



Picture – 200 Years of Bothwell Celebration

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022 / 2023





Contact Information

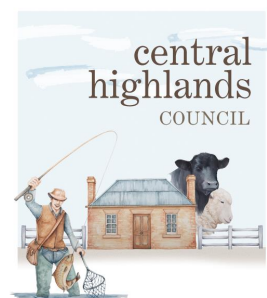
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Introduction

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

This includes the annual corporate planning and reporting cycle of the Central Highlands Council each year. This report covers the period of the **2022/2023** financial year.

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

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

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

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

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

Central Highlands Council values the input of the community. Members of the community are invited to make submissions on the Annual Report for discussion at Council's **Annual General Meeting**, which will be held at **8.45am** on **Tuesday 12 December 2023**, at Bothwell.

Any person wishing to make a submission should do so by close of business **Wednesday 6 December 2023**.

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 2022-2023

Welcome to the Mayor's Report for the Central Highlands Council financial year 2022/2023.

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

I am pleased that, as a Council, we have provided well managed and responsible budgets over the years. Council did not increase rates or fees and charges during 2020/21, however for Council to continue to provide essential services to our community there must be a rate increase for the 2022/23 financial year. The recommendation to Council was to increase rates at 8.5%, however, understanding the present financial strain on our community, Council by absolute majority adopted a 4.8% general rate increase. With this minimal increase, let's hope this may ease the stress a little for our community.

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

Tourism is certainly an ongoing and developing area across our Central Highlands, and I am always looking for opportunities for existing and new developments to provide employment of local people as well as the use of locally grown food on menus and other catering opportunities. We proudly promote the distilleries who also support local employment.

We are well renowned for our bushwalking opportunities as well as our ever strong agricultural and horticultural industries.

Professional and Personal Development Opportunities

I strongly believe that Council employees and our elected Councillors should continue on a path of both professional and personal development. I have ensured several opportunities have been presented to elected Councillors and have noted that these opportunities can assist in a more informed understanding of Council. I deemed that a number of workshops were compulsory for Councillors and thus the attendance and engagement was crucial in the development of skills, understanding financial statements and reports, including the role and responsibilities as elected Councillors. This also including the governance and operational processes, and functions of Council, the elected arm and the employee/administrative arm, all expected to work together, with myself as a conduit working closely with our General Manager.

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

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

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

Township Structure Planning Project

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

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

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

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

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

Key areas of focus will be liveability & sustainability, and long-term population and economic growth. The final Structure Plans will include recommendations for town improvements, planning scheme amendments, actions to achieve community goals, and other strategies desired by the community. There will be several opportunities to be involved over the coming 12 months, including providing submissions and participating in a community workshop in each town. All interested members of the community will have the opportunity to express their goals, desires, and priorities for the future.

It is expected that this project will run through to the end of 2024.

Infrastructure

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
Re-Sealing Victoria Valley Road, Dee Lagoon Shacks	\$ 18,944
Ellendale Road Drainage	\$ 33,245
Thousand Acre Lane Construction	\$ 1,344,674
Ellendale Road Stabilisation	\$ 326,068
Lower Marshes Road Stabilisation	\$ 280,412
Hollow Tree Road Stabilisation	\$ 420,350
Victoria Valley Road – Line Marking	\$ 16,700
Pelham Road - Line Marking	\$ 28,302
PLANT	
Side Arm Slasher	\$ 96,085
Hilux 4WD Ute	\$ 50,376
Hilux 4WD Ute	\$ 51,052
2 x New Zero Turn Mowers Hamilton	\$ 45,000
New 6 X 4 Box Trailers	\$ 2,494
New Vac Trailers	\$ 89,728
2 x New Messaging Boards	\$ 57,058
BRIDGE	
Design Works for Wentworth Bridge, 14 Mile Road	\$ 22,671
FOOTPATHS	
Bothwell Medical Centre Footpath	\$ 6,992
Patrick Street Footpaths	\$ 224,215
PLAY EQUIPMENT	
Queens Park Play Equipment	\$ 35,000
Bronte Park Play Equipment	\$ 66,324
Ellendale Play Equipment	\$ 59,598
	\$ 10,039
OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS	
Steppes Hall Fencing	
Upgrade NRM Hamilton School Toilets	\$ 18,147
Upgrade Ouse Hall Floor	\$ 128,535
Bothwell Pool - Automatic Cover	\$ 27,300
Dunrobin Toilet, Shelter & BBQ	\$ 92,980
Bethune Park Toilets	\$ 110,348
Bothwell Stormwater Stage 1B	\$ 698,056

Medical Practices in the Central Highlands

Update GP Services in Ouse

As many of you would now be aware, there still is currently no General Practitioner/Doctor service available at Ouse.

As always, the people of the Central Highlands community are my priority. I will continue to do everything I can (with the support from Council) to get doctors back to Ouse. Acknowledging the Federal Government is predominantly responsible for funding GPs and primary healthcare, the issue with Ouse Medical Centre needs constant, continued attention and immediate resolution.

We deserve stable, consistent access to doctors providing primary healthcare services. My regular communication with the Premier, Ministers and the Tasmanian Health Service has been positive. The update I can share with community is there was interest from 3 GP providers, but unfortunately, they withdrew their interest.

Across the Central Highlands and specifically in Ouse, our basic human rights are not being met.

This isn't about 'WANTING' a doctor. This is about 'NEEDING' a doctor and having access to the healthcare services only a doctor can provide.

We deserve stable, consistent access to doctors providing basic primary health care services.

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.

Upcoming Community Event

Bushfest 2023

Central Highlands is holding its ninth Annual Highlands Bushfest weekend at the Bothwell Recreation Ground on 25th - 26th November 2023. The event is organised by Central Highlands Council, and entry as always shall be a gold coin donation to allow everyone to experience and enjoy a great weekend. 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. Council is proud to support and showcase local businesses and artists from across the whole of the Municipality. There will be numerous displays, exhibitions, and stalls with something of interest for all ages. Talented local cooks and local produce will be an interesting drawcard for all to taste the great foods, not to forget hot scones, jam and cream direct from the oven.

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.

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 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.

Loueen (Lou) Triffitt
Mayor Central Highlands Council

Current Councillors as of 30 June 2023



Loueen Triffitt
Mayor
0409 269 702



Jim Allwright
Deputy Mayor
0448 297 689



Anthony (Tony) Bailey
Councillor
0418 863 284



The Late Scott Bowden
Councillor



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 2023				
Mayor Loueen Triffitt	13		-	13
Deputy Mayor James Allwright	13		-	13
Cr Anthony (Tony) Bailey	13		-	13
The Late Cr Scott Bowden	10		3	13
Cr Robert Cassidy	13		-	13
Cr Julie Honner	13		-	13
Cr John Hall	9		-	9
Cr David Meacheam	8		1	9
Cr Yvonne Miller	8		1	9
Previous Councillors				
Cr Anthony Archer	4		-	4
Cr Anita Campbell	1		3	4
Cr Jim Poore	3		1	4

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 2023								
Mayor Loueen Triffitt	6			6	10		2	12
Deputy Mayor James Allwright	11			11	11		1	12
Cr Anthony (Tony) Bailey	6		3	9	8		4	12
The Late Cr Scott Bowden	-			-	4		8	12
Cr Robert Cassidy	6			6	8		4	12
Cr Julie Honner	-			-	10		2	12
Cr John Hall	2			2	10		-	10
Cr David Meacheam	2			2	9		1	10
Cr Yvonne Miller	-			-	10		-	10
Previous Councillors				-				
Cr Anthony Archer	1			1	1		1	2
Cr Anita Campbell	-		1	1	-		2	2
Cr Jim Poore	-			-	-		2	2

Current Council Committee Representation as of 30 June 2023

Audit Panel

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

Bothwell Cemetery Committee

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

Independent Living Units Committee

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

Bothwell Swimming Pool Committee

Mayor L Triffitt (Chair)
Cr J Honner

Planning Committee

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

Highlands Tasmania Tourism Committee

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

Australia Day Committee

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

Waste Committee

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

Bothwell Football Club & Community Centre Committee

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

Central Highlands Visitor Centre Management Committee

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

Township Structure Planning Project Steering Committee

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

External Committee Representation as of 30 June 2023

Australasian Golf Museum

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

Bothwell Spin-In Committee

Mayor L Triffitt
Cr J Honner (Proxy)

Central Highlands Men's Shed Steering Committee

Cr A Bailey
Deputy Mayor J Allwright (Proxy)

Derwent Catchment Project

Cr A Bailey
Cr D Meacheam

Health Action Team Central Highlands (HATCH)

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

Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)

Mayor L Triffitt
Deputy Mayor J Allwright

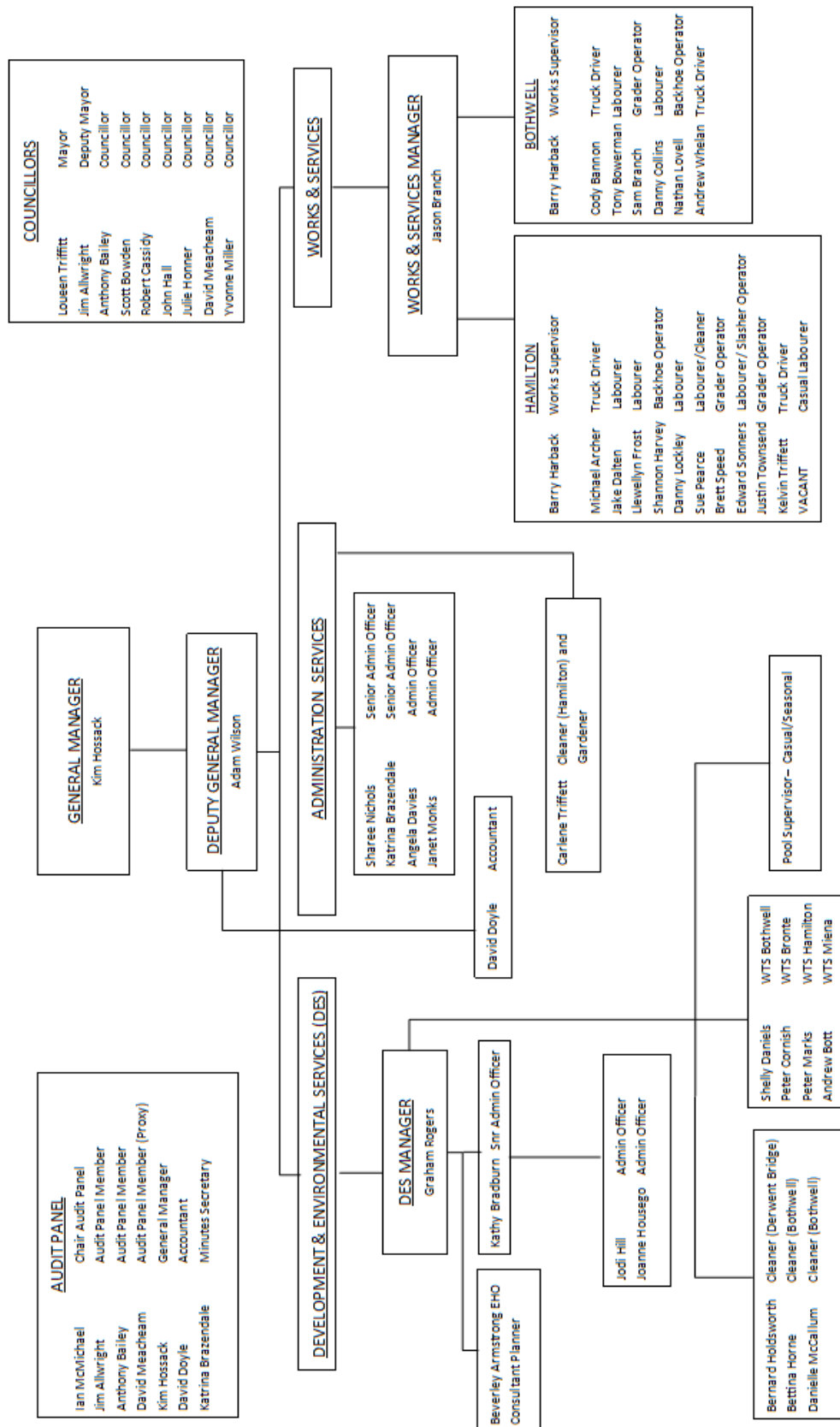
Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority

Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr D Meacheam (Proxy)

TasWater Owners Representative

Deputy Mayor J Allwright
Cr D Meacheam (Proxy)

Organisational Structure on 30 June 2023



Overview & Highlights

200 Years of Bothwell Event

(By Felicity Edgell as published in the Highlands Digest November 2022)

What a boundless fund of activities was rolled out for residents, returnees, interested parties and the odd tourist! The doors of the Football Club and Community Centre were opened on Friday night at a barbeque and delicious, seemingly bottomless roast dinner (plus pudding) laid on by a Government Grant for residents' past and present. The local CWA and the Lions Club had cooked up a storm and served us all selflessly while the conversation crescendo as the dinner was downed by 270 people!

