

MINUTES SCHEDULED MEETING

WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL – 5:45PM Monday 7 October 2024

VENUE:

Reception Room, 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool

COUNCILLORS:

Cr. Ben Blain (Mayor)

Cr. Otha Akoch

Cr. Debbie Arnott

Cr. Vicki Jellie AM

Cr. Cr. Angie Paspaliaris

Cr. Max Taylor

Cr. Richard Ziegeler

Copies of the Warrnambool City Council's Agendas & Minutes can be obtained online at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

Andrew Mason
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

Video Recording of Council Meetings

All Open and Special Council Meetings will be video recorded, with the exception of matters identified as confidential items in the agenda. This includes public participation sections of the meeting. Video recordings of meetings will be made available for download on the internet via the Council's website by noon the day following the meeting and will be retained and publicly available on the website for 12 months following the meeting date. The videos will be retained for the term of the current Council, after which time the videos will be archived and destroyed in accordance with applicable public record standards. By participating in Open and Special Council meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information that they share at the meeting (including any personal/sensitive information), for the purposes of Council carrying out its functions.

Behaviour At Council Meetings

Thank you all for coming – we really appreciate you being here. These meetings are the place where, we as Councillors, make decisions on a broad range of matters. These can vary greatly in subject, significance and the level of interest or involvement the community has. As part of making these decisions, we are presented with comprehensive information that helps us to form our position – you will find this in the agenda. It should also be remembered that the Council meeting is a “meeting of the Council that is open to the public”, not a “public meeting with the Council.” Each Council is required to have Governance Rules that pertains to meeting procedures. Warrnambool City Council has followed best practice in this regard and its Governance Rules provides regulations and procedures for the governing and conduct of Council meetings. Copies of the Conduct and Behaviour excerpt from Warrnambool City Council's Governance Rules can be obtained online at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au. We thank you in anticipation of your co-operation in this matter.

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MINUTES OF THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE
RECEPTION ROOM, WARRNAMBOOL CIVIC CENTRE, 25 LIEBIG STREET, WARRNAMBOOL ON
MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 5:45 PM

PRESENT: Cr. Ben Blain, Mayor/Chairman
Cr. Otha Akoch
Cr. Debbie Arnott
Cr. Vicki Jellie AM - Virtual
Cr. Angie Paspaliaris
Cr. Max Taylor
Cr. Richard Ziegeler

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Andrew Mason, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Peter Utri, Director Corporate Strategies
Mr Abel Farrell, Acting Director City Infrastructure
Mr Luke Coughlan, Director City Growth
Ms Brooke Love, Director Community Development
Mr James Plozza, Governance Manager
Ms. Wendy Clark, Executive Assistant

1. Opening Prayer & Original Custodians Statement

Almighty God
Grant to this Council
Wisdom, understanding and Sincerity of purpose
For the Good Governance of this City
Amen.

Original Custodians Statement

I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we stand and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

2. Apologies

3. Confirmation Of Minutes

MOVED: CR RICHARD ZIEGELER

SECONDED: CR DEBBIE ARNOTT

That the Minutes of the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 2 September 2024, be confirmed.

CARRIED - 7:0

4. Declaration By Councillors And Officers Of Any Conflict Of Interest In Any Item On The Agenda

Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) (**the Act**) provides that a relevant person must disclose a conflict of interest in respect of a matter and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to that matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting or delegated committee meeting and any action in relation to that matter.

Section 126(2) of the Act sets out that a relevant person (Councillor, member of a delegated Committee or member of Council staff) has a conflict of interest if the relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** within the meaning of section 127 of the Act or a **material conflict of interest** within the meaning of section 128 of the Act.

A relevant person has a **general conflict of interest** in a matter if an impartial, fair minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty.

A relevant person has a **material conflict of interest** in a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter.

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken. Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

Nil.

5. Mayoral Presentation

Even though we have gone into caretaker, we have had some exciting things happening in the City over the last month. It was great to see the Minister for Tourism, Steve Dimopoulos come down and announce \$50,000 in funding for the Claw Money exhibition that we are holding at the Art Gallery in November. It's going to be huge and it's the first time that Claw Money is going to be showing art outside of New York, so it is going to be a really big thing when it launches in November, so get down and check it out.

