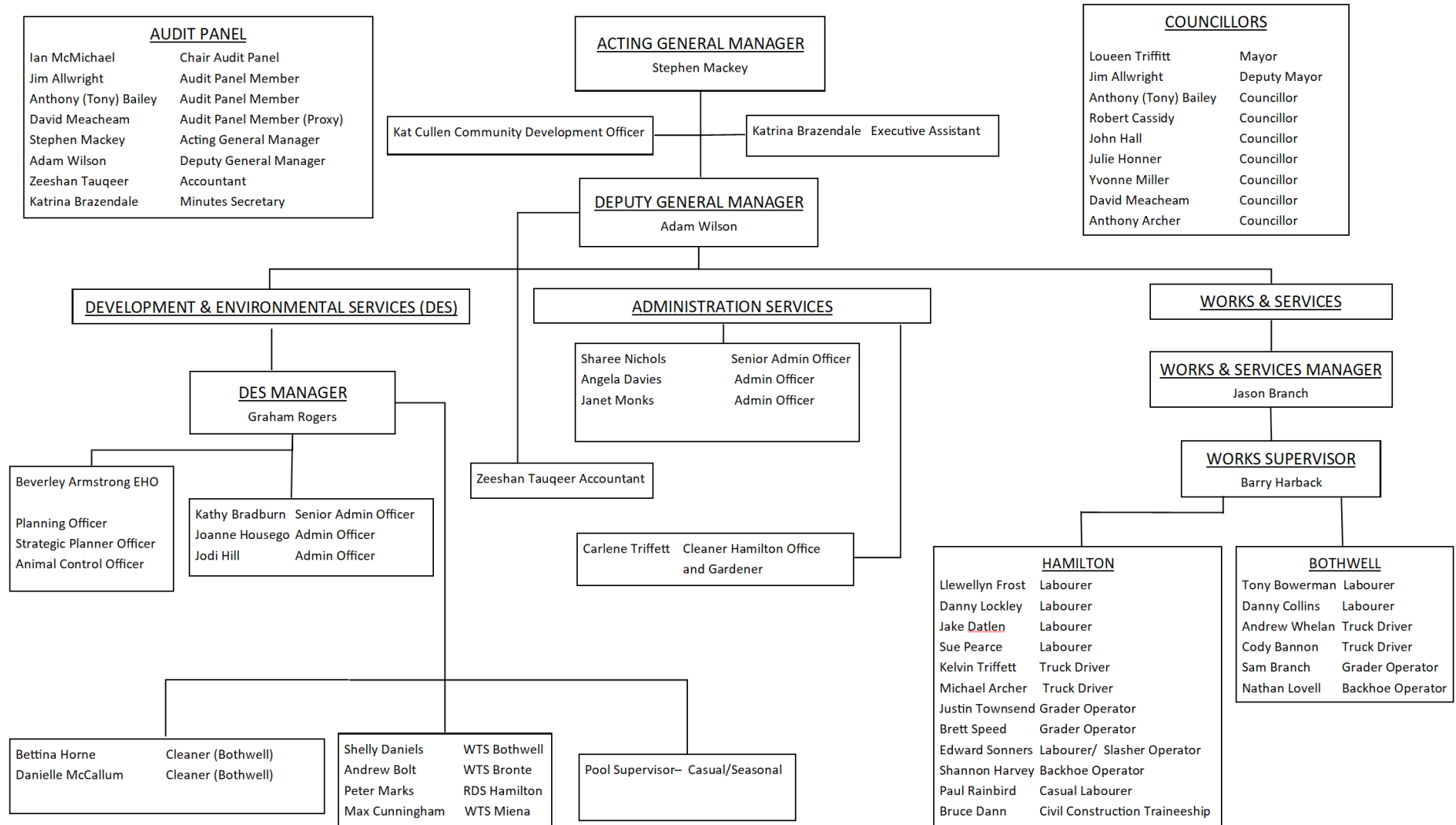
Mayor L Triffitt
Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)

South Central Sub-Region (SCS) Working Group

Mayor L Triffitt
Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)

Organisational Structure on 30 June 2025

Central Highlands Council – Organisational Structure (30th June 2025)



Overview & Highlights

Anzac Day Services

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

- 6am Gretna Dawn Service and community breakfast at Gretna Green Hotel
- 6am Fentonbury Service and community breakfast at Westerway Community Hall
- 6am Bronte Park Service and community BBQ
- 6am Arthurs Lake Service
- 9am Great Lake Community Centre Service and BBQ
- 11am Hamilton Service with community lunch at 1826 Bar and Bistro - Hamilton Inn
- 11am Bothwell Service with community lunch at The Castle Hotel



Picture – Bothwell 11.00 am Service 2025

Australia Day Awards

A morning tea was held at the Hamilton Hall for the presentation of the Australia Day Awards.

The Central Highlands Australia Day Citizen of the Year was awarded to David Hean

David Hean has been nominated for his many years of service to the local community through emergency services since 1980. David has volunteered as a firefighter, and as a SES volunteer in road crash rescue, storm damage, and traffic control. David is both Fire Brigade Chief and Group Officer at Bradys Lake. David often attends incidents primarily on his own, and at all hours of the day and night and in all weather. David played a pivotal role in the Brady's Lake fires February 2024.



Picture – Australia Day Citizen of the Year 2025

The Central Highlands Young Citizens of the Year were awarded to three joint recipients in 2025, Donielle Bradburn, Sophie Brazendale and Robert Porter

Danielle Bradburn has been nominated for the positive impact on the Bothwell High School culture in her role as School Captain, through her achievement, conduct, commitment to helping others and her willingness to step up into leadership roles.

Sophie Brazendale has been nominated for her volunteering commitment, and sporting achievements. Sophie volunteers for both the Bothwell Golf Club and Gretna Cricket Clubs. In her Cricket career, Sophie plays for both Gretna and Glenorchy Cricket Clubs and was selected for the Hurricanes Rookies Program for 2025.

Robert Porter has been nominated for his leadership, conduct, and role as a House Leader. Robert volunteers his time to coordinate school activities, and in addition to his strong leadership qualities, Robert was recognised for his compassion and willingness to lend a helping hand to others.



Picture – Australia Day Young Citizens of the Year 2025

The Australia Day Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Bothwell Lions Theatre Group for their production ‘Can I Ignore You Later’

Bothwell Lions Theatre Group production ‘Can I Ignore You Later’, directed by Linda Boulter.

This production not only provided the residents of Bothwell with a fantastic night out at the Bothwell Hall, but through the tireless work of Linda Boulter, many locals were able to have their first experience in theatre – both as cast and behind the scenes.

Australia Day Certificate of Excellence

Presented in recognition to those in our community who, through their dedication, innovation, and hard work, help make the Central Highlands such a great place to live.

Michael Brooks for his service to the community over the previous 55 years through his work at Elders, and his volunteering in many community organisations.

Wade Gleeson for over 20 years of dedicated service to the development of junior cricket in the Central Highlands community.

Linda McCusker for her volunteering efforts over the past forty years in rescuing, desexing, and rehoming numerous stray cats of the Hamilton district.

The Great Lake Tie-in in recognition of the hard work of its committee, and the impact that this event has made over many years to the fly-fishing community, both locally, and much further afield.



Picture – Australia Day 2025

Council Congratulates all our award nominees.

Summary of key activities and achievements the Derwent Catchment Project has made in the Central Highlands in 24/25

During the period of the 2024/2025 financial year, the Derwent Catchment Project achieved a highly productive year of collaboration within the Central Highlands. Major achievements included the successful implementation of the Central Highlands Weed Management Plan, with targeted programs at Dee Lagoon, Tarraleah, Poatina, and along the Lyell Highway reducing invasive plant populations across priority sites. Significant progress was also made in river restoration, with ongoing maintenance and weed control along the Ouse River township and the Platypus Walk on the Clyde River in Hamilton, enhancing habitat quality and riverbank stability. The launch of the Clyde River Flood Resilience Project set the stage for significant flood mitigation and willow removal over the coming three years.

Community engagement remained a strong focus, with workshops and education days empowering landholders and volunteers to take part in weed management and restoration. The expansion of the Hamilton Native Plant Nursery increased capacity to supply locally grown native plants, ensuring long-term support for revegetation projects across the region. These outcomes were made possible through close collaboration with partners including Hydro Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, TasNetworks, Biosecurity Tasmania, State Growth, TAFE, and local landholders. Together, these efforts are enhancing the resilience of the Central Highlands' landscapes and building stronger community stewardship of the environment.



WEED MANAGEMENT

Central Highlands Weed Management Plan

Implementation of the Central Highlands Weed Management Plan remained a central focus of the Derwent Catchment Project's work in 2024/2025. Strategic weed control was delivered across multiple high-priority sites, combining on-ground treatments, monitoring, and landholder engagement. These efforts were supported by Hydro Tasmania, Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, TasNetworks, Biosecurity Tasmania, and Central Highlands Council, alongside local landholders and volunteers.

Tarraleah Broom Program

The Tarraleah broom eradication program continued in 2024/2025, with around 80% of the original infestation now controlled. Efforts focused on treating scattered regrowth and isolated plants, supported by management burns to deplete the seedbank and prevent reinfestation. Work has expanded around the township and along key access routes, with the program on track to move to periodic monitoring and maintenance within the next two years.

Dee Lagoon

Weed management at Dee Lagoon in 2024/2025 focused on follow-up control and monitoring to prevent regrowth at previously treated sites. Recently burnt areas from the 2024 fire were also assessed and treated for emerging thistles. Control works targeted Californian thistle, Scotch thistle, gorse, canary broom, English broom, cotoneaster, sweet briar, and large holly and broom plants interspersed within native vegetation. A cut-and-paste herbicide method was used to minimise off-target impacts and support native regeneration.

In the southern treatment area, management shifted from broad-scale spraying to targeted cut-and-paste and knapsack applications, reducing herbicide use while maintaining effectiveness. Weed infestations are now limited to small, isolated patches, allowing crews to consolidate past gains and keep weed pressure low across the lagoon foreshore.



Poatina Ragwort

The Derwent Catchment Project completed targeted ragwort control at Poatina in February with 8 days of work from Arthurs Lake to the Northern Midlands boundary. This work is ongoing from the major Poatina fire in 2013. A survey was also conducted to map ragwort distribution and refine our monitoring method.