The dinner was cheerfully accompanied by Pete Cornelius and his band, on a flat tray outside, setting the scene for weekend full of sights and sounds, activities and events.

Our Saturday started with escorting Brian Fish and his team of bullocks pulling their dray with old wool basket, windmill and other assorted bits of old memorabilia. The direct way up Market Place beside Queen's Park was blocked by an enthusiastic young army pop band, playing on the tray, and so had to be diverted up the other side, with harness cranking and head tossing, going at a good clip. It was a young team of single and teenage bullocks, kept in good order by a few corrective cracks of the whip.

A very smart carriage and four, complete with top-hatted driver, encircled the town with eager customers, and together with Bowden's sheep, escorted by a trio of young horse riders, reinforced the historical element. A Scottish pipe band, at a careful distance, played hauntingly, reminding us all that Bothwell was a largely Scottish settlement, taking up land on the Clyde River, (once known as the Fat Doe River) on land long inhabited by the indigenous Big River Tribe.

Queens Park was filled with tents hosting many activities, food of course, but also various workshops, including Indigenous crafts, and the Hydro had a hands-on display including making your own turbine! The old Bootmaker's shop was open, complete with lasts of all sizes, nails, leather and the various tools for making, with a pair of "new" boots, (how old would they be?) hanging from the low ceiling to boot! The shop, in its heyday was the centre of Labour politics. Always a warm fire where Clarrie Medhurst plied his trade. It has been moved twice, complete with old goods! Going just further up the road to the Recreation Ground, there were shiny old traction engines of different shapes and sizes, blowing steam and whistles, showing traction of the past that helped shape the district and beyond the Football Club and Community Centre a selection of vintage vehicles large and small.

The Bothwell Banter conducted at the Town Hall, was well patronised by many people and wonderfully steered by Jane Longhurst, fitting in time and keeping on track, all the various historical memories from Grote Reber, path finding radio wave astronomer based in Bothwell; the Bothwell Literary Society with very early library, George Peddle chairs; architecture, rabbits; retired farmers' recollections of past farming practices, with the revolutions of today.

The Golf Museum was open, as was the Visitor Information Centre, and the Bothwell Historical Society with its colonial exhibits. This was well patronised, with newly installed Exhibit of Maude Poynter's pottery, and the Historical Society Room hummed with peoples enquires. Recently the Historical Society has put much dedicated work into their rooms with their colonial display of artefacts and records. The Bothwell Bicentennial Tapestries were on display too, worked in 1988, to celebrate the nation's Bicentenary. A visit to the Information Centre, incorporating the Golf Museum and these displays is well worth a visit at any time!

Saturday night saw a dance at the Castle Hotel, and the next day the Bicentenary rolled on with more events. Sunday was bookended by Church at each end of the day. Early, there was a short service at St Luke's for the installation of a plaque in memory of Barbara Fowler, a dedicated and long-standing member of, and dedicated contributor to the Bothwell community.

Local food establishments were well patronised, some queues extending outside. There was mini golf outside the Golf Museum, as well golf played with hickory clubs at Ratho Golf Course, on the oldest golf course in Australia!

On Sunday Ratho Farm featured a lunch with a Rabbits, Rabbits, Bloody Rabbits Menu - rabbit terrine, rabbit soup and rabbit stew, cooked by well-known chef Annaliese Gregory, recalling the years when the district, like many others had their lives, livelihood and menus by the invasive species, as much of a blight as a lingering drought.

The lunch was accompanied by an ongoing whisky tasting with each course, provided with commentary from the individual whisky distilleries, marking the flourishing whisky enterprises around our region.

Despite the huge rain events that have assailed Tasmania lately, and particularly before the Bicentennial Weekend, visitors and participants were not discouraged. Everywhere one looked there were small throngs people chatting, exchanging news and simply enjoying an historic Bothwell occasion. Many events were brought to our attention by the Town Crier, with bell and big voice, grandly dressed in gold tailcoat and tricorne hat and britches, down to his shoes with silver buckles - of silver foil! Many thanks to those who contributed fore and aft, to the organisation and spectacle of the weekend, seen and unseen, sung or unsung: it was an occasion to remember.



Anzac Day Services

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

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



Picture – Gretna Dawn Service 2023

Australia Day Awards

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

The Central Highlands Australia Day Citizen of the Year was awarded to Mr Ron Sonners.

Ron Sonners, a lifelong resident of the Central Highlands, grew up at Pelham, a member of the well-known Sonners family and is so much part of this district. After leaving school he served with distinction in the Army and in Vietnam, and has retained lifelong links with the RSL and returned serviceman in the district and beyond. As an example, he was a representative on the Committee which organised the Anzac Centenary funding in our local electorate of Lyons. Ron is involved in many aspects of our Central Highlands Community. As Parish Councillor, and past Chairman of the Anglican Parish Council, he has been at the forefront in saving our community cemeteries and the upkeep of our historic churches St Peter's Hamilton, St Johns Ouse and St Andrew's Ellendale.

He is the Cemetery Manager of the three Anglican churches in the parish and meticulously ensures their administration and maintenance. He is a very active member and past president of the Bothwell Historical Society and a vigorous volunteer in the maintenance and upkeep of the Steppes House and grounds.

Recently Ron has actively participated in the hunt for a replacement GP and medical practice at Ouse. He has worked with the Council on this issue including facilitating the public meeting in Ellendale.

Ron Sonners is also one of the first to volunteer in any emergency or trouble, he is a modest man and deeply committed to his community.

The Central Highlands Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Haylie Kline.

At the time Haylie was a grade 10 student at Bothwell District High School and just fifteen years of age but already in her young life she is a very committed community worker. She started work at the Bothwell Garage in 2017 and has continued to work there until recently. Haylie now helps her mother at Sealy's Store, in both of these positions, customers always comment on what a polite and helpful young person she is.

Haylie has worked as a volunteer at St. Luke's Uniting Church and at Anzac Day Services over the past seven years as well as at Lions Club and C.W.A. functions. She was also a leader at the Bothwell District High School with the younger children and has a caring instinct with the older generation.

Some of her school achievements have been:

- 2018 - Citizenship Award
- 2019 - Excellent participation and dedication to the community and Volunteer Breakfast Program certificate of recognition.
- 2020 - Citizenship & Service Award Lions Club of Bothwell & Districts
- 2021 - Showing respect in all aspects of life - Merit Certificate
- 2022 - Aussie of the month Certificate of Recognition.

Then volunteering at the C.W.A. Biggest Cuppa for Cancer Day, where all members were very impressed with her cheerful willingness to participate in all aspects of the day.

The Australia Day Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Community Carols and Twilight Market.

The inaugural Community “Carols and Twilight Market” at Hamilton was held back on Saturday 4 December 2021, it was a picnic like relaxed atmosphere where people came together during the uncertain times of COVID.

The event was well attended and supported by people throughout the Municipal area.

The working group who dedicated so much time and effort into the planning, organising and staging the event did a magnificent job.



Picture – Australia Day 2023

Council Congratulates all our award nominees.

The Derwent Catchment Project

This year marked a change for the Derwent Catchment Project (DCP) with Charles Downie taking on the role of President. Thanks again to Jim Allwright for all the years served as President, for staying on the Committee and continuing to support the team. The success of DCP has been aided by Jim's commitment and vision for what is needed in the Derwent Catchment. With the change of guard, the DCP has developed a new strategic plan to ensure the vision and mission remain current (available on the website www.derwentcatchment.org). We are pleased to report that the combined funding provided by the Central Highlands, Derwent Valley and Brighton Council partners has enabled us to leverage more than \$1 million for the region over the last financial year.

The DCP on-ground works team has had an incredibly solid year continuing the mission to tackle weeds. Key programs in the Highlands include continued targeted control under the Weed Action Fund Program for orange hawkweed; extended control of fennel, English broom and blackberry undertaken between Ouse and Gretna along the Lyell Highway; Californian thistle and ragwort along the eastern shore of the Great Lake and major woody weed and Californian thistle control at Dee Lagoon.

River restoration continues along the Tyenna River supported by the Willow Warriors volunteers, which now has extended to paddling Willow Warriors aboard their kayaks. The DCP team continues to maintain the willow free sections of the Ouse River and the Platypus Walk section at Hamilton of the Clyde River.

Key achievements over the year for the AG Program have been completing the three-year Derwent Pasture Network program successfully; working to support farmers with skills and confidence to manage containment feeding/drought lotting set ups and in the use of forecasting tools; developing carbon and biodiversity plans for farmers and working with Rural Business Tas on a drought risk assessment.

This year the ground crew carried out a War Memorial planting at Gretna and a memorial planting for Andrew Downie on Platypus Walk on behalf of the Council. Our comprehensive services for revegetation, which include collecting seed, growing the seedlings, undertaking the planting and maintaining the plantings, continues successfully.

The Derwent Catchment Project team looks forward to the year ahead, working with stakeholders, Councils and community members to improve the Region's environmental and agricultural resilience.

Key Focus Areas

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

Strategies

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

Initiatives

<p>Continue support of local organisations and groups.</p>	<p>Council continues to support local organisations and groups by way of in-kind support such as provision of plant and labour, photocopying, and free or subsidised use of Council premises, to name a few.</p> <p>Groups to benefit were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bothwell Exercise Group – waive hall hire fees Bothwell Hall for exercise classes. ➤ Ouse On-Line Access Centre – lease of premises no charge ➤ Great Lake Community Centre Inc. – lease of premises no charge ➤ The Derwent Catchment Project – use of premises no charge ➤ Ellendale Hall Committee – use of Ellendale Hall no charge ➤ Tasmanian Working Sheepdog Trials – waive recreation ground hire fees.
<p>Continue the support of community groups and clubs through in-kind assistance as well as through Council's Community Grants Program.</p>	<p>Council provided assistance through the Community Grants Program to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community BBQ – Hamilton \$200 ➤ RSPCA Safe Beds Program \$250 ➤ Celebrate 75yrs of the Lions \$300 ➤ Miena Volunteer Ambulance \$1,500 ➤ Logan Smythe and Cooper Smythe - Australian All Schools Track and Field Championships \$500

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gretna Volunteer Fire Brigade Christmas Lolly Run \$150 ➤ Contribution towards Bothwell District High School Grade 6 Leavers \$136 ➤ Highlands Bushfest Community Sites \$2,010 ➤ Bothwell Historical Society \$199 ➤ Immune Deficiencies Foundation Annual Fundraising event \$360 ➤ Campdrafting Tasmania \$300 ➤ Gretna Cricket Club \$200 ➤ Southern Highlands Progress Association \$255 ➤ Red Cross Gretna \$100 ➤ Sports Support - Brodie Speed \$150 ➤ Gretna Volunteer Fire Brigade \$412 ➤ Bothwell Historical Society (Printer) \$388 ➤ Bothwell Visitor Centre (Book) \$275 ➤ Uniting (Vic & Tas) CHC School Holiday Program \$1,000
Continue the annual allocation to schools to assist with their programs for school children.	Council makes an annual allocation of \$1,000 to Bothwell District High School, Ouse Primary School, Westerway Primary School & Glenora District High School.
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 both Ouse Primary School and Westerway Primary School to assist with costs to further their education. Council also provided annual citizenship awards to students at Bothwell, Ouse, Glenora and Westerway Schools.
Provide assistance to continue the home day care facility at Bothwell.	Council again contributed \$5,000 to the Brighton Family Day Care towards providing day care facilities in the Central Highlands. The home day care facility closed at Bothwell back on 30 June 2021, however a facility is now operating at Ouse. Council is actively assisting this service to help re-establish a service in the Bothwell area were possible.
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. Unfortunately, the Central Highlands General Practice at Ouse closed on 31 October 2021. Council is continuing to work with the State Government to seek a new provider, but due to GP shortages, this is proving very difficult. Council will continue its lobbying of the State Government to seek a solution.