Also the One Night Stand happened since we had our last meeting. It was an absolutely amazing night and it was great to see some local talent with Flyn Gurry and GK and the surprise visit from Missy Higgins as well, it was a really special night even though it was absolutely freezing.

Just last week we went to the Hycl opening, now that's something that's been bubbling along for the last four to five years and it's really a special facility there at Deakin and it really does put us as a nation leader in hydrogen research and technology; and it's great that now it's been opened we will be able to see all the amazing research and things and really keep Warrnambool at the front of the green revolution with hydrogen so that was a really big buzz as well last week. Minister for Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio came down and opened that with our local member Jacinta Ermacora last week so that was another big one as well.

6. Public Question Time

Nil.

7. Reports

7.1. Presentation Of Annual Report 2023-2024

This report is being considered during an election period. The recommended decision is not a prohibited decision in accordance with the meaning of Council's Election Period Policy.

AUTHOR : Mayor Cr Ben Blain

Purpose:

For the Council to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report to the community.

Executive Summary

The Local Government Act 2020 requires Council to release its Annual report for the previous financial year by 31 October. The Council Annual Report 2023-2024, a required document under the Local Government Act, describes a productive year for Warrnambool City Council.

Over 2023-2024 Council completed or commenced a number of significant projects:-

- The new accessible amenities block at McGennan was opened in October last year. It offers improved safety and space in a prominent foreshore location.
- A multi-sport half-court was built in Lake Pertobe further enhancing an outstanding recreational precinct.
- The first stage of the Brierly Recreation Reserve redevelopment has now been completed with very positive feedback from soccer and cricket clubs. Council is now focused on advocating for a sports and community hub.
- Following a review of aged and disability services, Council recommitted to and expanded its involvement in delivering a range of services that help people live independently at home and in the community.
- Council installed a new hockey pitch in partnership with the Warrnambool Hockey Club.
- Council completed important strategic planning work for key sites and assets including the former saleyards land along Caramut Road, Flagstaff Hill, AquaZone and the Warrnambool Art Gallery.
- Council is in a strong financial position. We are paying down debt to reduce interest payments and create capacity for future projects.
- Work to bridge the infrastructure renewal gap continued and over 2023-2024 Council invested \$10.7 million in renewal works.
- As part of the commitment to make the city more liveable and accessible Council continued to expand its footpath network around the city. In fact we have more paths, 382km, than roads, 351km.

- The Key Worker Accommodation and Affordable Housing Project proposed by Council has the potential to make progress into resolving the housing shortage in Warrnambool, which is limiting employers' capacity to recruit workers and putting rental prices out of reach of lower income workers.

Thank you to Council staff on the delivery of the actions described in our Council Plan.

Thank you to the Warrnambool community for engaging with Council and providing feedback on a range of plans and policies.

Thank you to my fellow Councillors for your efforts this financial year and on the first three years of this Council term during which we re-set the strategic direction for Council and the city.

MOVED: CR VICKI JELLIE

SECONDED: CR DEBBIE ARNOTT

That Council adopt the Warrnambool City Council 2023-2024 Annual Report.

CARRIED - 7:0

Background

Sections 98-100 of the Local Government Act 2020 (LGA) and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 deal with statutory procedures that govern the preparation of an Annual Report inclusive of Financial Statements, Performance Statement, report of operations, auditor's reports, and adoption by Council.

Section 98 of the Local Government Act 2020 states that Council must prepare an Annual Report as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year.

The Annual Report must contain:

- a) a report of operations of the Council;
- b) an audited Performance Statement;
- c) audited Financial Statements;
- d) a copy of the auditor's report on the Performance Statement;
- e) a copy of the auditor's report on the Financial Statements under Part 3 of the Audit Act 1994;
- f) any other matters prescribed by the regulations.

Specifically, under section 100 of the Local government Act, the act requires a:-

"Meeting to consider annual report (1) For the purposes of section 18(1)(d)," and that

"the Mayor must report on the implementation of the Council Plan by presenting the annual report at a Council meeting open to the public."

At its meeting on September 2, 2024, Council gave in-principle agreement for the financial and performance statements and governance information to be certified prior to the Annual Report being finalised for presenting to the community.