Lyell Highway

Woody weed control has been carried out along the Lyell Highway from north of Ouse to New Norfolk, supporting neighbouring landholders and delivering corridor-wide coverage. Infestations of fennel, broom, and blackberry between Ouse and Gretna were systematically treated, with blackberry eradication extended across all management zones removing alternative fruit-fly hosts.

Orange Hawkweed Program

The Orange Hawkweed Program, supported by Central Highlands Council, Hydro Tasmania, Sustainable Timbers Tasmania, and the Department of State Growth, continued during 2024/2025 with on-ground control and monitoring across key sites at Butlers Gorge, Shannon, Miena, and The Steppes.

A new 1 m² spray treatment method, adapted from the NSW Parks program, was trialled to replace individual spot-spraying on dry sites. The new approach is showing early success, with visible reductions in infestation density. Surveillance at Bronte Park included the use of scent-detection dogs to locate remaining infestations. A newly disturbed subdivision area, where contaminated soil had spread hawkweed, is now under active management with support from landholders. Work with TasNetworks targeted infestations under powerlines to reduce the risk of spread through machinery movement.



RIVER RECOVERY AND FLOOD RESILIENCE

Clyde River Flood Resilience Project

The launch of the Clyde River Flood Resilience Project marked a significant milestone for Derwent Catchment Project and the Central Highlands. Supported by \$1.97 million from the Disaster Ready Fund, the project involves Council, the Derwent Catchment Project, State Growth, Hydro Tasmania and affected landholders. The program will focus on willow removal, stormwater upgrades, and stabilisation works to reduce flood risk and protect productive land. This year, activities centred on community consultation, site assessments and the development of a delivery schedule for the three-year program.

Tyenna River Recovery Program

The Tyenna River Recovery Program, which includes the upper reaches of the river within the Central Highlands, continued throughout 2024/2025 as part of the broader Derwent Catchment Project's efforts to restore and protect regional waterways. Guided by a ten-year management plan developed in 2020 with support from the Fisheries Habitat Improvement Fund, the program focused on willow control, debris clearing, and native revegetation along priority sections of the river. More than 1,500 native plants were established along a degraded two-kilometre reach, improving riparian habitat and bank stability. Targeted control of foxglove and Californian thistle helped to reduce competition with native vegetation and enhance ecosystem recovery.

The Willow Warriors volunteer network, supported by the Inland Fisheries Service, Lenah Estate, and Tassal, ran a series of working bees during the year. Activities included treating willows downstream of Tassal, beneath the TasWater pipeline, and on adjacent private properties. Flood risk reduction works were also completed, including the removal of storm-damaged willows near Westerway and the clearing of a major log jam near Mt Field with TasRail assistance.

Platypus Walk Maintenance

Restoration efforts also continued along the Platypus Walk section of the Clyde River in Hamilton, where weed control and maintenance works targeted willows, thistles and hawthorn saplings. Follow-up spraying and cutting ensured that previous gains were sustained and native species could continue to re-establish.

Ouse River Maintenance

Maintenance works continued along the Ouse River through the township in 2024/2025, focusing on controlling willows, thistles and hawthorn saplings to prevent regrowth and protect earlier restoration gains. Regular spraying and brush-cutting helped maintain riverbank stability and native vegetation recovery, improving both habitat quality and the visual appeal of the river corridor. These efforts form part of the Derwent Catchment Project's broader riparian maintenance program, supported by Central Highlands Council and local volunteers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 9 November 2024, at Currunga Farm, with 50 participants in attendance. The event featured talks from CEO Josie Kelman, Weed Program Coordinator Morgan McPherson, and President Charles Downie, who each reflected on the year's achievements and priorities for the future.

A panel discussion followed, with contributions from Sarah Barrington (farmer), Vicki Bonwick (Willow Warriors paddling volunteer), and Thomas Wester (TasNetworks), who shared their experiences working with the Derwent Catchment Project and discussed the value of the programs in supporting community, environmental, and industry outcomes. Feedback from attendees was positive, noting the strength of partnerships and the ongoing impact of Derwent Catchment Project's work across the region.

Community weed workshops

Community weed workshops, supported by TasNetworks and Hydro Tasmania, continued to build local capacity in weed management across the Central Highlands. A Great Lakes Community Day, held in January, provided practical, hands-on training in the identification and control of English broom, gorse, lupins, and ragwort. Participants gained experience in applying best-practice techniques in the field.

Funding support from the Cattle Hill Wind Farm Community Grant enabled the purchase of a community chemical storage unit and delivery of chemical handling accreditation training. These initiatives ensure that local landholders and volunteers are now equipped with the skills and resources to carry out safe, effective, and ongoing weed management into the future.

BEST PRACTICE FARMING

Carbon Farming Outreach Program

Supported by the Australian Government, the Carbon Farming Outreach Program workshop was held in June at the Hamilton Resource Centre, drawing strong participation from landholders across the Central Highlands. The session explored how greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting requirements are increasingly shaping on-farm management and business planning.

Presentations covered local case studies showing the main sources of agricultural emissions, compared available carbon calculators, and discussed how to set baselines and develop emissions reduction strategies. The workshop also outlined carbon farming opportunities suited to the Central Highlands landscape, including eligibility, indicative costs, and potential benefits for landholders. It concluded with an overview of emerging nature and biodiversity markets, such as the Nature Repair Bill, and provided practical guidance on how producers can participate.

Climate Smart Farming Project

The Climate Smart Farming Project is a four-year initiative supporting producers in the Central Highlands and Southern Tasmania to build more resilient farming systems. Led by Peter Ball in collaboration with NRM South, the project helps farmers trial and adopt management practices that balance productivity with long-term sustainability. It extends the work of the Derwent Pasture Network, providing practical, science-based tools for adapting to an increasingly variable climate.

During the first year, the project reviewed existing Derwent Pasture Network trials, engaged local producers, and identified key climate adaptation priorities through surveys and discussions. This information is now guiding future extension content and trial design. An Integrated Pest Management Workshop, delivered by Peter Ball, attracted a strong turnout from farmers across the Central Highlands. Participants learned about biological pest control, alternatives to chemical spraying, and the importance of maintaining beneficial species and habitat diversity within farm landscapes. Future project focus areas include improving legume persistence, perennial grass vigour, and rooting depth to strengthen the long-term resilience of the region's pasture systems.

MIENA CIDER GUMS

With support from Hydro Tasmania, the Derwent Catchment Project completed a 2024/2025 census and health assessment of the Miena cider gum (*Eucalyptus gunnii* subsp. *divaricata*) in the Central Highlands. The survey mapped remaining trees, assessed their health and reproduction, and reviewed the effectiveness of fencing and possum protection at key sites such as Rainbow Point, St Patricks Plains, and Arthurs Flume. The census recorded 1,650 mature trees across 28 sites, showing a 43% decline since 2010, with only 10% in good health. Reproduction is now concentrated at a few strongholds, including Brandum Bay, Rainbow Point, and Miena, though several historical sites have lost all living trees.

On a positive note, an ex-situ population of 80 gums established on Cockatoo Hills, a property managed by Jason Whitehead, are now seven years old and thriving. These trees are cared for through regular watering, insect protection, and Aboriginal-led cool burning to reduce fuel loads. The success of this site demonstrates the potential for targeted management and partnerships to support the recovery of this iconic Central Highlands species.

All census records and locations will be shared with councils to assist with planning and are available now on the Natural Values Atlas.

NURSERY EXPANSION

The Hamilton Native Plant Nursery has undergone significant upgrades over the past year, doubling its footprint following site excavations and the removal of two large pine trees.

The expanded area has been gravelled and fitted with new benches, irrigation, power to the hothouse and shed, internal shed lining, and a new perimeter fence, providing a strong foundation for future growth.

Production was strong, with around 31,000 plants grown during the year, and capacity is expected to increase to 80,000 plants in the coming season. Expansion into cutting propagation will further diversify the range of species available for local revegetation projects. Promotion through Highlands Bushfest, local shows, the New Norfolk Market, and the Highland Digest has increased community awareness and demand. The Central Highlands Council's support has been instrumental in enabling the nursery's continued development and contribution to regional restoration efforts.



LOOKING FORWARD

The Derwent Catchment Project has had another successful year, achieving strong results across weed management, river restoration, sustainable agriculture, carbon and biodiversity planning, and community engagement. The Hamilton Native Plant Nursery doubled its footprint and increased production capacity, while major weed control programs at Dee Lagoon, Tarraleah, Poatina, and Miena continued to deliver on-ground improvements. Community participation was high through workshops, field days, and events such as the Hamilton Show and Highlands Bushfest, building local knowledge and engagement in land management and conservation.

Through the efforts of our dedicated team, partners, and volunteers, the project continues to strengthen the resilience and productivity of the Central Highlands landscape. In the year ahead, Derwent Catchment Project will focus on implementing the Clyde River Flood Resilience Project, advancing strategic weed programs, and introducing the Nature Repair Pilot—bringing new investment into the catchment and supporting long-term, nature-based outcomes for the region.

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

Continue support of local organisations and groups.

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.

Groups to benefit were:

- Bothwell Exercise Group – waive hall hire fees Bothwell Hall for exercise classes.
- Playgroup Tasmania – 'waive hall hire fees Bothwell Football Club and Community Centre for their weekly Playgroup meeting.
- Bothwell Historical Society Inc. – lease of Old Headmasters Home at subsidised rate
- Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH) waive hall hire fees Bothwell Hall and Bothwell Football Club and Community Centre when required, for HATCH's exercise classes on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.
- Ouse On-Line Access Centre – lease of premises at subsidised rate
- Ouse Country Club Inc. – Lease of Ouse Bowls Club at subsidised rate
- HATCH – lease of Ash Cottage as a Neighbourhood House rent free
- Ouse Table Tennis Club – waive hall hire fees Ouse Hall for table tennis roster and training
- HATCH – waive hall hire fees Ouse Hall for exercise classes.