<p>Support programs and activities that promote the health and wellbeing of our community.</p>	<p>Council continues to work with HATCH to deliver programs and activities that promote health.</p> <p>Council has provided a breakfast program one day a week at Bothwell District High School and provides supplies towards the Ouse Primary School breakfast program.</p> <p>Council continues to run junior golf sessions for students from Bothwell District High School and thank the Bothwell Golf Club for volunteering their time to assist tutoring students.</p> <p>Playgroups are held in Bothwell and Ouse and are well supported.</p> <p>In partnership with HATCH under the Highlands Healthy Connect Program, monthly community walking programs are held followed by a picnic lunch.</p> <p>The Meal Delivery Program, which provides frozen meals to Central Highlands residents at a nominal cost continues and our thanks go to Tracey Turale and HATCH.</p> <p>Other Health and Wellbeing programs partnering with HATCH are held over the year e.g. yoga and relaxation, Freedom Health & Wellness exercise classes, girls connect program, strength and balance program to name a few.</p>
<p>Continue to support Regional Groups of benefit to Central Highlands residents.</p>	<p>Council is a member of the following regional groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority ➤ Destination Southern Tasmania ➤ South Central Sub-Region Group ➤ Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) ➤ Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority
<p>Advocate on behalf of our community on Regional, State and National issues.</p>	<p>Council continues to advocate for the best outcomes for the Central Highlands.</p>
<p>Continue review of the New Residents Kit to ensure that the information is still relevant and accurate.</p>	<p>Staff update the New Residents Kit as required. It is forwarded to new residents when notified and is available on Council's website.</p>
<p>Continue with implementation of the priorities listed in the Central Highlands Health & Wellbeing Plan.</p>	<p>Council continues to implement the priorities of the Health & Wellbeing Plan 2020-2025. Our Community Relations Officer continues to work through programs identified within the Plan.</p>

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.
Develop, in partnership with community organisations and members, the event to celebrate the Bicentenary of Bothwell.	<p>Council and Community organisations worked collectively to bring together the celebrations of the 200 years of the establishment of Bothwell.</p> <p>The Bothwell Bicentennial Festival was held at Bothwell on 15th & 16th October 2022 and celebrate the town's history.</p>

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

Strategies

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

Initiatives

Allocate funds to ensure that existing services and assets are maintained.	Council budgets sufficient funds to ensure that its assets and services are maintained.
Annually review the 10-year asset management plan to include all classes of assets.	Council has a Long-Term Asset Management Plan for roads, bridges and buildings are continually reviewed by Senior Staff and Council.
Install new cover, roller and tables at the Bothwell Pool	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Undertake fencing around the Steppes Hall	Works have been undertaken and completed.

Install the water connection to the new public conveniences at Bronte Park	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Replace four vehicles, 2 toro mowers and purchase a new box trailer, 2 variable messaging boards and a large vac trailer	Replacements have been received but still waiting on two vehicles to arrive.
Paint the Bothwell Offices and Bothwell Town Hall	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Complete the purchase of land at Ellendale for a future ILU	Currently working through the subdivision process to create separate titles.
Recoat floors at the Bothwell and Hamilton Halls	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Complete repair of the Ouse Hall floor	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Construct a truck wash trade waste area at Hamilton Depot	Design works have been completed.
Construct an Archives Shed at Bothwell	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Replace exterior of toilets at old Hamilton School site	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Replace sections of footpaths at Patrick Street, Bothwell and Franklin Place, Hamilton	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Provide lighting for Ouse walkway at Ouse Bridge	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Stabilisation of parts of Ellendale Road	Works have been undertaken and completed.

Undertake stabilisation works on Lower Marshes Road	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Undertake stabilisation works on Hollow Tree Road	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Place white lines on sealed section of Victoria Valley Road	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Replace two cattle grids	Works have been undertaken to completed one cattle grid.
Reseal Wayatinah streets	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Construct and seal approximately 1.5kms of Thousand Arce Lane	Works have been undertaken and completed - 2km.
Paint the Hamilton Council Offices	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Re-roof the Hamilton Council Office building	Works have commenced and will be completed in the 2023/2024 Budget.
Continue investigation into the future of Wayatinah Hall	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Undertake repairs to Old School House, Market Place	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Seek funding to replace the Hall of Industries building, Hamilton	Works have been carried forward to the 2023/2024 Budget.
Construct a Multi-Purpose Recovery building at Hamilton	Works had commenced and will be completed in the 2023/2024 Budget.

Widen and upgrade Wentworth Bridge, 14 Mile Road	Design works have been completed.
Replace toilets and shelter at Dunrobin and install a new BBQ	Works have been undertaken and completed.
Replace the toilets at Ellendale Park	Works had commenced and will be completed in the 2023/2024 Budget.
Install new play equipment at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Queens Park, Bothwell - Bronte Park - Ellendale 	All Play Equipment installations have been undertaken and completed.
Continue stormwater upgrade at Bothwell with Stage 1B to be completed	Works have been undertaken and completed.

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

Strategies

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

Initiatives

<p>Identify appropriate grant funding to leverage Council funding for projects.</p>	<p>Grants received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Financial Assistance Grants from the State Grants Commission - \$3,858,301 ➤ Federal Road to Recovery Grant - \$589,128 ➤ Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Grants - \$575,089 ➤ Black Snake Lane Bridge - \$8,835 ➤ Bushfire Recovery – MPS Recovery Building \$148,250 ➤ Bushfire Recovery – Bronte Park Play Equipment \$40,500 ➤ Ouse Basketball Court - \$50,000 ➤ Variable Messaging Boards - \$5,927 ➤ Health Tas Local Lift Fund - \$20,000 ➤ Prepare Residential Structure Plan - \$80,000 ➤ Bothwell Bi-Centenary Event - \$15,000
<p>Continually review and update policies and Council's Risk Register.</p>	<p>Council's Risk Register and Policies are updated by staff as required and is reviewed at each Audit Panel Meeting.</p>
<p>Continue participation in the Local Government Shared Services and South-Central Sub-Region Group and identify other services that can be resource shared.</p>	<p>Council continues use Local Government Shared Services to access resource sharing opportunities. Council currently use this service from Southern Midlands Council for the provision of all Planning Services and a Dog Control Officer.</p> <p>The South-Central Sub-Region (SCS) was form over 5 years ago with the Brighton, Central Highlands, Derwent Valley and Southern Midlands Councils endorsing an intent to work together as much as possible on matters of common interest or where benefits can be achieved by working collaboratively. The SCS meets approximately every two months and continues to be funded from the Tasmanian Community Fund for its Workforce Development Project.</p> <p>The South-Central Jobs Tasmania Hub is located at Pontville (renamed Southcentral Workforce Network Jobs Hub) covers the Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Southern Midlands and Brighton municipal areas. It was officially opened and active on 9 February 2022.</p>
<p>Provide financial management reports to Council monthly.</p>	<p>Financial reports are prepared by Council's Accountant on a monthly basis and are tabled on the Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda each month.</p>
<p>Ensure Annual Financial Statements are completed within the statutory timeframe.</p>	<p>Council's Annual Financial Statements were completed and lodged within the statutory timeframe.</p>

Ensure that Staff are provided with continual training in Council's financial software and records management systems.

On 1 January 2023, Council implemented a new online based accounting system Xero. All Staff were involved in extensive transitional training and are now benefiting from a more streamline processing, reporting & actioning of this new system.

Records training was not a focus during 2022/23 due to staffing changes and the time taken to implement the new Xero system above.

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. Additional funds are provided to support grant applications of benefit to the Central Highlands.

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 funds to carry out weed management.

<p>Monitor the usage of Council Waste Transfer Stations and refuse site to ensure that the facilities meet the needs of our ratepayers and are maintained at an acceptable standard.</p>	<p>Council operates one controlled refuse site at Hamilton which has available a DrumMUSTER facility. A DrumMUSTER compound is also available at the Bothwell Waste Transfer Station.</p> <p>The opening hours for the manned sites was reviewed with standard opening days and hours introduced. Manned waste transfer sites are available at Bothwell, Miena and Bronte Park. A Refuse Disposal site is located at Hamilton.</p> <p>Two Bulky Waste Collections per year are provided throughout the municipal area which is designed to allow residents to place items out for collection that are too bulky or unsuitable for the door-to-door collection.</p> <p>Council provided a relatively comprehensive kerbside collection service for waste & recycling to the residents of Bothwell, Ellendale, Fentonbury, Gretna, Hamilton, Ouse, Osterley, Wayatinah and Westerway. Thorpe Waste currently holds the contract. All waste is taken to the Hamilton Refuse Disposal Site and the recyclables taken to Hobart for processing.</p> <p>Roadside stand-alone bins are placed at Reynolds Neck, Brandum Bay, Jillet Road, Doctors Point, Haulage Hill, Interlaken, Cramps Bay, Wilburville, Arthurs Lake and Derwent Bridge. The bins are designed to accept domestic waste only, can be accessed 24/7 and have proved to be very successful in most areas.</p> <p>All waste and recycling collected is reported to the NRE annually.</p>
<p>Provide education and encouragement of recycling within the Municipality to expand the life of the Hamilton Refuse Site.</p>	<p>Council provides recycling facilities throughout the Municipal area and have a fortnightly door to door recycling collection throughout our towns.</p> <p>Council engages a contractor, Thorp Recycling, to collect recycling from static sites and ensure that sites are clean. Thorp Recycling are continuously improving the way that recyclable material is managed at the sites.</p>
<p>Facilitate regular meetings of the Central Highlands Emergency Management Committee and ensure that the Central Highlands Emergency Management Plan is reviewed and remains current.</p>	<p>No meetings were held during the year.</p> <p>The Central Highlands Municipal Emergency Plan was approved and signed by the Commissioner Darren Hines on 15th July 2021. Changes within the whole Emergency Services sector have been occurring which has impacted the State. Stronger focus will happen within the next 12 months.</p>

<p>Actively participate as a member of the newly created Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority.</p>	<p>Council has actively participated as a member of the Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority, with an Elected Member representing Council on the Board and Council's Environmental Health Officer at an officer level, attending meeting and reporting back to Council</p>
<p>Introduce practices to accurately measure waste deposited at the Hamilton Landfill Site to determine the State Waste Levy to be paid.</p>	<p>Council was successful in obtaining funding under the Landfill Levy Readiness Grant Program to contribute towards the costs of modifying systems and infrastructure at the Hamilton Landfill Site to be able to comply with the new legislative requirements contained in the <i>Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022</i>.</p> <p>The funding has enabled Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase a laptop and software to record clients to the landfill, and associated technology hook up to main office. Training was also included as part of this package. 2. Development of a Compliance Plan so that Policy and Procedure can be developed and put in place to ensure future operators can be trained in the correct compliance procedures for the landfill reporting. 3. In order to complete the Compliance Plan a new survey of the landfill was required and this has now been completed.

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 2022 with 3,500 people attending over the weekend.
Celebrate the 200-Year Bicentennial of Bothwell with a weekend event from 14th to 16th October 2022.	A successful 200 Year Bicentennial of Bothwell was held and attracted people from all over the State attending for 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.	<p>Council provides funding and in-kind support to community groups providing events in the Central Highlands.</p> <p>Council continues to support the annual Hamilton Show event held in March each year.</p>
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 \$10,800 to the Ouse On-line Access Centre to assist with the production of the Highland Digest which provides a valuable avenue for dissemination of information and news about the Central Highlands.

<p>Continue to support local events that encourage visitation to the Central Highlands.</p>	<p>Council supported the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hamilton Show ➤ Sheep Station Cup - Bothwell (Golf Event) ➤ Sheep Dog Trials ➤ CWA / Lions Club Functions ➤ Communities for Children Colour Run ➤ Rural Alive and Well – Paint & Sip Sessions ➤ Tasmanian Camp Drafting
<p>Continue to support the Central Highlands Visitor Management Committee to optimise the use of the Centre and the disbursement of information to tourists and visitors to the Central Highlands and provide funding for the purchase of goods for sale that promote the Central Highlands.</p>	<p>The Central Highlands Visitor Centre, home of the Tasmanian Tartan, is manned by a dedicated group of volunteers.</p> <p>The Centre has items for sale that promotes the Central Highlands, displays and sell local products on consignment.</p>
<p>Work with the South-Central Sub-Region Group through the Workforce Development Coordinator to provide training for jobseekers and connecting job seekers with relevant local employers.</p>	<p>The Workforce Development Coordinator continues to support and engage with local jobseekers and businesses alike.</p>

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

Strategies

- Ensure Council fulfils its legislative and governance responsibilities, and its decision making is supported by sustainable policies and procedures.
- Ensure that Council members have the resources and skills development opportunities to effectively fulfil their responsibilities.
- Ensure appropriate management of risk associated with Council's operations and activities.
- Provide a supportive culture that promotes the well-being of staff and encourages staff development and continuous learning.
- Provide advocacy on behalf of the community and actively engage government and other organisations in the pursuit of community priorities.
- Consider Council's strategic direction in relation to resource sharing with neighbouring councils and opportunities for mutual benefit.

- Support and encourage community participation and engagement.
- Ensure that customers receive quality responses that are prompt, accurate and fair.
- Council decision making will be always made in open council except where legislative or legal requirements determine otherwise.