Financial Impact

The Annual Report describes Council's performance against the 2023-2024 Budget.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

5 An effective Council

5.2 Engaged and informed community: Council will ensure ongoing community engagement to identify changing needs and priorities when developing and delivering services and programs.

5.5 Organisational and financial sustainability: Council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of Council's resources and assets.

Timing

Council is required to present the Annual Report before the end of October (within four months of the end of the financial year).

Community Impact / Consultation

The presentation of the Annual Report meets the requirement under the Local Government Act for the Mayor to report to the municipal community, at least once a year, on the implementation of the Council Plan.

Legal Risk / Impact

The presentation of the Annual Report is a legal requirement.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

Nil.

Collaborative Procurement

N/A.

Conclusion

Council is in a position to present to the community the Annual Report for the 2023-2024 financial year.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2751 2024 Annual Report [7.1.1 - 151 pages]



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

Annual Report

2023-2024



Annual Report 2023-2024



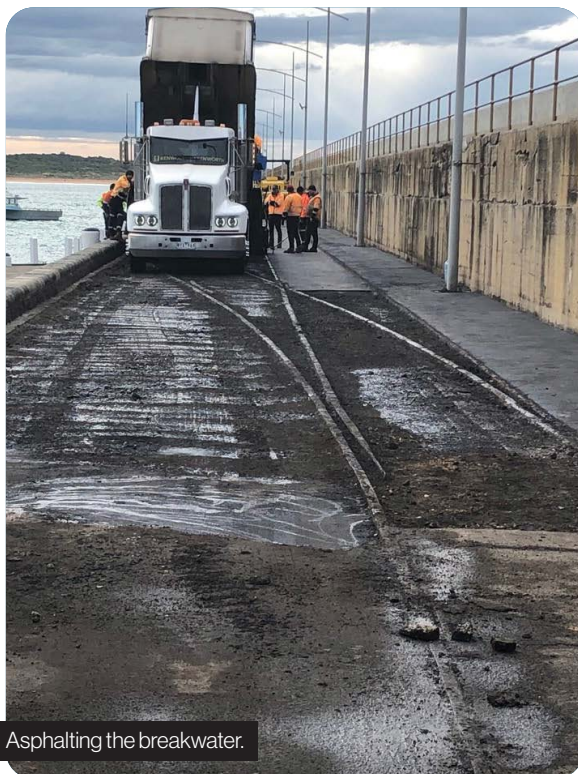
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Council staff replanting in the city centre.



Asphalting the breakwater.



Kayak launching facilities have enhanced river access for recreation.



Construction of a "speed cushion" in Dooley Street.

Introduction

Warrnambool City Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability to the community.

The Annual Report 2023-2024 is the primary means of advising the Warrnambool City community about Council's operations and performance during the financial year.

Warrnambool City Council acknowledges the Peek Whurrong and Kirrae Whurrong Peoples of the Gunditjmara, Eastern Maar Nations as the Traditional Owners of the land, waterways and skies within Warrnambool municipality.





Mayor's message

Cr Ben Blain
Warrnambool City Council Mayor

I am pleased to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report.

This Annual Report, details Warrnambool City Council's achievements towards the strategic objectives of the 2021-2025 Council Plan.

It is the fourth report of this Council and demonstrates a high level of completion of the actions described in the Council Plan.

The role of Council is to provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community.

In fulfilling its role, Council must consider the following overarching governance principles:

- Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;

- priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;
- the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making; innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;
- collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought; the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;
- regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;
- the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

Raised garden beds being installed at Archie Graham Community Centre.



Warrnambool artist Jimmi Buscombe and his Glow in the Dark mural at the F Project.



AFLW game between Essendon and Geelong at Reid Oval.



Message from the Chief Executive Officer **Andrew Mason**

The annual report provides a detailed record of our financial performance, charts our progress against the objectives in the Council Plan and showcases a number of the key outcomes achieved by Council for the community.

The 2023-2024 has been an exciting year of achievement for Council.

We have begun or completed a number of significant projects and have finished the year in a strong financial position.

I would like to acknowledge the Councillors for their strategic guidance and commitment to the community.