	➤ Great Lake Community Centre Inc. – lease of premises at subsidised rate ➤ Wayatinah Sports and Social Club – lease of Wayatinah Golf Course and Club House at subsidised rate ➤ The Derwent Catchment Project – use of premises at subsidised rate ➤ Ellendale Hall Committee – use of Ellendale Hall at subsidised rate
Continue the support of community groups and clubs through in-kind assistance as well as through Council's Community Grants Program.	Council provided assistance through the Community Grants Program to the following: ➤ Bothwell Golf Club \$900. ➤ Bothwell Lions Club \$500. ➤ Dementia Australia donation \$150. ➤ Great Lake Community Centre Inc \$2000. ➤ Hamilton Show \$17,538 for event support. ➤ Australia Day Events \$3503 towards festivities and awards. ➤ Highlands Digest \$10,859 towards supporting community information dissemination. ➤ Westway Community Hall Association \$1500. ➤ Kristy Mayne to assist with travel costs to attend the National AFL Masters Football Carnival in Fremantle \$500. ➤ Rotary Club of Tasmania donation \$280 for the 2024 Hobart Annual Magic Show. ➤ Cooper Smythe donation \$250 to assist attending the 2024 Australian All Schools Track and Field Championships. ➤ Great Lake Tie-in Association Inc. donation \$1000 towards the 2025 Tie-in. ➤ Miena Seisiün a sub-group of the Folk Federation of Tasmania donation of \$1500 towards the 2025 Miena Seisiün Concert & Dance. ➤ Gretna Cricket Club donation of \$250 towards 2025 junior and senior trophy presentations. ➤ Catherine Watson to assist with travel costs to attend community training for HATCH \$225. ➤ Cooper Smythe donation \$500 towards travel costs to attend the Australian Track and Field Championships. ➤ Reuben Stott donation \$500 towards costs associated with attending the Indoor Cricket National Championships. ➤ Immune Deficiencies Foundation of Australia donation \$280 towards support for Hobart Razzamatazz. ➤ Endo Giving Day donation \$500. ➤ Ouse Country Club donation \$700 towards update to carpet in the Ouse Country Club. ➤ Campdrafting Tasmania Inc. donation \$300 towards Honorary Membership Award 2025. ➤ Playgroup Tasmania Inc. donation \$1,679 towards new storage cupboards for the Bothwell Playgroup at the Bothwell Hall.

	➤ Bronte Jones donation \$500 towards travel costs associated with attendance at the 2025 Australian Football 15 Years and Under Championships.
Provide annual bursaries for a child at each school continuing further education and Annual citizenship awards.	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.
Provide assistance to continue the home day care facility at Bothwell.	Council continually contributed \$5,000 to the Brighton Family Day Care towards providing assistance to continue the Family Day Care service at Ouse. Council is actively assisting to help establish services throughout the Municipal area.
Continue to allocate funds to the provision of medical services to Ouse and Bothwell.	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.
Support programs and activities that promote the health and wellbeing of our community.	Council continues to work with Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH) to deliver programs and activities that promote health. Establish Neighbourhood House at Ash Cottage as part of the Tasmanian neighbourhood House network. Council provided support for HATCH mental health week event at Ouse Hall, which was a well-attended community event, which included BlazeAid volunteers. Council has provided financial assistance to the breakfast program at Bothwell District High School. Bothwell Community Playgroup is held each week at the Bothwell Football Club and Community Centre. The Meal Delivery Program, which provides frozen meals to Central Highlands residents at a nominal cost continues and our thanks go to Mrs Tracey Turale and HATCH. In collaboration with Rural Business Tasmania, Council supported a volunteer week activity at Bothwell Hall.

	Supporting re-launch of rural financial counselling service by Rural Business Tasmania being run out of Bothwell Council offices once a fortnight. Free driver training for school students and locals through RACT, which has been funded through a Cattle Hill Grant. Council working with Bothwell community to identify extent of need for long daycare in community. Ongoing support of NDIS funded pre-employment training course for locals at Ouse, with the aim of increasing disability services, and employment opportunities locally. Working with Ouse Online Access Centres and Libraries Tasmanian to look at digital inclusion needs in community. Council Funded and co-ordinated “Women of the Highlands” a local health and wellbeing event in celebration of International Women’s Day in partnership with the Gretna Green Hotel. Council support for Cattle Hill Wind farm community grant program through assisting applicants, and involvement of Community Development Officer in grant steering committee. Council's involvement as part of clinic working group for Central Highlands Community Health Centre and working with Primary Health Tasmania to look at Innovative models of care at Central Highlands Community Health Centre. Support for Action Crews's 'Listen Louder' project - aimed at amplifying the voices of local young people through creative film projects. Other Health and Wellbeing programs partnering with HATCH are held over the year e.g. community walking program, yoga and relaxation, Freedom Health & Wellness exercise classes, girls connect program, strength and balance program to name a few.
Continue to support Regional Groups of benefit to Central Highlands residents.	Council is a member of the following regional groups: ➤ Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority ➤ Destination Southern Tasmania ➤ South Central Sub-Region Group ➤ Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) ➤ Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority ➤ Tasmanian Local Government Health and Wellbeing Network ➤ Communities for Children Working Group ➤ Child & Youth Safety Peer Learning Network

Advocate on behalf of our community on Regional, State and National issues.	Council continues to advocate for the best outcomes for the Central Highlands.
Community communication and engagement.	Council provides communication and engagement: ➤ Provide information about Council and community initiatives through the Council social media pages ➤ Installation of new noticeboard for Ellendale community. ➤ Update community information through local noticeboards. ➤ Provide updates about community and council information through the Highland Digest. ➤ Update of tourism brochures. ➤ Updates to Residents guide. ➤ Provision of Annual rates newsletter.
Continue with implementation of the priorities listed in the Central Highlands Health & Wellbeing Plan.	Council continues to implement the priorities of the Health & Wellbeing Plan 2020-2025. Our Community Development Officer continues to work through programs identified within the Plan.
Continue to support and participate as a member of the Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH).	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.

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 Accountant, Senior Staff, Audit Panel and Council.
Thousand Acre Lane Widening, Stabilisation and Seal (Stage 4)	Works have been undertaken and completed
Wayatinah Refurbish Toilets	Works have been undertaken and completed
Ouse Toilet Replacement	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Old Mans Head improve line of site (Black Spot Funding)	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Cramps Bay - Junction apron	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Purchase Backhoe	Purchase Completed
Purchase Prime Mover Kenworth	Purchase Completed
Ouse Walkway Lighting Upgrade	Works have been undertaken and completed.

Patrick Street, Bothwell asphalt works on verges	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Stabalisation Hollow Tree Road	Works have been undertaken and completed.
River Street, Hamilton	Design and Survey work completed.
Wayatinah Streets Reseal 1.5km	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Arthurs Lake Road Reseal 2km	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Bothwell Town Streets Reseal 1.5km	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Resheeting of Gravel Roads	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Hamilton Campground Overflow Area	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Derwent Catchment Project - Nursery Expansion	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Hamilton Show Ground power upgrade	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

Identify appropriate grant funding to leverage Council funding for projects.	Grants received: ➤ Financial Assistance Grants from the State Grants Commission - \$2,289,945 ➤ Federal Road to Recovery Grant - \$1,037,944 ➤ Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grants - \$675,196 ➤ Black spot funding - \$78,000 ➤ Clyde River Flood Resilience - \$491,525 ➤ Isolated Communities Resilience - \$78,493 ➤ MHW Grant Mental Health - \$450
Continually review and update policies and Council’s Risk Register.	Council’s Risk Register and Policies are updated by staff as required and is reviewed at each Audit Panel Meeting.
Ensure Annual Financial Statements are completed within the statutory timeframe.	Council’s Annual Financial Statements were completed and lodged with the Tasmanian Audit Office.
Provide financial management reports to Council monthly.	Financial reports are prepared by Council’s Accountant on a monthly basis and are tabled on the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda each month.

Continue participation in the Local Government Shared Services and South-Central Sub-Region Group and identify other services that can be resource shared.

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.

The South-Central Sub-Region (SCS) was formed 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.

The South-Central Jobs Tasmania Hub is located at Pontville (renamed Southcentral Workforce Network Jobs Hub) it covers the Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Southern Midlands and Brighton municipal areas.

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

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.	Council continues to fund natural resource management through funding to the Derwent Catchment Project of \$40,000 per year. Hamilton Nursery Expansion \$14,711. Additional funds are provided to support grant applications of benefit to the Central Highlands, which included: NRM Projects \$40,000 and the Disaster Ready Fund - Round 2 — DRFR200184 - Clyde River Flood Resilience Project: Instalment 1 - \$491,525
Work with other stakeholders, land managers and government agencies to ensure strategic weed control.	Council continues to work closely with the Derwent Catchment Project to implement its Weed Strategy and allocated \$28,200 in funds to carry out weed management.
Actively participate as a member of the newly created Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority.	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

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.	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. The opening hours for the manned sites is available on Council's website. Manned waste transfer sites are available at Bothwell, Miena and Bronte Park. A Refuse Disposal site is located at Hamilton. Two Bulky Waste Collections per year are provided throughout the municipal area. This is designed to allow residents to place items out for collection that are too bulky or unsuitable for the door-to-door collection. 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. Roadside stand-alone bins are placed at Reynolds Neck, Brandum Bay, Jiliet 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. All waste and recycling collected is reported to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania annually.
Provide education and encouragement of recycling within the Municipality to expand the life of the Hamilton Refuse Site.	Council provides recycling facilities throughout the Municipal area and have a fortnightly door to door recycling collection throughout our towns. 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.
Facilitate regular meetings of the Central Highlands Municipal Emergency Management Committee and ensure that the Central Highlands Municipal Emergency Management Plan is reviewed and remains current.	Central Highlands Municipal Emergency Management Committee held a meeting on the 4 November 2024 to discuss the Dee Lagoon / Brady's Lake Bush Fire, Ouse rain event, new SES flood plans and agency updates. 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 2025/2026.

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 2024 with 4,161 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.