Initiatives

Annually review Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Strategy and Long-Term Asset Management Plans.	<p>Council's Asset Management Plans were updated and adopted by Council and are continuously reviewed by Senior Staff.</p> <p>Council's Long Term Financial Management Plan and Strategy are current and are continuously reviewed by Senior Staff.</p>
Continually monitor and review Council's financial situation and report findings to Council in a clear and transparent format on a monthly basis.	<p>Council engages a Contracted Accountant who provides regular updates and reports to Council at monthly Council Meetings and to Audit Panel Meetings.</p>
Encourage staff to undertake training to further develop their skills.	<p>Council encourages staff to undertake any training they may require.</p> <p>The following training was provided in 2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New online accounting system Xero – all staff ➤ CERT 3 in Civil Operations on going x 2 employees. ➤ Drum muster training ➤ Loader assessments ➤ Excavator assessment ➤ Backhoe training and assessment ➤ Compactor assessments ➤ Traffic management assessments and 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.	<p>Information regarding seminars, training etc. is disseminated to Councillors.</p> <p>With Council elections being held in October 2022, the State Government introduced a Local Government Learning and Development Framework. This has online learning modules for all Elected Members to undertake and is reported to Councils quarterly basis.</p> <p>Currently this is not mandatory.</p>
Review the Risk Register at each Audit Panel Meeting	<p>Council's Risk Register is updated regularly and presented at each Audit Panel Meeting.</p>

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.	<p>Council sends out a newsletter with rates instalment notices as required.</p> <p>Council's Mayor provides a monthly column for the Highland Digest.</p> <p>Additional information is posted to Council's Facebook page and website.</p>
Continually review Council Policies	<p>Council's policies are continually reviewed and updated where necessary.</p> <p>A Policy Index is provided to the Audit Panel to ensure that all policies are reviewed by their due review date.</p> <p>New Policies are adopted as and when required.</p>
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 2022-23

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:

- 61 Food Business Registrations, with inspections recommenced after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, 32 have been undertaken. Council provides an online 'I'm Alert Food Safety Training' which is 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 30 June this online site continues to be used by any new employees to food businesses in our Municipality.
- Participating in the Health Departments Food Surveillance Program.
- Distribution as well as using Councils website and Facebook for Posters and Pamphlets relating to Health Education and 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 2023 and has been sent to the EPA as required by the Hamilton Landfill Permit. Survey for the landfill has been completed and sent to NRE as required by the landfill Levy Regulations.
- AWTs Service Monitoring of which Council has 48 systems.
- Monitoring of EPN's issued by Council.
- Council has an ongoing silage and ag pipe recycling point at the Hamilton Landfill and Bothwell WTS which the 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 Centre.
- Council's COVID-19 Safety Plan will continue to form part of Council's Continuity Plan for any future epidemics. However, for the health and safety of employees, contract workers, elected members and the public, Council will now be directed by all official State Government Public Health directions and restrictions when required.
- "Free" infant immunisation continues to be offered by appointment at the Bothwell Medical Centre as per the national immunisation schedule.
- Recreational Water quality monitoring, lakes and rivers, including Bothwell Public Swimming Pool. Once yearly sampling as approved.
- Annual Reporting done by the 30 September each year for Recreational Water monitoring, Private Water Licences, Food Premises and Waste Reporting.

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

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

The main functions in environmental management are:

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

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

Council activities in relation to Environmental Management:

- Environmental Nuisances / complaints are followed up by inspections and may require the issue of abatement notices, Environmental Protection Notices and / or infringement notices.
- Issuing of Environmental Protection Notices when required and follow up and monitoring of conditions of Notices.
- Septic tank installation assessments and permits. Monitoring and recording services for 48 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
- Drinking Water Quality Report (Council & DHHS) - by 30 September each year
- 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

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total No Applications	56	60	80	84	114	134	79
No. Permitted	11	5	10	12	28	26	14
No. Discretionary	39	40	39	33	47	68	49
Subdivision Applications	2	2	11	9	5	14	12
No. Lots	3	3	32	5	4	77	64
Planning Scheme Amendments	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
No Permit Required	4	13	20	30	39	40	16

Building Statistics

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total No. Buildings	44	53	65	61	65	68	73
Permit Work	-	-	23	21	21	7	11
Notifiable Work	-	-	36	33	29	45	47
Low Risk Work	-	-	6	7	15	16	15
Total No. Plumbing	36	36	32	34	45	54	59
Permit Work	-	-	21	20	23	15	29
Notifiable Work	-	-	6	10	15	18	10
Low Risk Work	-	-	5	4	7	21	20

Pool Attendance Statistics

Season Passes	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Family	2	1	3	0	2	1	0
Junior	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult				1	0	0	0
Daily Attendance							
Junior	1316	802	935	559	694	1008	922
Adult	387	187	107	90	174	311	362
Spectators	-	-	-	-	-	-	167

Dog Control Statistics

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Dogs Registered	1067	1044	995	1005	983	947	968
Kennel Licenses	36	33	30	43	29	30	29
Infringement Notices	14	16	21	7	8	0	26
Impounded Dogs	12	10	8	6	6	3	6
Declared Dangerous Dogs	0	0	1	1	1	1	1

Remissions and Small Debt Write Offs

01-0838-02982	\$176.00	01-0856-02124	\$20.70
03-0201-00100	\$23.50	01-0852-02189	\$16.35
01-0805-02725	\$24.10	03-0229-01365	\$23.90
01-0805-02805	\$661.08	03-0232-04039	\$15.80
03-0201-03706	\$443.93	03-0255-00219	\$19.90
04-0017-03967	\$561.84	01-0810-03938	\$408.29
01-0893-a3880	\$34.36	01-0805-03937	\$582.71
10-0400-03595	\$176.00	03-0238-01772	\$2.11
03-0237-04042	\$22.11	03-0238-01772	\$21.10
03-0218-00053	\$12.49	01-0859-02578	\$41.45
03-0232-04032	\$21.40	01-0859-02580	\$94.69
03-0232-04040	\$15.70	01-0821-02938	\$35.76
01-0874-03716	\$18.00	01-0844-03998	\$23.26
01-0858-04109	\$14.66	03-0213-00666	\$19.60
TOTAL = \$3,530.79			

Remissions given on Building, Plumbing & Development Applications 2022/2023:

Bothwell Golf Club

DA 2022/70 – Demolish Existing Outbuilding and New Outbuilding - \$540.20

Great Lake Community Centre Inc

DA 2022/71 – Greenhouse and Makers Shed - \$1,551.34

BA 2023/1 – Stage 1 Greenhouse and Makers Shed (Slab Works) - \$275.00

BA 2023/1 – Stage 2 Greenhouse and Makers Shed (Lock Up) - \$275.00

PA 2023/1 – Sanitary Plumbing and Drainage and Stormwater Disposal - \$525.00

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

Total Remuneration Bracket	No Of Senior Employees
\$110,001 - \$130,000	2
\$140,001 - \$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 **\$148,284** as per below table -

(ii) Councillor Remuneration

2023

Short term employee benefits

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

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 2022/2023 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 upheld Code of Conducts were received in 2022/2023.

Ombudsman's Complaints

Council has been advised of one registered complaint under the *Ombudsman Act 1978*, from the Ombudsman Office during 2022/2023. This matter is yet to be finalised.

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

Since 2017 the Integrity Commission has been providing individual Councils with bi-annual updates on the number of complaints during the financial year. The Council has not received any advice on complaints from the Integrity Commission during 2022-2023.

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	
				2023	2022
				\$	\$
Revenue					
	User Charges			23,186	14,094
	Total Revenue			23,186	14,094
Expenditure					
<i>Direct</i>					
	Employee Costs			2,247	627
	Materials and Contacts			966	622
	Utilities			1,662	1,999
<i>Indirect</i>					
	Engineering & Administration			450	125
	Total Expenses			5,325	3,373
<i>Notional cost of free services received</i>					
<i>Capital Costs</i>					
	Depreciation			273	545
	Opportunity cost of capital			3,181	1,968
	Total Capital Costs			3,454	2,513
<i>Competitive neutrality adjustments</i>					
	Rates, water and land tax			17,129	14,166
				17,129	14,166
<i>Calculated Surplus/(Deficit)</i>				(2,722)	(5,958)
	Tax Equivalent rate			30%	30%
	Taxation equivalent			(817)	(1,787)
Competitive neutrality costs				16,312	12,379

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
Services for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Waste Bins in Various Locations, Waste Transfer Stations & Collection of Waste & Collection of Waste	1/7/2022 to 30/6/2025 (Plus, further two year option)	\$322,400 p.a.	Thorp Waste	24 Glen Lea Road, Brighton
Hamilton Office Re-Roof	April 2023 to October 2023	\$408,842	Batchelor Construction Group Pty Ltd	115 Browns Road, Kingston
Gravel Crushing	March 2022 to March 2023 (Plus 1 year option)	\$402,286 p.a.	Fieldwicks Crushing Pty Ltd	6178 Frankford Road, Wesley Vale
Bothwell Stormwater	November 2022 to June 2023	\$737,159	Andrew Walter Constructions Pty Ltd	PO Box 5, Claremont
Footpath - Patrick Street Bothwell	July 2022 to June 2023	\$251,071	MMS Tas Civil Pty Ltd	PO Box 470, Sorell

Footpath - Franklin Street Hamilton	July 2022 to June 2023	\$313,796	MMS Tas Civil Pty Ltd	PO Box 470, Sorell
Thousand Acre Lane Reconstruction	October 2022 to June 2023	\$568,255	Andrew Walter Constructions Pty Ltd	PO Box 5, Claremont
Hollow Tree Road Stabilising & Resealing	July 2022 to June 2023	\$509,918	Andrew Walter Constructions Pty Ltd	PO Box 5, Claremont

Non-Application of Public Tender Process

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

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

Financial Performance Indicators

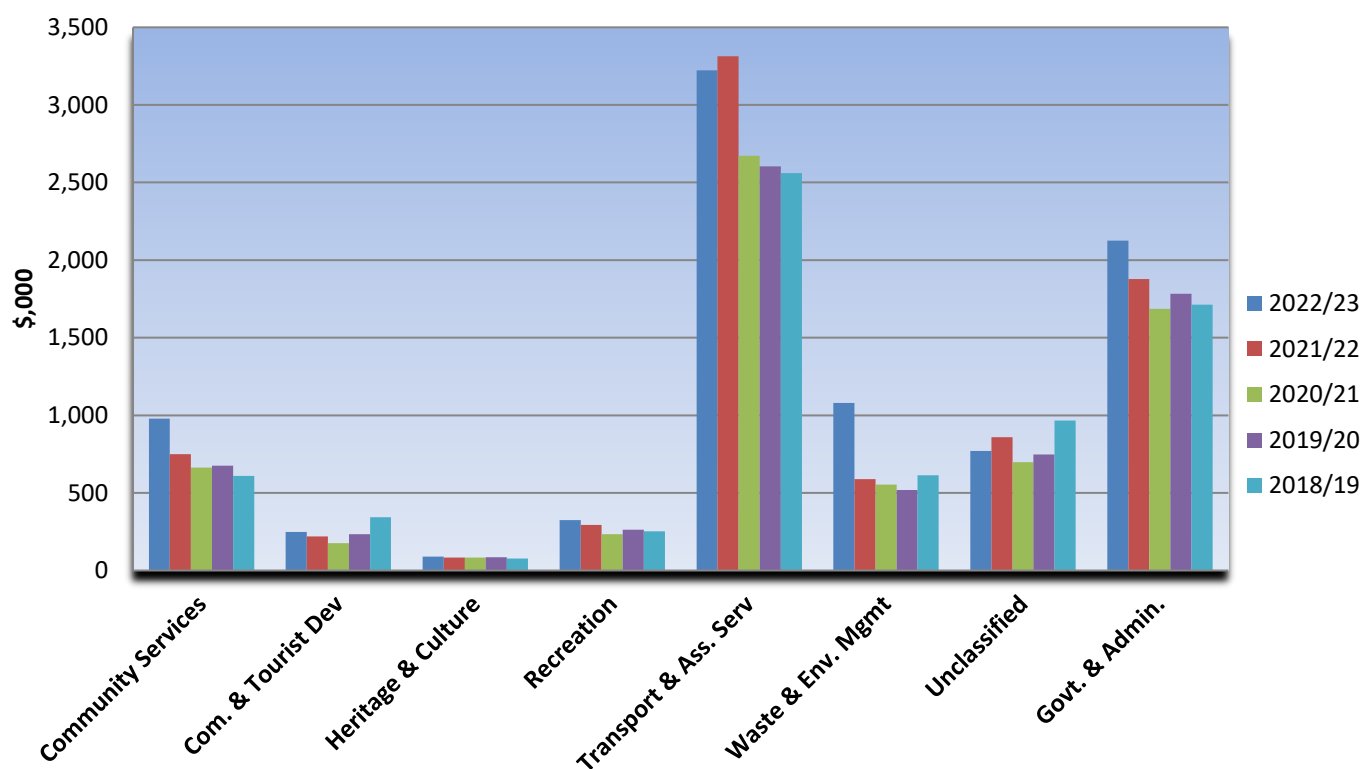
Comparative Financial Performance Indicators are provided for the current and previous eight years.

Indicator	2023 %	2022 %	2021 %	2020 %	2019 %	2018 %	2017 %	2016 %
Rate Revenue Analysis Rate Income: Total Revenue	41.7	47.0	52.80	52.5	50.1	50.7	50.3	49.8
Working Capital Ratio Current Assets: Current Liabilities	21.17	15.11	18.70	16.03	13.41	14.10	12.13	14.39
Debt Ratio Total Liabilities: Total Assets	1.99	1.65	2.02	2.00	1.60	1.53	1.28	1.11

Expenditure by Function

	22/23 \$'000	21/22 \$'000	20/21 \$'000	19/20 \$'000	18/19 \$'000	17/18 \$'000	16/17 \$'000	15/16 \$'000
Community Services	979	750	664	675	609	612	502	420
Com. & Tourist Development	249	219	176	235	343	151	173	162
Heritage & Culture	89	84	84	86	77	67	72	76
Recreation	324	293	235	263	253	255	242	219
Transport & Asset Services	3,223	3,314	2,672	2,604	2,560	2,478	2,549	2,552
Waste & Env. Management	1080	588	554	519	613	527	566	539
Unclassified	770	859	698	748	966	960	597	743
Govt. & Admin	2,125	1,877	1,686	1,784	1,713	1,717	1,728	1,542

EXPENDITURE BY FUNCTION



Reserves

Reserves	\$'000 2023	\$'000 2022	\$'000 2021	\$'000 2020	\$'000 2019	\$'000 2018	\$'000 2017	\$,000 2016
Plant Replacement	453	453	453	453	453	453	453	453
Bridges	377	377	377	377	377	377	377	377
Sundry	151	151	147	145	242	143	143	196
Long Service Leave	401	401	417	444	404	354	371	351
Regional Refuse Site	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
Quarry Reserve	180	180	180	180	80	80	80	80
Grants	0	0	0	0	9	44	170	54
Total	1,642	1,642	1,654	1,679	1,645	1,531	1,674	1,591

Non-Current Assets

Non-Current Asset	30-Jun-23 Asset value \$'000	30-Jun-22 Asset value \$'000	Increase/ (Decrease) \$'000
Land	6,322	6,322	0
Buildings	8,023	8,037	(14)
Plant, Machinery & Equipment	2,369	2,298	71
Office Equipment	220	208	12
Computer Equipment	34	22	12
Infrastructure	949	947	2
Roads	71,984	65,455	6,529
Drainage Systems	1,797	1,788	9
Bridges	8,985	8,193	792
Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters	1,207	1,135	72
Works in Progress	4,384	444	3,940
Investment in TasWater	8,059	7,779	280
Land Under Roads	1,111	1,111	0
TOTALS	115,445	103,740	11,705

17 Nov 2023

Cr Loueen Triffitt
Mayor
Central Highlands Council
HAMILTON TAS 7140

Issued by email only

Dear Cr Triffitt

Central Highlands Council – Audit opinion - Audit of Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The audit of the financial report for Central Highlands Council (Council) has been completed in accordance with the agreed financial audit strategy. I have issued my audit report on the financial report, a copy of which is enclosed.

I have prepared this letter solely for the use of the Council. As you know, this letter forms part of a continuing dialogue between those charged with governance and the Auditor-General and, therefore, it is not intended to include every matter, whether large or small, that has come to my attention. For this reason I believe that it would be inappropriate for this letter to be made available to third parties and, if such a third party were to obtain a copy without my prior written consent, I would not accept any responsibility for any reliance that they might place on it.

Audit findings

A memorandum of audit findings is being drafted, setting out matters that came to my attention during the audit and my recommendations for improvements. These matters will be provided to management for review and response. The finalised memorandum of audit findings will be forwarded to you upon completion.

You will appreciate that my normal audit procedures are designed primarily to enable me to form an opinion on the financial report as a whole and therefore do not necessarily bring to light at each audit all the weaknesses in internal control or accounting practice which a special investigation might do.

Review of the annual report

Please will you forward to me a copy of the final draft of the Council's annual report for review by my staff prior to its publication. This review will be conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 720 *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information in*

Documents Containing Audited Financial Report to identify any material inconsistencies between the financial report and other information disclosed in the annual report.

Appreciation for assistance and co-operation

Appreciation is expressed for the assistance and co-operation provided to my staff during the course of the audit.

Please note that a copy of this letter together with the auditor's report will be provided to the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. N Street MP in accordance with section 19(2) of the *Audit Act 2008*.

If you have any queries regarding the audit or any other matters, please contact myself or Mark Farrington on (03) 6173 0900.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Tongs', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Tongs
Assistant Auditor-General

Encl.

Copy for:
Ms Kim Hossack, General Manager
Mr Ian McMichael, Chair – Audit Committee

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 2023 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 2023 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.

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.

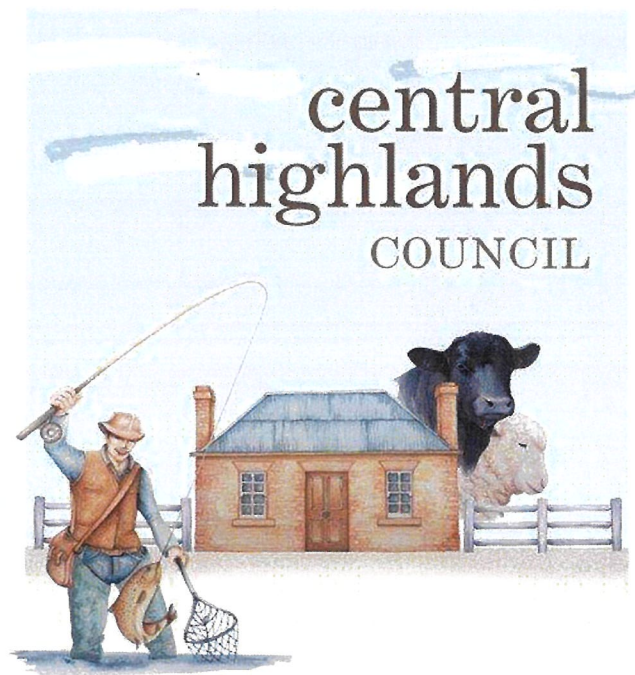
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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.



Jeff Tongs
Assistant Auditor-General
Delegate of the Auditor-General
Tasmanian Audit Office

17 November 2023
Hobart



Central Highlands Council
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Central Highlands Council
Financial Report
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**Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	Note	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Income				
Income from continuing operations				
Rates and charges	5	4,088,847	4,097,346	3,890,827
Statutory fees and fines	6	50,000	41,003	58,053
User fees	7	240,250	863,076	230,673
Grants	8	2,973,329	4,126,802	3,598,891
Contributions	9	22,200	27,662	48,873
Interest	10	60,000	293,383	30,723
Other income	11	250,000	257,878	297,497
Investment revenue from water corporation	13	102,000	122,400	122,400
		7,786,626	9,829,550	8,277,937
Capital income				
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	8	2,334,150	1,417,729	1,758,823
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	12	45,000	(187,041)	(146,117)
		2,379,150	1,230,688	1,612,706
Total income from continuing operations		10,165,776	11,060,238	9,890,643
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee benefits	14	(2,005,037)	(2,392,749)	(2,054,935)
Materials and services	15	(2,089,353)	(2,672,242)	(2,318,387)
Depreciation and amortisation	16	(2,130,000)	(2,306,993)	(2,189,609)
Other expenses	17	(1,699,645)	(1,467,259)	(1,421,009)
Total expenses from continuing operations		(7,924,035)	(8,839,243)	(7,983,940)
Net result for the year		2,241,741	2,220,995	1,906,703
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	28(b)	-	280,305	213,771
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement)	28(a)	-	8,066,969	5,729,626
Total Other Comprehensive Income		-	8,347,274	5,943,397
Total Comprehensive result		2,241,741	10,568,269	7,850,100

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

**Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2023**

	Note	2023	2022
		\$	\$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	19	10,540,697	11,144,895
Trade and other receivables	20	239,456	141,325
Inventories	21	17,141	12,567
Other assets	22	75,213	92,404
Total current assets		10,872,507	11,391,191
Non-current assets			
Investment in water corporation	18	8,059,521	7,779,216
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	23	107,385,022	95,960,510
Total non-current assets		115,444,543	103,739,726
Total assets		126,317,050	115,130,917
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	24	1,254,570	608,396
Trust funds and deposits	25	235,267	213,538
Provisions	26	812,340	899,011
Total current liabilities		2,302,177	1,720,945
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	26	214,522	177,890
Total non-current liabilities		214,522	177,890
Total liabilities		2,516,699	1,898,835
Net Assets		123,800,351	113,232,082
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		38,844,764	36,623,769
Reserves	27	84,955,587	76,608,313
Total Equity		123,800,351	113,232,082

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

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

		2023 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$	2022 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$
	Note		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates		4,063,731	3,923,071
Statutory fees and fines		45,103	63,858
User charges and other fines		878,416	339,914
Grants		4,126,802	3,598,891
Interest		287,574	22,613
Investment revenue from water corporation	13	122,400	122,400
Other receipts		285,540	346,370
Net GST refund/payment		265,834	365,216
Payments to suppliers		(3,847,691)	(4,421,153)
Payments to employees		(2,442,788)	(2,052,859)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	28	<u>3,784,921</u>	<u>2,308,322</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(5,854,759)	(3,197,661)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		26,182	103,372
Capital grants		1,417,729	1,758,823
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(4,410,848)</u>	<u>(1,335,466)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of trust funds and deposits		21,729	(32,089)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		<u>21,729</u>	<u>(32,089)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(604,198)	940,767
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		11,144,895	10,204,128
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	29	<u>10,540,697</u>	<u>11,144,895</u>
Restrictions on cash assets	19		

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

**Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	Note	Accumulated Surplus 2023 \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve 2023 \$	Fair Value Reserve 2023 \$	Other Reserves 2023 \$	Total 2023 \$
2023						
Balance at beginning of the financial year		36,623,769	76,345,875	(1,379,104)	1,641,542	113,232,082
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		2,220,995	-	-	-	2,220,995
Other Comprehensive Income:						
Fair Value adjustment on equity investment assets	18	-	-	280,305	-	280,305
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement) reversals	27	-	8,066,969	-	-	8,066,969
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		38,844,764	84,412,844	(1,098,799)	1,641,542	123,800,351
		Accumulated Surplus 2022 \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve 2022 \$	Fair Value Reserve 2022 \$	Other Reserves 2022 \$	Total 2022 \$
2022						
Balance at beginning of the financial year		34,704,879	70,616,249	(1,592,875)	1,653,729	105,381,982
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		1,906,703	-	-	-	1,906,703
Other Comprehensive Income:						
Fair Value adjustment on equity investment assets	18	-	-	213,771	-	213,771
Net asset revaluation increment(decrement) reversals	27	-	5,729,626	-	-	5,729,626
Transfers between reserves		12,187	-	-	(12,187)	-
Balance at end of the financial year		36,623,769	76,345,875	(1,379,104)	1,641,542	113,232,082

The above statement should be read with the accompanying notes.

Introduction

Note 1 Reporting Entity

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

Note 2 Basis of accounting

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

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

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

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

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

Note 3 Use of judgements and estimates

Judgements and Assumptions

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

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

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

Employee benefits

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

Defined benefit superannuation fund obligations

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

Fair value of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment

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

Investment in water corporation

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

Note 4 Functions/Activities of the Council

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

	Grants	Other	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Assets
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Government and administration						
2022 - 2023	1,719,471	3,730,912	5,450,382	2,124,499	3,325,883	3,011,258
2021 - 2022	1,306,307	3,349,863	4,656,170	1,876,590	2,779,580	3,055,832
Roads, streets and bridges						
2022 - 2023	3,368,775	22,207	3,390,982	3,223,484	167,498	85,181,897
2021 - 2022	3,572,688	22,207	3,594,895	3,313,920	280,975	77,787,543
Waste management						
2022 - 2023	-	702,115	702,115	1,080,166	(378,050)	427,274
2021 - 2022	211,500	637,776	849,276	587,680	261,596	451,416
Heritage and Culture						
2022 - 2023	-	7,719	7,719	89,374	(81,655)	2,154,067
2021 - 2022	-	452	452	83,736	(83,284)	2,059,270
Community services						
2022 - 2023	406,286	215,415	621,701	979,064	(357,363)	4,267,577
2021 - 2022	204,219	216,723	420,942	750,401	(329,459)	4,349,922
Recreation facilities						
2022 - 2023	50,000	25,745	75,745	323,646	(247,901)	4,040,141
2021 - 2022	63,000	17,041	80,041	293,458	(213,417)	3,995,391
Commercial and Tourism						
2022 - 2023	-	680,203	680,203	249,376	430,827	987,789
2021 - 2022	-	97,731	97,731	219,091	(121,360)	994,424
Other - not attributable						
2022 - 2023	-	131,391	131,391	769,633	(638,242)	26,247,047
2021 - 2022	-	191,136	191,136	859,064	(667,928)	22,437,118
Total						
2022 - 2023	5,544,532	5,515,707	11,060,238	8,839,243	2,220,995	126,317,051
2021 - 2022	5,357,714	4,532,929	9,890,643	7,983,940	1,906,703	115,130,917

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

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Current assets	10,872,507	11,391,191
Non-current assets	115,444,543	103,739,726
	126,317,051	115,130,917

(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.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
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 2021-2022 was \$42.786 million (2020-2021 \$42.615 million). The 2021-22 rate in the AAV dollar was 3.52092 cents (2020-2021, 3.40380 cents).		
General Rate	3,163,883	3,025,238
Fire Levy	237,528	227,813
Garbage charge	695,935	637,776
Total rates and charges	4,097,346	3,890,827

The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipality was 2021, and the valuation will be first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2022.