Engage and strengthen the community by supporting community events and local initiatives that enhance visitation to the Central Highlands.	Council provides funding and in-kind support to community groups providing events in the Central Highlands. Council continues to support the annual Hamilton Show event held in March each year.
Promotion of Central Highlands through production of material and via Council's website and Council's Facebook page.	Council's website and Facebook page is updated regularly by Staff. Council's brochure and maps are distributed widely throughout the State.
Continue support of the Highland Digest to enable it to provide community information to residents.	Council provides an allocation of \$10,859 to the Ouse On-line Access Centre to assist with the production of the Highland Digest which it provides a valuable avenue for dissemination of information and news about the Central Highlands.
Continue to support local events that encourage visitation to the Central Highlands.	Council supported the following – ➤ Hamilton Show ➤ Sheep Station Cup - Bothwell (Golf Event) ➤ CWA / Lions Club Functions ➤ Great Lake Tie-in ➤ Miena Seisiún Concert & Dance ➤ Australia Day Events ➤ Rural Alive and Well Events ➤ Tasmanian Camp Drafting
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.	The Central Highlands Visitor Centre, home of the Tasmanian Tartan, is manned by a dedicated group of volunteers. The Centre has items for sale that promotes the Central Highlands, displays and sell local products on consignment.
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.	The Workforce Development Coordinator continues to support and engage with local jobseekers and businesses alike.

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

Annually review Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Strategy and Long-Term Asset Management Plans.	Council's Long Term Financial Management Plan and Strategy are current and are continuously reviewed by the Audit Panel. Council's Asset Management Plans are current and are continuously reviewed by the Audit Panel.
Continually monitor and review Council's financial situation and report findings to Council in a clear and transparent format on a monthly basis.	Council's Accountant provides regular updates and reports to Council at monthly Council Meetings and to the Audit Panel.
Encourage staff to undertake training to further develop their skills.	Council encourages staff to undertake any training they may require. The following training was provided in 2024/25: ➤ CERT 3 in Civil Operations on going x 2 employees. ➤ Small plant competency training

	➤ First aid training ➤ Grader assessments ➤ Magiq Records Management Training
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.	Information regarding seminars, training etc. is disseminated to Councillors. Councillors have undertaken the online learning modules which are part of the State Government's Local Government Learning and Development Framework. This program is run by the State Government (through the Office of Local Government and now the Local Government Association of Tasmania) to build the knowledge and skills of councillors. It aims to create more effective councillors by providing learning experiences that include a mix of on-the-job activities, learning from relationships like coaching and networks, and formal learning. The framework is designed to ensure councillors can effectively serve their communities and comply with the legal requirements of local government.
Review the Risk Register at each Audit Panel Meeting	Council's Risk Register is updated regularly and presented at each Audit Panel.
Ensure ongoing compliance with all legislation, regulations and codes of practice which impact upon Council.	Council endeavours to ensure that it complies with the requirements of all legislation, regulations and codes of practice applicable to Local Government.
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.	Council sends out a newsletter with rates instalment notices as required. Council's Mayor provides a monthly column for the Highland Digest. Additional information is posted to Council's Facebook page and website.
Continually review Council Policies	Council's policies are continually reviewed and updated where necessary. A Policy Index is provided to the Audit Panel to ensure that all policies are reviewed by their due review date. New Policies are adopted as and when required.
Participate in the Future of Local Government Review	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.

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 2024-25

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:

- 54 food business registrations, and 2 mobile food vans. All licenced as required by legislation and inspections are conducted regularly.
- Council has a subscription for food safety training which is 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 Council's 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. EMP review has been completed for 2025 and sent to EPA.
- AWTs Service Monitoring of which Council has 56 systems, service records kept for all systems. A compliance Audit was requested from the Department of Justice and all information and records were supplied.
- Monitoring of EPN's issued by Council.
- Council have 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, once yearly sampling as approved. Bothwell Public Swimming Pool monitored and sampled as required by legislation.
- Private Water Licences issues and monitored.
- Annual Reporting done by the 30th September each year for Recreational Water monitoring, Private Water Licences, Food Premises and Waste Reporting, Regulated Systems, EHO information.
- All environmental or health complaints followed up and or investigated.

‘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 56 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)

Development Statistics

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Total No Applications	60	80	84	114	134	79	77	61
No. Permitted	5	10	12	28	26	14	18	11
No. Discretionary	40	39	33	47	68	49	43	36
Subdivision Applications	2	11	9	5	14	12	6	4
No. Lots	3	32	5	4	77	64	13	6
Planning Scheme Amendments	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
No Permit Required	13	20	30	39	40	16	16	14

Building Statistics

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Total No. Buildings	53	65	61	65	68	73	53	33
Permit Work	-	23	21	21	7	11	10	8
Notifiable Work	-	36	33	29	45	47	31	18
Low Risk Work	-	6	7	15	16	15	12	7
Total No. Plumbing	36	32	34	45	54	59	42	27
Permit Work	-	21	20	23	15	29	13	16
Notifiable Work	-	6	10	15	18	10	13	1
Low Risk Work	-	5	4	7	21	20	16	10

Pool Attendance Statistics

Season Passes	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Family	1	3	-	2	1	-	-	-
Junior	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Daily Attendance								
Junior	802	935	559	694	1008	922	491	666
Adult	187	107	90	174	311	362	246	175
Spectators	-	-	-	-	-	167	83	125

Dog Control Statistics

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Dogs Registered	1044	995	1005	983	947	968	997	966
Kennel Licenses	33	30	43	29	30	29	52	33
Infringement Notices	16	21	7	8	-	26	18	14
Impounded Dogs	10	8	6	6	3	6	9	3
Declared Dangerous Dogs	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Remissions and Small Debt Write Offs

03-0200-00008	\$25.08	01-0805-02675	\$99.70
03-0201-03706	\$504.42	03-0201-03910	\$48.59
04-0017-03967	\$588.87	03-0201-00147	\$34.81
05-0700-03562	\$22.48	03-0227-04023	\$8.99
01-0853-03434	\$28.44	03-0212-00635	\$29.51
03-0203-00195	\$18.43	03-0201-00147	\$17.40
01-0805-02805	\$501.18	03-0209-00439	\$21.80
02-0103-01320	\$583.36	04-0104-03940	\$18.20
03-0218-00298	\$1653.90	03-0200-00007	\$16.10
03-0218-00299	\$49.40	01-0808-03688	\$18.70
01-0822-02275	\$20.41	01-0823-02395	\$20.87
03-0200-00011	\$23.87	03-0226-01296	\$57.60
10-0400-03595	\$202.00	End of Year - Small Balances	\$56.91
TOTAL = \$4,671.02			

Remissions given on Building, Plumbing & Development Applications 2024/2025:

Central Highlands Council

BA & PA 2025/01 – New Toilets & Changerooms - \$605.00

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

Total Remuneration Bracket	No Of Senior Employees
\$100,000 - \$120,000	2
\$140,000 - \$160,000	1
\$160,001 - \$180,000	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 **\$163,527** as per below table -

2025		Short term employee benefits				
Position	Period	Allowances	Vehicles	Total Compensation AASB 124	Expenses ¹	Total allowances and expenses section 72
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mayor	Full year	38,687	4,072	42,759	3,264	46,023
Deputy Mayor	Full year	22,703	-	22,703	4,539	27,242
Councillors	Full year	77,315	-	77,315	12,947	90,262
Total		138,705	4,072	142,777	20,750	163,527

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 2024/2025 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.

No Code of Conducts were received in 2024/2025.

\$14,382.27 was paid for costs met by the Council during the financial year in respect of all code of conduct complaints made in the previous financial year 2023/2024.

Ombudsman's Complaints

Council received no registered complaint under the *Ombudsman Act 1978*, from the Ombudsman Office during 2024/2025.

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 2024-2025.

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	
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Revenue		
User Changes	36,408	32,536
Total Revenue	36,408	32,536
Expenditure		
<i>Direct</i>		
Employee Costs	1,146	1,064
Materials and Contacts	2,429	1,872
Utilities	1,662	1,009
<i>Indirect</i>		
Engineering & Administration	229	213
Total Expenses	5,466	4,158
<i>Notional cost of free services received</i>		
<i>Capital Costs</i>		
Depreciation	273	273
Opportunity cost of capital	3,183	3,185
Total Capital Costs	3,456	3,458
<i>Competitive neutrality adjustments</i>		
Rates, water and land tax	14,842	18,769
	14,842	18,769
<i>Calculated Surplus/(Deficit)</i>	12,644	6,150
Tax Equivalent rate	25%	25%
Taxation equivalent	3,161	1,538
Competitive neutrality costs	18,003	20,307

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
Prime Mover Kenworth	September 2024	\$385,660	PACCAR Kenworth	20 – 60 Canterbury Road Bayswater Vic 3153
Reseal tender	February to May 2025	\$338,268	Roadways Pty Ltd	28 Jackson Street, Glenorchy 7010
Thousand Acre Lane Widening, Stabilisation and Seal (Stage 4)	February to April 2025	\$1,090,7120	AWC Pty Ltd	2 Whitestone Drive Austins Ferry 7011

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.