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	41,003	58,053
Total statutory fees and fines	41,003	58,053

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	100,586	76,115
Planning Fees	651,625	58,917
Building Fees	10,970	22,575
Tips and Waste Transfer Stations	12,980	13,719
Hall Hire	869	644
Camp Ground Fees	23,186	14,094
Animal licences	21,049	15,065
Food & Public Assembly Licences	16,551	10,013
Sewer Connection Fees	17,315	12,100
Cemetery Charges	7,550	4,449
Other fees and charges	395	2,982
Total user fees	863,076	230,673

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.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Note 8 Grants		
Grants were received in respect of the following :		
Summary of grants		
Federally funded grants	5,232,195	4,992,834
State funded grants	312,336	364,880
Total	5,544,531	5,357,714
Grants - Recurrent		
Financial assistance grant	3,858,301	3,370,391
Bothwell Bi-Centenary event funding	15,000	15,000
Health Tas local lift fund	20,000	-
Prepare residential structure plans	80,000	-
Highlands Healthy Connect Stage 2	100,000	-
Wild cattle hill grants	40,965	-
River Clyde flood mapping and study	-	202,500
Landfill levy readiness	-	9,000
Other	12,536	2,000
Total recurrent grants	4,126,802	3,598,891
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets		
Commonwealth Government - roads to recovery	589,128	589,128
Local roads and community infrastructure	575,089	828,876
Black Snake Lane bridge	8,835	70,000
Variable message boards	5,927	53,339
Bushfire recovery - MPS Recovery Building	148,250	-
Bushfire recovery - Bronte Park play equipment	40,500	-
Ouse basketball court	50,000	-
Bothwell FC electronic scoreboard	-	30,000
Pelham fires 19/20	-	20,600
Bothwell play equip Queens Park	-	63,000
Dunrobin Shelter & BBQ	-	96,000
Other	-	7,880
Total capital grants	1,417,729	1,758,823

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 the first two quarterly instalments in 2021-22 and all instalments in 2022-23 for the following year. The early receipt of instalments resulted in Commonwealth Government Financial Assistance Grants being above that originally budgeted in 2022-23 by \$1,132,332, (2021-22, \$859,751). This has impacted the Statement of Comprehensive Income resulting in the Net result being higher by the same amount.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note 9 Contributions		
Cash		
Heavy Vehicle Contribution Fees	22,207	22,207
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	3,939
Other	5,455	22,727
Total	27,662	48,873
Total contributions	27,662	48,873
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	293,383	30,723
Total	293,383	30,723
Accounting policy Interest income Interest is recognised progressively as it is earned.		
Note 11 Other income		
Private Works	106,590	135,778
Reimbursements	107,416	123,792
Penalties and interest	43,872	37,927
Total other income	257,878	297,497
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	26,182	103,372
Write down value of assets disposed	(213,223)	(249,489)
Total	(187,041)	(146,117)
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.		

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
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	2,218,231	1,814,312
	Workers compensation	18,985	21,427
	Sick Leave	65,668	91,732
	Superannuation	209,853	190,406
	Fringe benefits tax	39,016	40,334
	Total employee benefits	2,551,753	2,158,211
	Less amounts capitalised	(159,004)	(103,276)
	Total operating employee benefits	2,392,749	2,054,935

Accounting policy

Employee benefits

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

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

Note 15	Materials and services		
	Contract payments	1,367,793	1,325,597
	Building maintenance	48,485	33,106
	Plant and equipment maintenance, hire and fuel	277,252	285,096
	Consultants	418,020	93,964
	Materials and services	455,823	395,808
	Other	104,869	184,816
	Total materials and services	2,672,242	2,318,387

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.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Note 16 Depreciation and amortisation		
<i>Property</i>		
Buildings	161,009	144,809
<i>Plant and Equipment</i>		
Plant, machinery and equipment	319,533	283,821
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	28,838	22,695
Computers and telecommunications	13,750	14,592
<i>Infrastructure</i>		
Roads	1,355,821	1,347,860
Bridges	233,738	206,400
Footpaths and cycleways	55,665	56,992
Drainage	25,204	23,840
Infrastructure	90,445	88,600
Deferred expenditure	23,000	-
Total depreciation and amortisation	2,306,993	2,189,609

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

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note 17 Other expenses		
External auditors' remuneration (Tasmanian Audit Office)	36,013	34,540
Councillors' allowances	146,724	133,345
Fire Levy	237,275	226,604
Light and Power	103,562	105,234
Insurance	395,497	418,466
Valuation Fees	13,336	11,950
Communications and Telephones	59,318	58,546
Community Support and Donations	25,596	44,179
Land Tax	49,247	22,870
Subscriptions and membership	38,265	34,819
Advertising	39,521	36,268
Legal Fees	27,692	27,607
Printing and Stationery	13,910	13,467
Bank Fees	21,763	21,010
Payroll Tax	75,097	47,890
Water, Sewerage and Rates	127,064	120,550
Other	57,379	63,664
Total other expenses	1,467,259	1,421,009

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	7,779,216	7,565,445
Fair Value adjustments on equity investment assets	280,305	213,771
Total investment in water corporation	8,059,521	7,779,216

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 2023, Council holds a 0.46% (2022: 0.47%) 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	2,222,972	2,396,874
Short term investments	8,317,175	8,747,471
Total cash and cash equivalents	10,540,697	11,144,895

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

Restricted funds

- Trust funds and deposits (note 25)	235,267	213,538
- Unspent grant funds with conditions (note 8)	-	-
	235,267	213,538

Internal committed funds

- Landfill restoration (note 26)	108,006	103,926
- Employee provisions (note 26)	918,856	972,975
	1,262,129	1,290,439

Committed funds

Total uncommitted funds	9,278,568	9,854,456
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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.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Note 20		
Trade and other receivables		
<i>Current</i>		
Rates debtors	133,042	99,427
Other debtors	106,414	41,898
Total trade and other receivables	239,456	141,325
Reconciliation of movement in expected credit loss		
Carrying amount at 1 July	-	6,029
Amounts written off during the year	-	(6,029)
Amounts recovered during the year	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in provision recognised in profit or loss	-	-
Carrying amount at 30 June	-	-

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	17,141	12,567
	Total inventories	17,141	12,567

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	57,500	80,500
	Accrued income*	17,713	11,904
	Total	75,213	92,404

* Accrued income only includes interest receivable.

Note 23

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Summary		
at cost	10,705,476	6,634,192
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,698,280)	(3,662,256)
	<u>7,007,196</u>	<u>2,971,936</u>
at fair value at 30 June	129,119,879	117,880,499
Less accumulated depreciation	(28,742,052)	(24,891,925)
	<u>100,377,827</u>	<u>92,988,574</u>
Total	<u>107,385,022</u>	<u>95,960,510</u>
Property		
Land		
at fair value at 30 June	6,322,000	6,322,000
	<u>6,322,000</u>	<u>6,322,000</u>
Land under roads		
at Council valuation at 30 June	1,111,124	1,111,124
	<u>1,111,124</u>	<u>1,111,124</u>
Total Land	<u>7,433,124</u>	<u>7,433,124</u>
Buildings		
at fair value at 30 June	8,422,046	8,275,368
Less accumulated depreciation	(398,874)	(237,865)
Total Buildings	<u>8,023,172</u>	<u>8,037,503</u>
Total Property	<u>15,456,296</u>	<u>15,470,627</u>

Valuation of land (excluding land under roads) and buildings was undertaken by the Valuer-General as at 30 June 2022. The valuation of buildings is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation at the date of valuation. The valuation of land is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Land under roads were revalued in 2019/20 based on unit rate per hectare provided by the Valuer General through the Department of Primary Industries, Parks Water and Environment.

Note	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)		
Plant and Equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment		
at cost	5,759,895	5,510,751
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,390,885)	(3,213,136)
	2,369,010	2,297,615
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		
at cost	369,411	348,566
Less accumulated depreciation	(149,266)	(140,308)
	220,145	208,258
Computers and telecommunications		
at cost	192,517	331,225
Less accumulated depreciation	(158,129)	(308,812)
	34,388	22,413
Total Plant and Equipment	2,623,543	2,528,286
Infrastructure		
Roads		
at fair value at 30 June	87,338,014	78,710,250
Less accumulated depreciation	(15,354,061)	(13,255,662)
	71,983,953	65,454,588
Bridges		
at fair value at 30 June	18,319,611	16,286,659
Less accumulated depreciation	(9,334,492)	(8,093,549)
	8,985,119	8,193,110
Footpaths, kerbs and gutters		
at fair value at 30 June	3,130,839	2,825,078
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,924,075)	(1,689,948)
	1,206,764	1,135,130
Drainage		
at fair value at 30 June	2,487,185	2,453,939
Less accumulated depreciation	(690,595)	(665,390)
	1,796,590	1,788,549
Infrastructure		
at fair value at 30 June	1,989,061	1,896,081
Less accumulated depreciation	(1,039,955)	(949,511)
	949,106	946,570
Total Infrastructure	84,921,531	77,517,947
A full valuation of roads and footpaths was undertaken by independent valuers, Moloneys Asset Management Systems, effective July 2020 and indexed 30 June 2023. Bridges were revalued by AusSpan effective January 2023. Drainage and other infrastructure have not been revalued due to the immaterial amount of assets in these classes.		
Works in progress		
Buildings at cost	620,724	194,489
Roads at cost	2,009,496	209,164
Infrastructure	274,243	33,182
Drainage	698,056	-
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	6,815
Footpaths, kerbs and gutters	758,464	-
Bridges	22,671	-
Total Works in progress	4,383,653	443,650
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	107,385,022	95,960,510

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

Reconciliation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

2023	Balance at beginning of financial year	Acquisition of assets	Revaluation increments (decrements) (note 27)	Depreciation and amortisation (note 16)	Written down value of disposals	Transfers	Balance at end of financial year
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Property							
land	6,322,000	-	-	-	-	-	6,322,000
land under roads	1,111,124	-	-	-	-	-	1,111,124
Total land	7,433,124	-	-	-	-	-	7,433,124
buildings	8,037,503	-	-	161,009	-	146,678	8,023,172
Total buildings	8,037,503	-	-	161,009	-	146,678	8,023,172
Total property	15,470,627	-	-	161,009	-	146,678	15,456,296
Plant and Equipment							
plant, machinery and equipment	2,297,615	399,770	-	319,533	8,842	-	2,369,010
fixtures, fittings and furniture	208,258	33,910	-	28,838	-	6,815	220,145
computers and telecommunications	22,413	25,725	-	13,750	-	-	34,388
Total plant and equipment	2,528,286	459,405	-	362,121	8,842	6,815	2,623,543
Infrastructure							
roads	65,454,588	-	6,920,926	1,355,821	204,381	1,168,640	71,983,952
bridges	8,193,110	-	1,025,747	233,738	-	-	8,985,119
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	1,135,130	-	120,296	55,655	-	6,993	1,206,764
drainage	1,788,549	-	-	25,204	-	33,245	1,796,590
infrastructure	946,570	-	-	90,445	-	92,980	949,105
Total infrastructure	77,517,947	-	8,066,969	1,760,863	204,381	1,301,858	84,921,530
Works in progress							
roads	209,164	3,009,209	-	-	-	(1,208,878)	2,009,496
buildings	194,489	572,913	-	-	-	(146,678)	620,724
infrastructure	33,182	334,041	-	-	-	(92,980)	274,243
drainage	-	698,056	-	-	-	-	698,056
fixtures, fittings and furniture	6,815	-	-	-	-	(6,815)	-
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	-	758,464	-	-	-	-	758,464
bridges	-	22,671	-	-	-	-	22,671
Total works in progress	443,650	5,395,354	-	-	-	(1,455,351)	4,383,653
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	95,960,510	5,854,759	8,066,969	2,283,993	213,223	-	107,385,022

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

Reconciliation of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

2022	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	3,401,816	-	2,920,184	-	-	-	6,322,000
land under roads	1,111,124	-	-	-	-	-	1,111,124
Total land	4,512,940	-	2,920,184	-	-	-	7,433,124
buildings	5,042,251	-	2,809,442	144,809	-	330,619	8,037,503
Total buildings	5,042,251	-	2,809,442	144,809	-	330,619	8,037,503
Total property	9,555,191	-	5,729,626	144,809	-	330,619	15,470,627
Plant and Equipment							
plant, machinery and equipment	2,037,334	649,664	-	283,821	105,562	-	2,297,615
fixtures, fittings and furniture	165,178	52,442	-	22,695	-	13,333	208,258
computers and telecommunications	32,831	4,174	-	14,592	-	-	22,413
Total plant and equipment	2,235,343	706,280	-	321,108	105,562	13,333	2,528,286
Infrastructure							
roads	63,042,233	-	-	1,347,860	143,927	3,904,142	65,454,588
bridges	8,214,449	-	-	206,400	-	185,061	8,193,110
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	1,192,122	-	-	56,992	-	-	1,135,130
drainage	988,604	-	-	23,840	-	823,785	1,788,549
infrastructure	745,806	-	-	88,600	-	289,364	946,570
Total infrastructure	74,183,214	-	-	1,723,692	143,927	5,202,352	77,517,947
Works in progress							
roads	2,284,286	2,032,890	-	-	-	(4,108,012)	209,164
buildings	75,891	334,652	-	-	-	(216,054)	194,489
infrastructure	157,344	89,230	-	-	-	(213,392)	33,182
drainage	818,632	5,153	-	-	-	(823,785)	-
fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	6,815	-	-	-	-	6,815
footpaths, kerbs and gutters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
bridges	162,420	22,641	-	-	-	(185,061)	-
Total works in progress	3,498,573	2,491,381	-	-	-	(5,546,304)	443,650
Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	89,472,321	3,197,661	5,729,626	2,189,609	249,489	-	95,960,510

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 applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year:

	Threshold
	\$
Land	
land	5,000
land improvements	5,000
land under roads	5,000
Buildings	
buildings	5,000
building improvements	5,000
heritage buildings	5,000
Plant and Equipment	
plant, machinery and equipment	1,000
fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,000
computers and telecommunications	1,000
leased plant and equipment	1,000
Roads	
road pavements and seals	5,000
road substructure	5,000
road formation and earthworks	5,000
road kerb, channel and minor culverts	5,000
Bridges	
bridges deck	5,000
bridges substructure	5,000
Other Infrastructure	
footpaths and cycleways	5,000
drainage	5,000
recreational, leisure and community facilities	5,000
waste management	5,000
parks, open space and streetscapes	5,000
off street car parks	5,000
Intangible assets	
intangible assets	1,000

Revaluation

Council has adopted the following valuation bases for its non-current assets:

Land	fair value
Land improvements	cost
Plant and machinery	cost
Furniture, fittings and office equipment	cost
Stormwater and drainage infrastructure	fair value
Roads and streets infrastructure	fair value
Bridges	fair value
Buildings	fair value
Intangibles	cost
Parks, recreation facilities and community amenities	cost
Investment in water corporation	fair value

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.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note 24 Trade and other payables		
Trade payables	984,610	391,904
Rates and charges in advance	171,245	139,127
Accrued expenses	50,455	71,832
Other	48,260	5,533
Total trade and other payables	1,254,570	608,396

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	1,200	1,200
Retention amounts	137,280	114,247
Other refundable deposits	96,787	98,091
Total trust funds and deposits	235,267	213,538

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
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2023						
Balance at beginning of the financial year	200,408	400,873	255,462	103,926	116,232	1,076,901
Additional provisions	176,154	158,442	24,694	4,080	40,019	403,389
Amounts used	(164,383)	(158,583)	(80,764)	-	(49,698)	(453,428)
Balance at the end of the financial year	212,179	400,732	199,392	108,006	106,553	1,026,862
Current	212,179	306,278	199,392	-	94,491	812,340
Non-Current	-	94,454	-	108,006	12,062	214,522
Total	212,179	400,732	199,392	108,006	106,553	1,026,862
2022						
Balance at beginning of the financial year	208,644	417,001	227,927	100,900	120,353	1,074,825
Additional provisions	177,577	33,553	54,029	3,026	30,712	298,897
Amounts used	(185,813)	(49,681)	(26,494)	-	(34,833)	(296,821)
Balance at the end of the financial year	200,408	400,873	255,462	103,926	116,232	1,076,901
Current	200,408	335,724	255,462	-	107,417	899,011
Non-Current	-	65,149	-	103,926	8,815	177,890
Total	200,408	400,873	255,462	103,926	116,232	1,076,901

(a) Employee benefits

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

Weighted average increase in employee costs	18.23%	(6.51%)
Weighted average discount rates	2.97%	0.48%

Employee Numbers - FTE

2023	2022
27	27

Accounting policy

Employee benefits

i) Short term obligations

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

ii) Other long term employee benefit obligations

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

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

iv) Defined benefit plans

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

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

v) Defined contribution plans

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

(b) Landfill restoration

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

Council does not expect to receive reimbursement from a third party

Key assumptions:

- discount rate	3.97%
- index rate	6.90%

Note 27 Reserves

	Balance at beginning of reporting year	Increment	(decrement)	Balance at end of reporting year
(a) Asset revaluation reserve	\$	\$	\$	\$
2023				
Property				
Land	4,914,534	-	-	4,914,534
Land under roads	153,728	-	-	153,728
Buildings	4,521,639	-	-	4,521,639
Fixtures and fittings	4,530	-	-	4,530
	9,594,431	-	-	9,594,431
Infrastructure				
Roads	56,088,634	6,920,926	-	63,009,560
Bridges	7,241,945	1,025,747	-	8,267,692
Footpaths and cycleways	2,823,943	120,296	-	2,944,239
Drainage	596,922	-	-	596,922
	66,751,444	8,066,969	-	74,818,413
Total asset revaluation reserve	76,345,875	8,066,969	-	84,412,844
2022				
Property				
Land	1,994,350	2,920,184	-	4,914,534
Land under roads	153,728	-	-	153,728
Buildings	1,712,197	2,809,442	-	4,521,639
Fixtures and fittings	4,530	-	-	4,530
	3,864,805	5,729,626	-	9,594,431
Infrastructure				
Roads	56,088,634	-	-	56,088,634
Bridges	7,241,945	-	-	7,241,945
Footpaths and cycleways	2,823,943	-	-	2,823,943
Drainage	596,922	-	-	596,922
	66,751,444	-	-	66,751,444
Total asset revaluation reserve	70,616,249	5,729,626	-	76,345,875

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	\$	\$	\$	\$
2023				
Equity Investment assets				
Investment in water corporation	(1,379,104)	280,305	-	(1,098,799)
Total fair value reserve	(1,379,104)	280,305	-	(1,098,799)
2022				
Equity Investment assets				
Investment in water corporation	(1,592,875)	213,771	-	(1,379,104)
Total fair value reserve	(1,592,875)	213,771	-	(1,379,104)

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	\$	\$	\$	\$
2023				
Other Reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542
Total Other reserves	1,641,542	-	-	1,641,542
2022				
Other Reserves	1,653,729	3,939	(16,126)	1,641,542
Total Other reserves	1,653,729	3,939	(16,126)	1,641,542
			2023	2022
			\$	\$
(a) Asset revaluation reserve			84,412,844	76,345,875
(b) Fair value reserve			(1,098,799)	(1,379,104)
(c) Other reserves			1,641,542	1,641,542
Total Reserves			84,955,587	76,608,313

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

Result from continuing operations	2,220,995	1,906,703
Depreciation/amortisation	2,306,993	2,189,609
(Profit)/loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment, infrastructure	187,041	146,117
Capital grants received specifically for new or upgraded assets	(1,417,729)	(1,758,823)
<i>Change in assets and liabilities:</i>		
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	(98,131)	110,584
Decrease/(increase) in other assets	(5,809)	(42,338)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	(4,574)	(4,405)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	646,174	(241,201)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(50,039)	2,076
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	3,784,921	2,308,322

Note 29 Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents (see note 19)	10,540,697	11,144,895
Total reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents	10,540,697	11,144,895

Note 30 Superannuation

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

For the year ended 30 June 2023 the Council contributed 0% (2022: 0%) of employees' gross income to the Fund. Assets accumulate in the fund to meet member benefits as they accrue, and if assets within the fund are insufficient to satisfy benefits payable, the Council is required to meet its share of the deficiency.

Rice Warner Pty Ltd undertook the last actuarial review of the Fund at 30 June 2020. The review disclosed that at that time the net market value of assets available for funding member benefits was \$51,939,000, the value of vested benefits was \$43,411,000, the surplus over vested benefits was \$8,528,000, the value of total accrued benefits was \$43,562,000, and the number of members was 95. These amounts relate to all members of the Fund at the date of valuation and no asset or liability is recorded in the Tasplan Super's financial statements for Council employees.

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

- Net Investment Return 3.75% p.a.
- Salary Inflation 2.75% p.a.
- Price Inflation n/a

The actuarial review concluded that:

- The value of assets of the Fund was adequate to meet the liabilities of the Fund in respect of vested benefits as at 30 June 2020.
- The value of assets of the Fund was adequate to meet the value of the liabilities of the Fund in respect of accrued benefits as at 30 June 2020.
- Based on the assumptions used, and assuming the Employer contributes at the levels described below, the value of the assets is expected to continue to be adequate to meet the value of the liabilities of the Fund in respect of vested benefits at all times during the period up to 30 June 2020.

Given the strong financial position of the Fund, the Actuary recommended that the Council consider a contribution holiday and contribute 0% of salaries from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024.

The Actuary will continue to undertake a brief review of the financial position the Fund at the end of each financial year to confirm that the contribution rates remain appropriate. The next full triennial actuarial review of the Fund will have an effective date of 30 June 2023 and is expected to be completed late in 2023.

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

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

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

- The 2020 actuarial review used the "aggregate" funding method. This is a standard actuarial funding method. The results from this method were tested by projecting future fund assets and liabilities for a range of future assumed investment returns. The funding method used is consistent with the method used at the previous actuarial review in 2017.

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

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

Note 30 Superannuation (cont.)

- The application of Fund assets on Spirit Super being wound-up is set out in Rule 20.2. This Rule provides that expenses and taxation liabilities should have first call on the available assets. Additional assets will initially be applied for the benefit of the then remaining members and/or their Dependents in such manner as the Trustee considers equitable and appropriate in accordance with the Applicable Requirements (broadly, superannuation and taxation legislative requirements and other requirements as determined by the regulators).
The Trust Deed does not contemplate the Fund withdrawing from Spirit Super. However it is likely that Rule 15.2 would be applied in this case (as detailed above).
- The Fund is a defined benefit Fund.
- The Fund has been classified as a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. Thus the Fund is not able to prepare standard AASB119 defined benefit reporting.
- As reported above, Assets exceeded accrued benefits as at the date of the last actuarial review, 30 June 2020. Favourable investment returns, since that date, has seen further improvement in the financial position of the Fund. The financial position of the Fund will be fully investigated at the actuarial review as at 30 June 2023.
- An analysis of the assets and vested benefits of sub-funds participating in the Scheme, prepared by Deloitte Consulting Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2022, showed that the Fund had assets of \$49.53 million and members' Vested Benefits were \$40.79 million. These amounts represented 0.20% and 0.17% respectively of the corresponding total amounts for Spirit Super.
- As at 30 June 2022 the Fund had 77 members and the total employer contributions and member contributions for the year ending 30 June 2022 were \$780,908 and \$229,521 respectively.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Accumulation funds		
Employer contributions to super funds	209,853	190,406
	<u>209,853</u>	<u>190,406</u>

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Note 31 Commitments		
Capital expenditure commitments		
Stormwater	45,881	-
Buildings	408,842	-
Total	<u>454,723</u>	<u>-</u>
Contractual commitments		
Contractual commitments at end of financial year but not recognised in the financial report are as follows:		
Recycling and garbage collection contracts (expires 2025)	1,102,190	1,642,137
Total	<u>1,102,190</u>	<u>1,642,137</u>

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:

2023

	Weighted average interest rate	Floating interest rate	Fixed interest maturing in:			Total
			1 year or less	Over 1 to 5 years	Non- interest bearing	
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	4.36%	2,223,523	8,317,174	-	-	10,540,697
Trade and other receivables		239,456	-	-	-	239,456
Investment in water corporation		-	-	-	8,059,521	8,059,521
Total financial assets		2,462,979	8,317,174	-	8,059,521	18,839,674
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables		-	-	-	1,254,570	1,254,570
Trust funds and deposits		-	-	-	235,267	235,267
Total financial liabilities		-	-	-	1,489,837	1,489,837
Net financial assets (liabilities)		2,462,979	8,317,174	-	6,569,684	17,349,837

2022

	Weighted average interest rate	Floating interest rate	Fixed interest maturing in:			Total
			1 year or less	Over 1 to 5 years	Non- interest bearing	
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	1.36%	2,397,425	8,747,470	-	-	11,144,895
Trade and other receivables		141,325	-	-	-	141,325
Investment in water corporation		-	-	-	7,779,216	7,779,216
Total financial assets		2,538,750	8,747,470	-	7,779,216	19,065,436
Financial liabilities						
Trade and other payables		-	-	-	608,396	608,396
Trust funds and deposits		-	-	-	213,538	213,538
Total financial liabilities		-	-	-	821,934	821,934
Net financial assets (liabilities)		2,538,750	8,747,470	-	6,957,282	18,243,502

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	
	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	10,540,697	11,144,895	10,540,697	11,144,895
Trade and other receivables	239,456	141,325	239,456	141,325
Investment in water corporation	8,059,521	7,779,216	8,059,521	7,779,216
Total financial assets	18,839,674	19,065,436	18,839,674	19,065,436
Financial liabilities				
Trade and other payables	1,254,570	608,396	1,254,570	608,396
Trust funds and deposits	235,267	213,538	235,267	213,538
Total financial liabilities	1,489,837	821,934	1,489,837	821,934

(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) Risks and mitigation

The risks associated with our main financial instruments and our policies for minimising these risks are detailed below.