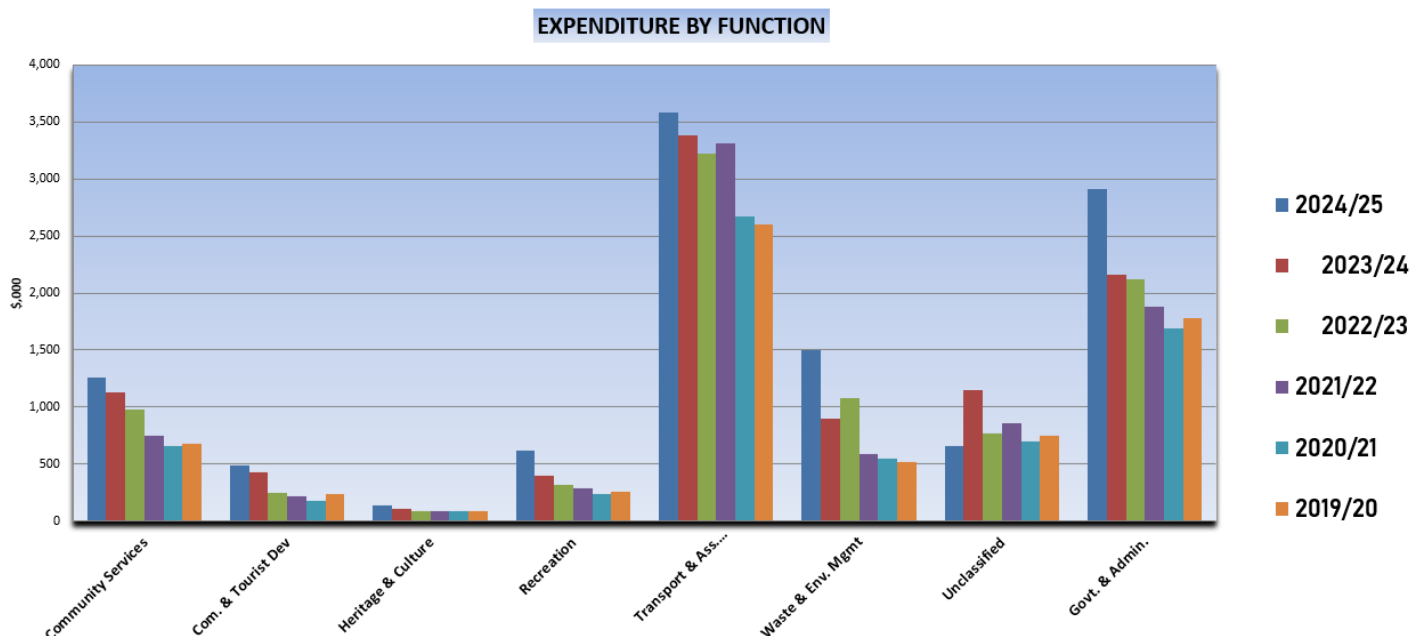
Financial Performance Indicators

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

Indicator	2025 %	2024 %	2023 %	2022 %	2021 %	2020 %	2019 %	2018 %	2017 %
Rate Revenue Analysis Rate Income: Total Revenue	56.5	49.9	41.7	47.0	52.80	52.5	50.1	50.7	50.3
Working Capital Ratio Current Assets: Current Liabilities	42.76	30.92	21.17	15.11	18.70	16.03	13.41	14.10	12.13
Debt Ratio Total Liabilities: Total Assets	1.41	1.90	1.99	1.65	2.02	2.00	1.60	1.53	1.28

Expenditure by Function

	24/25 \$'000	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	1,264	1,134	979	750	664	675	609	612	502
Com. & Tourist Development	490	429	249	219	176	235	343	151	173
Heritage & Culture	135	110	89	84	84	86	77	67	72
Recreation	622	395	324	293	235	263	253	255	242
Transport & Asset Services	3,577	3,378	3,223	3,314	2,672	2,604	2,560	2,478	2,549
Waste & Env. Management	1,503	902	1,080	588	554	519	613	527	566
Unclassified	663	1,153	770	859	698	748	966	960	597
Govt. & Admin	2,915	2,165	2,125	1,877	1,686	1,784	1,713	1,717	1,728



Reserves

Reserves	\$'000 2025	\$'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	453
Bridges	377	377	377	377	377	377	377	377	377
Sundry	151	151	151	151	147	145	242	143	143
Long Service Leave	401	401	401	401	417	444	404	354	371
Regional Refuse Site	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
Quarry Reserve	180	180	180	180	180	180	80	80	80
Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	44	170
Total	1,642	1,642	1,642	1,642	1,654	1,679	1,645	1,531	1,674

Non-Current Assets

Non-Current Asset	30-Jun-25 Asset value \$'000	30-Jun-24 Asset value \$'000	Increase/ (Decrease) \$'000
Land	6,872	6,528	344
Buildings	10,507	9,503	1004
Plant, Machinery & Equipment	2,891	2,625	266
Office Equipment	173	201	(28)
Computer Equipment	55	26	29
Infrastructure	1466	1310	156
Roads	110,644	74,074	36,570
Drainage Systems	2,738	2,728	10
Bridges	9,046	9,149	(103)
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	2,211	2,153	58
Works in Progress	852	1,053	(201)
Investment in TasWater	8,677	8,511	166
Land Under Roads	3,129	3,129	0
TOTALS	159,261	120,990	38,271

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Central Highlands Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Central Highlands Council (Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025 and statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification signed by the General Manager.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report:

- (a) presents fairly, in all material respects, Council's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

My audit responsibility does not extend to the budget figures included in the financial report, the asset renewal funding ratio disclosed in note 38(e), nor the Significant Business Activities disclosed in note 37 to the financial report and accordingly, I express no opinion on them.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Why this matter is considered to be one of the most significant matters in the audit	Audit procedures to address the matter included
Valuation of Road assets <i>Refer to note 23</i>	
As at 30 June 2025, the Council's road assets were valued at \$110.64 million, based on current replacement costs. Regular revaluations are undertaken to ensure asset values reflect fair value. In 2024–25, a full revaluation of road and footpath infrastructure was completed by external experts, Boyd and Moloney, using various assumptions and unit rates. Asset values were determined using a condition-based approach, with written down values informed by surveys and degradation analysis from Moloney Asset Management Systems. This method focuses on the physical condition of assets rather than their age. In determining the fair values of these assets, Council exercises significant judgement and the valuations are highly dependent on a range of assumptions and estimates.	• Assessing the scope, expertise and independence of experts involved to assist in the valuations. • Assessed management's oversight of the valuation process and their review of the valuation results. • Evaluated the appropriateness of the valuation methodology applied to determine fair values. • Critically assessed the assumptions and other key inputs used in the valuation model. • Tested, on a sample basis, the mathematical accuracy of the revaluation calculations and the recording of valuations in the asset register and general ledger. • Evaluated the adequacy of relevant disclosures in the financial report, including those regarding key assumptions used.

Responsibilities of the General Manager for the Financial Report

The General Manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the General Manager is responsible for assessing Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Council is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament or the Councillors intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

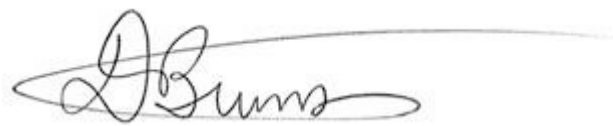
My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the General Manager.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the General Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

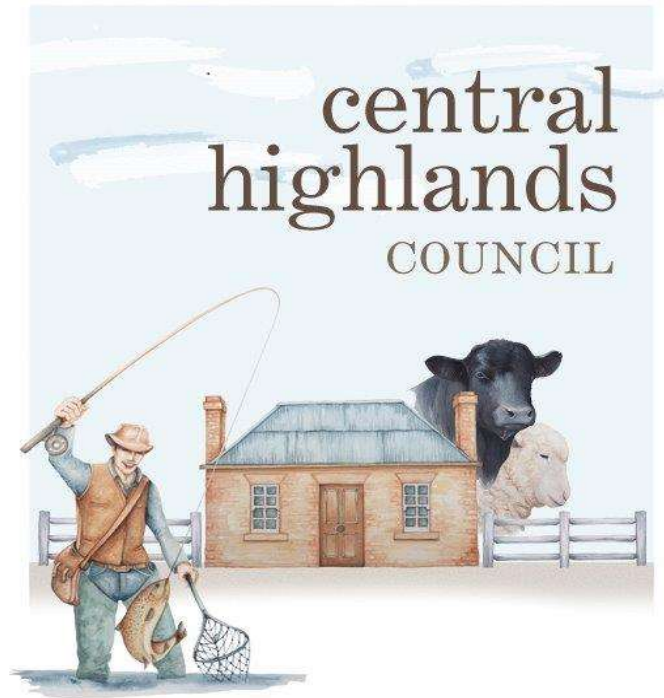
I communicate with the General Manager regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

From the matters communicated with the General Manager, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Burns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derek Burns
Assistant Auditor-General
Delegate of the Auditor-General

19 November 2025
Hobart



Central Highlands Council
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

Central Highlands Council

Financial Report

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Statement of Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	Budget 2025 \$	Actual 2025 \$	Actual 2024 \$
Income				
Income from continuing operations				
Rates and charges	5	4,682,233	4,716,364	4,477,083
Statutory fees and fines	6	76,986	47,207	38,399
User fees	7	417,264	386,543	553,183
Grants	8	3,236,515	2,368,888	3,096,668
Contributions	9	-	22,662	44,739
Interest	10	210,200	233,434	341,154
Other income	11	494,166	449,184	299,058
Investment revenue from water corporation	13	-	122,400	122,400
		9,117,364	8,346,682	8,972,684
Capital income				
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	8	2,424,996	2,282,665	845,730
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	12	-	(278,604)	(716,242)
		2,424,996	2,004,061	129,488
Total income from continuing operations		11,542,360	10,350,743	9,102,172
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee benefits	14	(2,584,261)	(3,104,847)	(2,606,871)
Materials and services	15	(2,447,768)	(3,306,850)	(2,830,812)
Depreciation and amortisation	16	(2,327,800)	(2,627,305)	(2,525,741)
Other expenses	17	(1,892,738)	(2,133,498)	(1,705,361)
Total expenses from continuing operations		(9,252,567)	(11,172,500)	(9,668,785)
Net result for the year		2,289,793	(821,757)	(566,613)
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	18 , 27(b)	-	166,094	451,944
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement)	23 , 27(a)	-	36,981,586	2,018,821
Total Other Comprehensive Income		-	37,147,680	2,470,765
Total Comprehensive result		2,289,793	36,325,923	1,904,152

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

**Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2025**

	Note	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	19	4,743,667	6,653,636
Trade and other receivables	20	261,482	383,333
Inventories	21	29,145	35,434
Other assets	22	51,597	75,910
Total current assets		5,085,891	7,148,313
Non-current assets			
Investment in water corporation	18	8,677,559	8,511,465
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	23	150,590,420	112,484,156
Total non-current assets		159,267,979	120,995,621
Total assets		164,353,870	128,143,934
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	24	898,610	1,024,895
Trust funds and deposits	25	354,456	340,747
Provisions	26	921,487	844,428
Total current liabilities		2,174,553	2,210,070
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	26	148,891	229,361
Total non-current liabilities		148,891	229,361
Total liabilities		2,323,444	2,439,431
Net Assets		162,030,426	125,704,503
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		37,456,394	38,278,151
Reserves	27	124,574,032	87,426,352
Total Equity		162,030,426	125,704,503

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

**Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2025**

	Note	2025 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$	2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates		4,705,335	4,415,149
Statutory fees and fines		51,927	38,399
User charges and other fines		424,070	604,772
Grants		2,368,888	3,096,668
Interest		234,747	351,957
Investment revenue from water corporation	13	122,400	122,400
Other receipts		516,764	343,797
Net GST refund/payment		595,201	528,879
Payments to suppliers		(6,066,255)	(5,465,908)
Payments to employees		(3,123,381)	(2,552,088)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	28	(170,304)	1,484,025
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(4,215,578)	(6,414,612)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		184,991	92,316
Capital grants		2,282,665	845,730
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(1,747,922)	(5,476,566)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of trust funds and deposits		8,257	105,480
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		8,257	105,480
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(1,909,969)	(3,887,061)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		6,653,636	10,540,697
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	29	4,743,667	6,653,636

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

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2025

	Note	Accumulated Surplus 2025 \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve 2025 \$	Fair Value Reserve 2025 \$	Other Reserves 2025 \$	Total 2025 \$
2025						
Balance at beginning of the financial year		38,278,151	86,431,665	(646,855)	1,641,542	125,704,503
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		(821,757)	-	-	-	(821,757)
Other Comprehensive Income:						
Fair Value adjustment on equity investment assets	18	-	-	166,094	-	166,094
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement) reversals	27	-	36,981,586	-	-	36,981,586
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		37,456,394	123,413,251	(480,761)	1,641,542	162,030,426
		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

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.

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						
2024 - 2025	915,978	4,238,838	5,154,816	2,915,970	2,238,846	3,886,028
2023 - 2024	1,382,791	4,110,943	5,493,734	2,165,374	3,328,360	3,598,595
Roads, streets and bridges						
2024 - 2025	3,165,107	(257,510)	2,907,597	3,577,817	(670,220)	127,854,199
2023 - 2024	2,345,630	(793,326)	1,552,304	3,378,509	(1,826,205)	91,326,150
Waste management						
2024 - 2025	-	816,758	816,758	1,503,744	(686,986)	378,910
2023 - 2024	40,782	773,747	814,529	902,320	(87,791)	403,132
Heritage and Culture						
2024 - 2025	-	1,465	1,465	135,028	(133,563)	2,309,662
2023 - 2024	-	388	388	110,261	(109,873)	2,145,335
Community services						
2024 - 2025	570,468	452,573	1,023,041	1,264,198	(241,157)	5,272,407
2023 - 2024	166,195	423,259	589,454	1,134,372	(544,918)	4,829,167
Recreation facilities						
2024 - 2025	-	36,863	36,863	622,322	(585,459)	4,545,497
2023 - 2024	7,000	34,873	41,873	395,453	(353,580)	4,080,064
Commercial and Tourism						
2024 - 2025	-	287,803	287,803	490,259	(202,456)	1,576,390
2023 - 2024	-	487,488	487,488	429,241	58,247	1,427,392
Other - not attributable						
2024 - 2025	-	122,400	122,400	663,162	(540,762)	18,530,777
2023 - 2024	-	122,400	122,400	1,153,253	(1,030,853)	20,334,099
Total						
2024 - 2025	4,651,553	5,699,190	10,350,743	11,172,500	(821,757)	164,353,870
2023 - 2024	3,942,398	5,159,772	9,102,170	9,668,783	(566,613)	128,143,934

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

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Current assets	5,085,891	7,148,313
Non-current assets	159,267,979	120,995,621
	164,353,870	128,143,934

(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.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$

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 2024-25 was \$70.118 million (2023-24 \$69.214 million). The 2024-25 rate in the AAV dollar was 2.703392 cents (2023-24, 2.594008 cents).

General Rate	3,667,233	3,462,092
Fire Levy	245,031	253,870
Garbage charge	804,100	761,121
Total rates and charges	4,716,364	4,477,083

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipality was 2022, and the valuation was 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	47,207	38,399
Total statutory fees and fines	47,207	38,399

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	95,689	95,331
Planning Fees	181,031	346,171
Building Fees	6,304	10,387
Tips and Waste Transfer Stations	12,658	12,572
Hall Hire	1,351	388
Camp Ground Fees	36,408	32,536
Animal licences	19,012	21,939
Food & Public Assembly Licences	17,690	17,591
Sewer Connection Fees	11,292	11,663
Cemetery Charges	3,240	4,360
Swimming pools	1,832	0
Other fees and charges	36	245
Total user fees	386,543	553,183

User fees by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised over time	113,379	112,922
User fees recognised at a point in time	273,164	440,261
Total user fees	386,543	553,183

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.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Note 8 Grants		
Grants were received in respect of the following :		
Summary of grants		
Federally funded grants	4,081,085	3,096,668
State funded grants	570,468	845,730
Total	4,651,553	3,942,398
Grants - Recurrent		
Financial assistance grant	2,289,945	3,042,441
MHW Grant Mental Health Co	450	-
Isolated Communities Resilience	78,493	-
Wild cattle hill grants	-	13,445
River Clyde flood mapping and study	-	40,782
Other	-	-
Total recurrent grants	2,368,888	3,096,668
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets		
Commonwealth Government - roads to recovery	1,037,944	589,126
Local roads and community infrastructure	675,196	-
Black spot funding	78,000	-
Clyde River Flood resilience	491,525	-
Bushfire recovery - MPS Recovery Building	-	152,750
Flood study Clyde River	-	7,000
Open spaces	-	94,500
Active Tasmania equipment grant	-	2,354
Total capital grants	2,282,665	845,730
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 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the following years. The early receipt of instalments resulted in Commonwealth Government Financial Assistance Grants being below that originally budgeted in 2024-25 by \$916,570, (2023-24, above budget \$43,875). This has impacted the Statement of Comprehensive Income resulting in the Net result being lower by the same amount.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Note 9 Contributions		
Cash		
Heavy Vehicle Contribution Fees	22,207	22,207
Other	455	22,532
Total	22,662	44,739
Non-monetary assets		
Total	-	-

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	233,434	341,154
Total	233,434	341,154

Accounting policy

Interest income

Interest is recognised progressively as it is earned.

Note 11 Other income

Private Works	83,520	119,044
Reimbursements	297,769	125,279
Penalties and interest	67,895	54,735
Total other income	449,184	299,058

User fees by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised over time	-	-
User fees recognised at a point in time	449,183	299,058
Total user fees	449,183	299,058

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	184,991	92,316
Write down value of assets disposed	(463,596)	(808,558)
Total	(278,604)	(716,242)

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.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Note 13		
Investment revenue from water corporation		
Dividend revenue received	122,400	122,400
Total investment revenue from water corporation	122,400	122,400

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	2,632,794	2,373,902
Workers compensation	126,391	27,429
Sick Leave	73,621	45,766
Superannuation	318,127	253,186
Fringe benefits tax	51,883	39,342
Total employee benefits	3,202,816	2,739,625
Less amounts capitalised	(97,969)	(132,754)
Total operating employee benefits	3,104,847	2,606,871

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	2,274,119	1,575,039
Building maintenance	34,864	86,522
Plant and equipment maintenance, hire and fuel	378,651	525,623
Consultants	78,715	130,841
Materials and services	389,051	398,366
Other	151,450	114,421
Total materials and services	3,306,850	2,830,812

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.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Note 16 Depreciation and amortisation		
<i>Property</i>		
Buildings	179,293	168,322
<i>Plant and Equipment</i>		
Plant, machinery and equipment	352,216	315,931
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	27,419	28,674
Computers and telecommunications	10,832	9,962
<i>Infrastructure</i>		
Roads	1,586,020	1,542,488
Bridges	229,823	258,842
Footpaths and cycleways	80,968	72,648
Drainage	34,929	28,972
Infrastructure	125,805	99,902
Total depreciation and amortisation	2,627,305	2,525,741

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

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Note 17 Other expenses		
External auditors' remuneration (Tasmanian Audit Office)	38,200	45,897
Councillors' allowances	175,207	160,467
Fire Levy	260,293	253,491
Light and Power	129,688	114,813
Insurance	733,962	457,707
Valuation Fees	28,950	30,050
Communications and Telephones	42,194	48,631
Community Support and Donations	54,917	39,409
Land Tax	55,372	50,495
Subscriptions and membership	34,773	32,009
Advertising	27,316	31,547
Legal Fees	176,512	134,543
Printing and Stationery	15,416	14,828
Bank Fees	24,747	22,164
Payroll Tax	104,259	67,295
Water, Sewerage and Rates	147,406	135,699
Other	84,286	66,316
Total other expenses	2,133,498	1,705,361

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	8,511,465	8,059,521
Fair Value adjustments on equity investment assets	166,094	451,944
Total investment in water corporation	8,677,559	8,511,465

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 2025, Council holds a 0.45% (2023: 0.45%) 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	1,551,617	3,901,313
Short term investments	3,191,500	2,751,773
Total cash and cash equivalents	4,743,667	6,653,636

Councils 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)	354,456	340,747
- Unspent grant funds with conditions (note 8)	-	-
- Grants received in advance ()	1,746,506	2,782,241
	2,100,962	3,122,988

Internal committed funds

- Landfill restoration (note 26)	115,273	100,150
- Employee provisions (note 26)	955,105	973,639
	3,171,340	4,196,777

Committed funds

Total uncommitted funds	1,572,327	2,456,859
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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.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Note 20		
Trade and other receivables		
<i>Current</i>		
Rates debtors	211,457	194,976
Other debtors	50,160	49,546
Net GST receivable	(135)	138,811
Total trade and other receivables	261,482	383,333

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	29,145	35,434
	Total inventories	29,145	35,434

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	46,000	69,000
	Accrued income*	5,597	6,910
	Total	51,597	75,910

* 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

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Summary		
at cost	10,567,131	10,224,372
Less accumulated depreciation	(5,128,702)	(5,007,664)
	<u>5,438,429</u>	<u>5,216,708</u>
at fair value at 30 June	178,458,208	135,911,502
Less accumulated depreciation	(33,306,217)	(28,644,054)
	<u>145,151,991</u>	<u>107,267,448</u>
Total	<u>150,590,420</u>	<u>112,484,156</u>
Property		
Land		
at fair value at 30 June	6,872,919	6,528,149
	<u>6,872,919</u>	<u>6,528,149</u>
Land under roads		
at Council valuation at 30 June	3,129,945	3,129,945
	<u>3,129,945</u>	<u>3,129,945</u>
Total Land	<u>10,002,864</u>	<u>9,658,094</u>
Buildings		
at fair value at 30 June	11,333,546	10,070,470
Less accumulated depreciation	(825,928)	(567,197)
Total Buildings	<u>10,507,618</u>	<u>9,503,273</u>
Total Property	<u>20,510,482</u>	<u>19,161,367</u>

Valuation of land (excluding land under roads) and buildings was undertaken by the Valuer-General as at 30 June 2022. The valuation of land was indexed as at 1 July 2024 based on adjustment factors issued every two years by the Valuer-General. Building valuations were indexed as at 30 June 2025 based on Australian Bureau of Statistics Non-residential building construction index numbers.