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
2023				
Cash and cash equivalents	2,223,522	-	-	2,223,522
Trade and other receivables	-	-	239,456	239,456
Investments and other financial assets	8,317,175	-	-	8,317,175
Total contractual financial assets	10,540,697	-	239,456	10,780,153

2022				
Cash and cash equivalents	2,397,424	-	-	2,397,424
Trade and other receivables	-	-	141,325	141,325
Investments and other financial assets	8,747,471	-	-	8,747,471
Total contractual financial assets	11,144,895	-	141,325	11,286,220

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:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current (not yet due)	73,471	21,769
Past due by up to 30 days	5,432	3,015
Past due between 31 and 180 days	25,804	16,830
Past due between 181 and 365 days	1,477	284
Past due by more than 1 year	230	-
Total Trade & Other Receivables	106,414	41,898

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).

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

2022	6 mths or less	6-12 months	1-2 years	Contracted Cash Flow	Carrying Amount
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Trade and other payables	608,396	-	-	608,396	608,396
Trust funds and deposits	213,538	-	-	213,538	213,538
Total financial liabilities	821,934	-	-	821,934	821,934

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
2023		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	10,540,697	(105,407)	(105,407)	105,407	105,407

		Interest rate risk			
		-1 %		+1%	
		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
2022		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	11,144,895	(111,449)	(111,449)	111,449	111,449

Note 34 Events occurring after balance date

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

Note 35 Related party transactions

(i) Responsible Persons

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

Councillors	Councillor Loueen Triffit (Mayor)
	Councillor James Allwright (Deputy Mayor)
	Councillor Anthony Bailey
	Councillor Robert Cassidy
	Councillor Julie Honner
	Councillor Scott Bowden
	Councillor Yvonne Miller (from 31/10/22)
	Councillor John Hall (from 31/10/22)
	David Meacham (from 31/10/22)
	Councillor Anthony Archer (to 30/10/22)
	Councillor Jim Poore (to 30/10/22)
	Councillor Anita Campbell (to 30/10/22)
General Manager	Kim Hossack from 21/11/22
	Lyn Eyles to 17/10/22
Senior Managers	Adam Wilson
	Jason Branch
	Graham Rogers

(ii) Councillor Remuneration

2023

Short term employee benefits

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

2022

Short term employee benefits

Position	Period	Allowances	Vehicles	Total Compensation AASB 124	Expenses ¹	Total allowances and expenses section 72
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mayor	Full year	34,724	-	34,724	507	35,231
Deputy Mayor	Full year	20,393	-	20,393	4,249	24,642
Councillors	Full year	69,451	-	69,451	6,874	76,325
Total		124,569	-	124,569	11,630	136,198

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

(iii) Key Management Personnel Remuneration

2023	Remuneration band	Number of employees	Short term employee benefits			Post employment benefits		Total
			Salary ¹	Vehicles ²	Other Allowances and Benefits ³	Superannuation ⁴	Non-monetary Benefits ⁵	
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$110 001 - \$130 000	2	176,357	24,595	-	30,393	7,144	238,489
	\$140 001 - \$160 000	1	305,135	3,597	1,730	4,882	(159,048)	156,296
	\$160 001 - \$180 000	2	212,995	30,637	-	35,352	66,621	345,605
	Total		694,487	58,829	1,730	70,627	(85,283)	740,390

2022	Remuneration band	Number of employees	Short term employee benefits			Post employment benefits		Total
			Salary ¹	Vehicles ²	Other Allowances and Benefits ³	Superannuation ⁴	Non-monetary Benefits ⁵	
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$100 001 - \$120 000	2	181,108	32,149	-	18,610	7,165	239,032
	\$160 001 - \$180 000	1	122,662	15,431	-	12,628	(16,093)	134,628
	\$150 001 - \$170 000	1	131,681	8,769	5,000	16,328	6,777	168,555
	Total		435,451	56,349	5,000	47,566	(2,151)	542,215

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 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	\$70,339	Council owes \$15,295	30-day terms on invoices

1 Council purchased gravel during the year from a company which has a member of Council's 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 significant accounting policies and pending accounting standards

(a) Taxation

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

Goods and services tax (GST)

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

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

(b) Impairment of non-financial assets

At each reporting date, Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Statement of Comprehensive Income, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset. For non-cash generating assets of Council such as roads, drains, public buildings and the like, value in use is represented by the deprival value of the asset approximated by its written down replacement cost.

(c) Allocation between current and non-current

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

(d) Financial guarantees

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

(e) Contingent assets, contingent liabilities and commitments

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

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

(f) Budget

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

(g) Adoption of new and amended accounting standards

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

(h) Pending Accounting Standards

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

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

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

impact.

Note 37 Significant Business Activities

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

	Hamilton and Bothwell Camping Grounds	
	2023	2022
Revenue	\$	\$
User Charges	23,186	14,094
Total Revenue	23,186	14,094
Expenditure		
<i>Direct</i>		
Employee Costs	2,247	627
Materials and Contacts	966	622
Utilities	1,662	1,999
<i>Indirect</i>		
Engineering & Administration	450	125
Total Expenses	5,325	3,373
<i>Notional cost of free services received</i>		
<i>Capital Costs</i>		
Depreciation	273	545
Opportunity cost of capital	3,181	1,968
Total Capital Costs	3,454	2,513
<i>Competitive neutrality adjustments</i>		
Rates, water and land tax	17,129	14,166
	17,129	14,166
<i>Calculated Surplus/(Deficit)</i>	(2,722)	(5,958)
Tax Equivalent rate	30%	30%
Taxation equivalent	(817)	(1,787)
Competitive neutrality costs	16,312	12,379

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	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	2020 \$
	(a)	Underlying surplus or deficit					
		Net result for the year		2,220,995	1,906,703	1,820,396	911,198
		Less non-operating income					
		Capital grants		1,417,729	1,758,823	1,741,592	651,546
		FAGs in advance		986,909	761,962	(5,995)	37,359
		Add non-operational expenses					
		Flood/Fire damage		-	467,537	-	17,761
		Loss on disposal of assets		204,181	143,927	-	-
		Planning appeal		-	-	-	46,690
		Underlying surplus/deficit	0	20,538	(2,618)	84,799	286,744
		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>		20,538	(2,618)	84,799	286,744
		Recurrent income*		8,842,641	7,515,975	7,130,434	7,089,567
		Underlying surplus ratio %	0%	0.2%	(0.0%)	1.2%	4.0%
		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		10,780,153	11,286,220	10,456,037	11,446,842
		total liabilities		2,516,699	1,898,835	2,170,049	2,058,874
		Net financial asset	0	8,263,454	9,387,385	8,285,988	9,387,968
		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>		8,263,454	9,387,385	8,285,988	9,387,968
		Recurrent income*		8,842,641	7,515,975	7,130,434	7,089,567
		Net financial liabilities ratio %	0% - (50%)	93%	125%	116%	132%
		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.					
		<u>Transport Infrastructure</u>					
		<u>Projected capital funding outlays**</u>		1,340,000	1,340,000	2,488,000	1,440,000
		Projected capital expenditure funding***		1,340,000	1,340,000	2,488,000	1,440,000
		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.)	2023 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	2020 \$	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>	71,983,953	65,454,588	63,042,233	60,550,890	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	87,338,014	78,710,250	75,902,068	78,206,073	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	82.4%	83.2%	83.1%	77.4%
		<i>Buildings</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	8,023,172	8,037,503	5,042,251	5,163,469	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	8,422,046	8,275,368	5,818,043	5,818,043	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	95.3%	97.1%	86.7%	88.7%
		<i>Drainage</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	1,796,590	1,788,549	988,604	1,004,906	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	2,487,185	2,453,939	1,630,155	1,630,154	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	72.2%	72.9%	60.6%	61.6%
		<i>Bridges</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	8,985,119	8,193,110	8,214,449	8,217,756	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	18,319,611	16,286,659	16,184,436	16,114,517	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	49.0%	50.3%	50.8%	51.0%
		<i>Footpaths and Cycleways</i>					
		<u>Fair value (Carrying amount)</u>	1,206,764	1,135,130	1,192,122	933,572	
		Current replacement cost (Gross)	3,130,839	2,825,078	2,825,078	2,789,021	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	38.5%	40.2%	42.2%	33.5%
		<i>Other infrastructure assets</i>					
		<u>Depreciated replacement cost</u>	949,106	946,570	745,806	785,361	
		Current replacement cost	1,989,061	1,896,081	1,615,420	1,578,811	
		Asset consumption ratio %	60%	47.7%	49.9%	46.2%	49.7%
		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>	3,176,769	2,475,137	2,250,004	1,786,424	
		Annual depreciation expense	2,308,993	2,189,609	2,100,532	2,121,424	
		Asset sustainability ratio %	100%	137.7%	113.0%	107.1%	84.2%

This ratio calculates the extent to which Council is maintaining operating capacity through renewal of their existing asset base.
Good results in 2021 to 2023. Below benchmark in 2020 due to major upgrades taking priority to convert gravel roads to sealed.

	Capital renewal expenditure	Capital new/upgrade expenditure	Total Capital Expenditure
By asset class	\$	\$	\$
Buildings	270,785	302,128	572,913
Land	-	-	-
Plant, machinery and equipment	247,772	151,998	399,770
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	32,878	1,032	33,910
Computers	21,084	4,641	25,725
Roads	1,630,128	1,379,081	3,009,209
Footpaths, kerbs and gutters	758,464	-	758,464
Drainage	-	698,056	698,056
Other infrastructure	192,987	141,054	334,041
Bridges	22,671	-	22,671
Total	3,176,769	2,677,990	5,854,759

Note 39 Fair Value Measurements

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

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

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

(a) Fair Value Hierarchy

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

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

The table below shows the assigned level for each asset and liability held at fair value by the Council. The table presents the Council's assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value at 30 June 2023.

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 2023

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

As at 30 June 2022

	Note	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Recurring fair value measurements					
Investment in water corporation	18	-	-	7,779,216	7,779,216
Land	23	-	6,322,000	-	6,322,000
Buildings	23	-	8,037,503	-	8,037,503
Land under roads	23	-	1,111,124	-	1,111,124
Roads, including footpaths & cycleways	23	-	-	66,589,718	66,589,718
Bridges	23	-	-	8,193,110	8,193,110
Drainage	23	-	-	1,788,549	1,788,549
Other Infrastructure	23	-	-	946,570	946,570
		-	15,470,627	85,297,163	100,767,790

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

(b) Highest and best use

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

Note 39 Fair Value Measurements (cont.)

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

Investment in water corporation

Refer to Note 18 for details.

Land and buildings

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

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

Land under roads

Land under roads is based on valuations determined by the Valuer-General effective 1 July 2019, using site values adjusted for englobos (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 2020 and indexed 30 June 2023. The next full valuation is planned for 30 June 2024.

Note 39 Fair Value Measurements (cont.)

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

Bridges

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

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

Other Infrastructure

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

(d) Unobservable inputs and sensitivities

Asset / liability category*	Carrying amount (at fair value)	Key unobservable inputs *	Expected range of inputs	Description of how changes in inputs will affect the fair value
Roads	\$ 71,983,952	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	\$ 8,985,119	Useful life	Refer Note 1e	The longer the useful life, the higher the fair value
Investment in Water Corporation	\$ 8,059,521	Useful life	Refer Note 1e	The longer the useful life, the higher the fair value
Buildings	\$ 8,023,172	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).

Note 40 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council in June 2022. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include State and Federal Government decisions including new grant programs, changing economic activity, the weather, and by decisions made by the Council. Material variations of more than 10% are explained below:

Revenues

(i) Statutory fees and fines

The amount under budget of \$8,997 (18%) was due mainly to a conservative estimate being made in the budget.

(ii) User fees

The amount over budget \$607,031 (253%) was due mainly to a one-off planning fee of \$594,000.

(iii) Interest

Revenue income was up \$233,383 on budget (389%) due to higher than expected bank interest rates available.

(iv) Investment revenue from water corporation

Dividend revenue was up \$20,400 on budget (20%) due to a special dividend received.

(v) Grants

The Capital Grants decrease of \$916,421 on budget (39%) was due to grants budgeted for 2022/23 being carried forward to 2023/24 and Operating Grants increase of \$1,153,473 on budget (39%) was due mainly to Financial Assistance grant due 2023/24 being received in 2022/23.

Expenses

Employee benefits

(i) The increase of \$387,712 (19%) was due mainly to wage and provision increases in line with inflation.

(ii) Materials and services

The increase of \$582,887 on budget (28%) was due mainly to increased maintenance activity in the municipality.

(iii) Other expenses

The decrease of \$236,465 on budget (14%) was due mainly to reduced spend on support and donations and reduce workers compensation insurance following reduction in injury claims

Certification of the Financial Report

The financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Central Highlands Council as at 30 June 2023 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Wilson', written over a horizontal line.

Adam Wilson
Acting General Manager

Date: 17 November 2023