Land under roads were revalued in 2023-24 based on unit rates per hectares provided by the Valuer-General through the Department of natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

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.

Note		2025 \$	2024 \$
23	Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)		
	Plant and Equipment		
	Plant, machinery and equipment		
	at cost	6,370,376	6,148,024
	Less accumulated depreciation	(3,479,218)	(3,522,236)
		2,891,158	2,625,788
	Fixtures, fittings and furniture		
	at cost	378,483	378,483
	Less accumulated depreciation	(204,900)	(177,482)
		173,583	201,001
	Computers and telecommunications		
	at cost	234,311	194,737
	Less accumulated depreciation	(178,922)	(168,090)
		55,389	26,647
	Total Plant and Equipment	3,120,130	2,853,436
	Infrastructure		
	Roads		
	at fair value at 30 June	130,310,689	89,971,567
	Less accumulated depreciation	(19,665,840)	(15,896,613)
		110,644,849	74,074,954
	Bridges		
	at fair value at 30 June	18,624,109	18,664,101
	Less accumulated depreciation	(9,577,567)	(9,514,708)
		9,046,542	9,149,393
	Footpaths, kerbs and gutters		
	at fair value at 30 June	4,694,114	4,099,651
	Less accumulated depreciation	(2,482,386)	(1,945,969)
		2,211,728	2,153,682
	Drainage		
	at fair value at 30 June	3,492,886	3,447,619
	Less accumulated depreciation	(754,496)	(719,567)
		2,738,390	2,728,052
	Other infrastructure		
	at cost at 30 June	2,731,776	2,449,893
	Less accumulated depreciation	(1,265,662)	(1,139,856)
		1,466,114	1,310,037
	Total Infrastructure	126,107,623	89,416,118
	A full valuation of roads and footpaths was undertaken by independent valuers, Moloneys Asset Management Systems, effective 30 June 2025. 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	193,434	172,469
	Roads at cost	419,830	531,848
	Infrastructure	234,023	70,533
	Drainage	-	45,267
	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	6,560
	Footpaths, kerbs and gutters	4,898	-
	Bridges	-	226,558
	Total Works in progress	852,185	1,053,235
	Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	150,590,420	112,484,156

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

Reconciliation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

2025	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	6,528,149	79,609	210,000	-	-	55,162	6,872,920
land under roads	3,129,945	-	-	-	-	-	3,129,945
Total land	9,658,094	79,609	210,000	-	-	55,162	10,002,865
buildings	9,503,273	-	1,025,291	(179,293)	-	158,346	10,507,617
Total buildings	9,503,273	-	1,025,291	(179,293)	-	158,346	10,507,617
Total property	19,161,367	79,609	1,235,291	(179,293)	-	213,508	20,510,482
Plant and Equipment							
plant, machinery and equipment	2,625,788	709,215	-	(352,216)	(91,629)	-	2,891,158
fixtures, fittings and furniture	201,001	-	-	(27,419)	-	-	173,582
computers and telecommunications	26,647	4,430	-	(10,832)	-	35,144	55,389
Total plant and equipment	2,853,436	713,645	-	(390,467)	(91,629)	35,144	3,120,129
Infrastructure							
roads	74,074,955	-	35,607,281	(1,586,020)	(257,510)	2,806,144	110,644,850
bridges	9,149,393	-	-	(229,823)	(114,457)	241,429	9,046,542
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	2,153,682	-	139,014	(80,968)	-	-	2,211,728
drainage	2,728,051	-	-	(34,929)	-	45,267	2,738,389
other infrastructure	1,310,037	-	-	(125,805)	-	281,883	1,466,115
Total infrastructure	89,416,118	-	35,746,295	(2,057,545)	(371,967)	3,374,723	126,107,624
Works in progress							
roads	531,853	2,694,121	-	-	-	(2,806,144)	419,830
buildings	172,469	234,473	-	-	-	(213,508)	193,434
infrastructure	70,529	445,377	-	-	-	(281,883)	234,023
drainage	45,267	-	-	-	-	(45,267)	-
fixtures, fittings and furniture	6,560	28,584	-	-	-	(35,144)	-
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	-	4,898	-	-	-	-	4,898
bridges	226,557	14,872	-	-	-	(241,429)	-
Total works in progress	1,053,235	3,422,325	-	-	-	(3,623,375)	852,185
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	112,484,156	4,215,579	36,981,586	(2,627,305)	(463,596)	-	150,590,420

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
other 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.)

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 Council. Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction. The following classes of assets have been recognised. In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits detailed below have been 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
Other infrastructure - parks, recreation facilities and community amenities	cost
Investment in water corporation	fair value

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.

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Note 24 Trade and other payables		
Trade payables	726,325	705,287
Rates and charges in advance	150,793	145,341
Accrued expenses	19,117	94,932
Other	2,375	79,335
Total trade and other payables	898,610	1,024,895

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	3,888	4,492
Retention amounts	268,139	250,270
Other refundable deposits	82,429	85,985
Total trust funds and deposits	354,456	340,747

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 \$
2025						
Balance at beginning of the financial year	245,940	435,124	186,022	100,150	106,553	1,073,789
Additional provisions	104,438	84,510	69,229	-	33,293	291,470
Adjustment to provision	-	-	-	15,123	-	15,123
Amounts used	(133,849)	(52,836)	(73,621)	-	(49,698)	(310,004)
Balance at the end of the financial year	216,529	466,798	181,630	115,273	90,148	1,070,378
Current	216,529	448,027	181,630	-	75,301	921,487
Non-Current	-	18,771	-	115,273	14,847	148,891
Total	216,529	466,798	181,630	115,273	90,148	1,070,378
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

2025 **2024**

(a) Employee benefits

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

Weighted average increase in employee costs	3.50%	4.50%
Weighted average discount rates	3.70%	4.09%
Weighted average settlement period	12	12

Employee Numbers - FTE	28	27
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Note 26 Provisions (cont.)

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

Council does not make superannuation contributions for any employee to the Quadrant Defined Benefits Fund.

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	3.25%
- index rate	4.00%

Note 27 Reserves

	Balance at beginning of reporting year	Increment	(decrement)	Balance at end of reporting year
	\$	\$	\$	\$
(a) Asset revaluation reserve				
2025				
Property				
Land	4,914,534	210,000	-	5,124,534
Land under roads	2,172,549	-	-	2,172,549
Buildings	4,521,639	1,025,291	-	5,546,930
Fixtures and fittings	4,530	-	-	4,530
	11,613,252	1,235,291	-	12,848,543
Infrastructure				
Roads	63,009,560	35,607,281	-	98,616,841
Bridges	8,267,692	-	-	8,267,692
Footpaths and cycleways	2,944,239	139,014	-	3,083,253
Drainage	596,922	-	-	596,922
	74,818,413	35,746,295	-	110,564,708
Total asset revaluation reserve	86,431,665	36,981,586	-	123,413,251

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

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				
2025				
Equity Investment assets				
Investment in water corporation	(646,855)	166,094	-	(480,761)
Total fair value reserve	(646,855)	166,094	-	(480,761)
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)

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				
2025				
Other Reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542
Total Other reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542
2024				
Other Reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542
Total Other reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
(a) Asset revaluation reserve	123,413,251	86,431,665
(b) Fair value reserve	(480,761)	(646,855)
(c) Other reserves	1,641,542	1,641,542
Total Reserves	124,574,032	87,426,352

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

Result from continuing operations	(821,757)	(566,613)
Depreciation/amortisation	2,627,305	2,525,741
(Profit)/loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure	278,604	716,242
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	(2,282,665)	(845,730)
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	127,303	(143,877)
Decrease/(increase) in other assets	24,313	(8,553)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	6,289	(18,293)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(126,285)	(229,675)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(3,411)	54,783
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(170,304)	1,484,025

Note 29 Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents (see note 19)	4,743,667	6,653,636
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Note 30 Superannuation

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

	2025	2024
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to super funds	318,127	253,186
	<u>318,127</u>	<u>253,186</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
2025				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Contractual commitments				
Contractual commitments at end of financial year but not recognised in the financial report				
Recycling and garbage collection contracts (extended contract for two years)	562,668	562,668	-	1,125,336
Total	562,668	562,668	-	1,125,336
2024				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Contractual commitments				
Contractual commitments at end of financial year but not recognised in the financial report				
Recycling and garbage collection contracts (expired 2025)	551,095	-	-	551,095
	551,095	-	-	551,095

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:

2025

	Weighted average interest rate	Floating interest rate \$	Fixed interest maturing in:		Non- interest bearing \$	Total \$
			1 year or less \$	Over 1 to 5 years \$		
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	3.79%	1,552,167	3,191,500	-	-	4,743,667
Trade and other receivables		73,125	-	-	188,357	261,482
Investment in water corporation		-	-	-	8,677,559	8,677,559
Total financial assets		1,625,292	3,191,500	-	8,865,916	13,682,708
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables		-	-	-	898,610	898,610
Trust funds and deposits		-	-	-	354,456	354,456
Total financial liabilities		-	-	-	1,253,066	1,253,066
Net financial assets (liabilities)		1,625,292	3,191,500	-	7,612,850	12,429,642

2024

	Weighted average interest rate	Floating interest rate \$	Fixed interest maturing in:		Non- interest bearing \$	Total \$
			1 year or less \$	Over 1 to 5 years \$		
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

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	
	2025 \$	2024 \$	2025 \$	2024 \$
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4,743,667	6,653,636	4,743,667	6,653,636
Trade and other receivables	261,482	383,333	261,482	383,333
Investment in water corporation	8,677,559	8,511,465	8,677,559	8,511,465
Total financial assets	13,682,708	15,548,434	13,682,708	15,548,434
Financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	898,610	1,024,895	898,610	1,024,895
Trust funds and deposits	354,456	340,747	354,456	340,747
Total financial liabilities	1,253,066	1,365,642	1,253,066	1,365,642

(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 (BBB credit rating)	Other (min BBB credit rating)	Total
2025				
Cash and cash equivalents	1,552,167	-	-	1,552,167
Trade and other receivables	-	135	261,617	261,482
Investments and other financial assets	3,191,500	-	-	3,191,500
Total contractual financial assets	4,743,667	-	261,617	5,005,149
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

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:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current (not yet due)	41,512	173,408
Past due by up to 30 days	1,669	6,978
Past due between 31 and 180 days	5,485	878
Past due between 181 and 365 days	1,248	1,968
Past due by more than 1 year	-	5,125
Total Trade & Other Receivables	49,914	188,357

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).

2025	6 mths	6-12	1-2	Contracted	Carrying
	or less	months	years	Cash Flow	Amount
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade and other payables	898,610	-	-	898,610	898,610
Trust funds and deposits	354,456	-	-	354,456	354,456
Total financial liabilities	1,253,066	-	-	1,253,066	1,253,066

2024	6 mths	6-12	1-2	Contracted	Carrying
	or less	months	years	Cash Flow	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

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
2025		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	4,743,667	(47,437)	(47,437)	47,437	47,437

		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

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 Yvonne Miller
Councillor John Hall
David Meacham
Councillor Anthony Archer

General Manager Stephen MacKey (Acting 20/8/2024 to 30/6/2025)

Senior Managers

Deputy General Manager Adam Wilson (acting General Manager 1/7/2024 to 1/8/2024)
Works and Services Manager Jason Branch (acting General Manager 2/8/2024 to 19/8/2024)
Manager Building Control Graham Rogers

(ii) Councillor Remuneration

2025

Short term employee benefits

Position	Period	Allowances	Vehicles	Total Compensation AASB 124	Expenses ¹	Total allowances and expenses section 72
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mayor	Full year	38,687	4,072	42,759	3,264	46,023
Deputy Mayor	Full year	22,703	-	22,703	4,539	27,242
Councillors	Full year	77,315	-	77,315	12,947	90,262
Total		138,705	4,072	142,777	20,750	163,527

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

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

(iii) Key Management Personnel Remuneration

2025	Remuneration band	Number of employees	Short term employee benefits			Post employment benefits		
			Salary ¹	Vehicles ²	Other Allowances and Benefits ³	Superannuation ⁴	Termination Benefits ⁵	Non-monetary Benefits ⁶
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Total \$
	\$101 000 - \$120 000	2	224,479	55,155	-	25,773	7,281	(28,420)
	\$141 000 - \$160 000	1	149,195	36,588	-	18,163	-	28,335
	\$160 001 - \$180 000	1	166,920	-	-	19,195	-	186,115
	Total		540,594	91,743	-	63,131	7,281	(85)
								702,664

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

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	\$16,706	\$15,886	14 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. Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2025 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2025 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2025 that are expected to impact Council.

In September 2024 the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) issued two Australian Sustainability Reporting Standards (ASRS). This followed Commonwealth legislation establishing Australia's sustainability reporting framework. Relevant entities will be required to undertake mandatory reporting of climate-related disclosures in future financial years. Public sector application issues remain under consideration and Council will continue to monitor developments and potential implications for future financial years.

All other Australian accounting standards and interpretations with future effective dates are either not applicable to Council's activities, or have no material 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	
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Revenue		
User Changes	36,408	32,536
Total Revenue	36,408	32,536
Expenditure		
<i>Direct</i>		
Employee Costs	1,146	1,064
Materials and Contacts	2,429	1,872
Utilities	1,662	1,009
<i>Indirect</i>		
Engineering & Administration	229	213
Total Expenses	5,466	4,158
<i>Notional cost of free services received</i>		
<i>Capital Costs</i>		
Depreciation	273	273
Opportunity cost of capital	3,183	3,185
Total Capital Costs	3,456	3,458
<i>Competitive neutrality adjustments</i>		
Rates, water and land tax	14,842	18,769
	14,842	18,769
<i>Calculated Surplus/(Deficit)</i>	12,644	6,150
Tax Equivalent rate	25%	25%
Taxation equivalent	3,161	1,538
Competitive neutrality costs	18,003	20,307

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	2025 \$	2024 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
	(a)	Underlying surplus or deficit					
		Net result for the year		(821,757)	(566,613)	2,220,995	1,906,703
		Less non-operating income					
		Capital grants		(2,282,665)	(845,730)	(1,417,729)	(1,758,823)
		FAGs in advance		1,035,735	249,145	(986,909)	(761,962)
		Add non-operational expenses					
		Flood/Fire damage		-	-	-	467,537
		Loss on disposal of assets		278,604	716,242	204,181	143,927
		Planning appeal		-	-	-	-
		Underlying surplus/deficit	0	<u>(1,790,083)</u>	<u>(446,956)</u>	<u>20,538</u>	<u>(2,618)</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>(1,790,083)</u>	<u>(446,956)</u>	<u>20,538</u>	<u>(2,618)</u>
		Recurrent income*		9,382,417	9,221,829	8,842,641	7,515,975
		Underlying surplus ratio %	0%	(19.08%)	(4.85%)	0.23%	(0.03%)
		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		5,005,149	7,036,969	10,780,153	11,286,220
		total liabilities		2,323,444	2,439,431	2,516,699	1,898,835
		Net financial asset	0	<u>2,681,705</u>	<u>4,597,538</u>	<u>8,263,454</u>	<u>9,387,385</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>2,681,705</u>	<u>4,597,538</u>	<u>8,263,454</u>	<u>8,285,988</u>
		Recurrent income*		9,382,417	9,221,829	8,842,641	7,130,434
		Net financial liabilities ratio %	0% - (50%)	29%	50%	93%	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>1,340,000</u>
		Projected capital expenditure funding***		1,340,000	1,340,000	1,340,000	1,340,000
		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.)	2025 \$	2024 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$	0
(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.					
		<i>Roads</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	110,644,849	74,074,954	71,983,953	65,454,588	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	130,310,689	89,971,567	87,338,014	78,710,250	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	84.9%	82.3%	82.4%	83.2%
		<i>Buildings</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	10,507,618	9,503,273	8,023,172	8,037,503	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	11,333,546	10,070,470	8,422,046	8,275,368	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	92.7%	94.4%	95.3%	97.1%
		<i>Drainage</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	2,738,390	2,728,052	1,796,590	988,604	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	3,492,886	3,447,619	2,487,185	1,630,155	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	78.4%	79.1%	72.2%	60.6%
		<i>Bridges</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	9,046,542	9,149,393	8,985,119	8,193,110	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	18,624,109	18,664,101	18,319,611	16,286,659	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	48.6%	49.0%	49.0%	50.3%
		<i>Footpaths and Cycleways</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	2,211,728	2,153,682	1,206,764	1,135,130	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	4,694,114	4,099,651	3,130,839	2,825,078	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	47.1%	52.5%	38.5%	40.2%
		<i>Other infrastructure assets</i>					
		<u>Depreciated replacement cost</u>	1,466,114	1,310,037	949,106	946,570	
		Current replacement cost	2,731,776	2,449,893	1,989,061	1,896,081	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	53.7%	53.5%	47.7%	49.9%
		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>	2,004,242	5,290,414	3,176,769	2,475,137	
		Annual depreciation expense	2,627,305	2,525,741	2,306,993	2,189,609	
		Asset sustainability ratio %	100%	76.3%	209.5%	137.7%	113.0%

This ratio calculates the extent to which Council is maintaining operating capacity through renewal of their existing asset base.
Good results in 2022 to 2024. Below benchmark in 2025 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	-	234,473	234,473
Land	-	79,609	79,609
Plant, machinery and equipment	709,215	-	709,215
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	28,584	-	28,584
Computers	-	4,430	4,430
Roads	1,120,101	1,574,020	2,694,121
Footpaths, kerbs and gutters	4,898	-	4,898
Drainage	(45,267)	45,267	-
Other infrastructure	171,839	273,538	445,377
Bridges	14,872	-	14,872
Total	2,004,242	2,211,337	4,215,579

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

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 2025

	Note	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Recurring fair value measurements					
Investment in water corporation	18	-	-	8,677,559	8,677,559
Land	23	-	6,872,920	-	6,872,920
Buildings	23	-	10,507,617	-	10,507,617
Land under roads	23	-	3,129,945	-	3,129,945
Roads, including footpaths & cycleways	23	-	-	112,856,578	112,856,578
Bridges	23	-	-	9,046,542	9,046,542
Drainage	23	-	-	2,738,389	2,738,389
		-	20,510,482	133,319,068	153,829,550

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
		-	19,161,367	96,617,546	115,778,913

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 land was indexed as at 1 July 2024 based on adjustment factors issued every two years by the Valuer-General. Building valuations were indexed as at 30 June 2025 based on Australian Bureau of Statistics *Non-residential building construction index* numbers.

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 30 June 2024, using site values adjusted for engloba (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 asset's 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 2025. The next full valuation is planned for 30 June 2030.

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.

(d) Unobservable inputs and sensitivities

Roads	\$ 110,644,850	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	\$ 9,046,542	Useful life	Refer Note 1e	The longer the useful life, the higher the fair value
Investment in Water Corporation	\$ 8,677,559	Useful life	Refer Note 1e	The longer the useful life, the higher the fair value
Buildings	\$ 10,507,617	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.

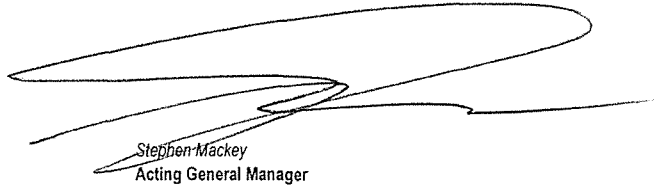
(f) Assets and liabilities not measured at fair value but for which fair value is disclosed

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 2025 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 : 17-November-2025