And I would also like to thank the Warrnambool community and Council staff who have all contributed to delivering the actions outlined in Council's vision and plan.



Vision

Council's vision is for Warrnambool to be a thriving city at the heart of coast and country.

Organisational values

Accountability

We will be responsible and take ownership of our actions and decisions by being ethical, honest and transparent.

Collaboration

We will foster effective relationships through engagement, communication and co-operation, supporting decisions and outcomes for the benefit of all.

Respect

We will treat everyone with dignity, fairness and empathy, providing others with the opportunity to share views and be heard.

Progressiveness

We will evolve and grow by encouraging development, change and continuous improvement in all that we do.

Wellbeing

We will commit to providing a safe and healthy workplace that promotes staff engagement, performance and achievement, allowing employees to flourish for the benefit of themselves and the organisation.

The year in review

Multi-sport half court

In June Council completed a multi-purpose sports court at Lake Pertobe.

The court, which includes half-court basketball markings, was built in an accessible space near the tennis courts, BMX track, cricket pitch and a car park.

The \$95,000 project was identified in the Lake Pertobe Master Plan and funded through Council's Small Infrastructure Fund.

McGennan amenities block

A new amenities block at the entrance to McGennan Car Park was opened in September.

The building, identified as a priority in the Lake Pertobe Master Plan, offers much improved accessibility, baby change tables, bench seats, showers and a safer design.

The previous amenities building had reached the end of its useful life and was demolished to make way for the new building that features reclaimed timber beams from the Edwards and Wollaston bridges.

The area was also landscaped and a path added to create an accessible connection to the Promenade and car park.

The new building contains:

- two accessible toilets including junior toilets, baby change tables, bench seats and vanity;
- two ambulant toilets with bench seats and hooks;
- three other cubicles with bench seats and hooks;
- a communal hand wash basin area; and
- four warm water external showers, two of which are accessible.

Warrnambool-based Bolden Constructions built the new facility which was designed by another local firm, Guy McLeod Architects.

Funding came from Council and the Australian Government's Building Better Regions fund.

The cost of the building was \$840,000 while the paths, landscaping and signage were added at a cost of \$75,000.

AFLW

Reid Oval hosted its second AFLW game in October – another clash between Essendon and Geelong.

Once again the Bombers had the Cats measure, coming from behind to win by 10 points.

The game drew a crowd of 2,800.

Multi-sport half court



McGennan amenities block



AFLW



Community Development Fund

The following groups were successful in securing a Council contribution to deliver important community-based projects.

Applicant	Project Title	Funding Category	Allocation
Warrnambool Gem Club	Improving access and participation for members with physical disabilities	Culture and Arts	\$4,596
Holiday Actors	Modern and sustainable lighting for regional theatre productions	Culture and Arts	\$2,867
Warrnambool Theatre Company	Theatre Tech for Shakespeare in Love	Culture and Arts	\$5,000
Lian Husi Timor	Lian Husi Timor - Port Fairy Folk Festival	Culture and Arts	\$3,330
Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak	Blister Pack Recycle Trial Project	Environment and Sustainability	\$5,000
Merrivale Community Association	Merrivale Repair Cafe	Environment and Sustainability	\$1,059
Russells Creek Club	Reducing Waste to Landfill	Environment and Sustainability	\$1,980
Sewing Space - Mens Shed	Eco Stiches	Environment and Sustainability	\$3,860
Warrnambool Volleyball Association	Inclusive Womens Volleyball	Sport and Recreation	\$4,201
Warrnambool Table Tennis Organisation	Happy Hitters - Women, Girls and People with a Disability	Sport and Recreation	\$1,790
Warrnambool Yacht Club	Learning and Safety Equipment Upgrade	Sport and Recreation	\$5,000
Southwest Strength Sports	Storage and transport for equipment	Sport and Recreation	\$4,754
Warrnambool Toy Library	Library toy purchase - gross motor skill focus	Sport and Recreation	\$4,949
Warrnambool BMX Club	Promotional Video	Sport and Recreation	\$5,000
Warrnambool Rangers Football Club	Mini Roos Coaching Certificate Training Course	Sport and Recreation	\$1,000
Warrnambool Roller Derby League	Purchase of essential and inclusive safety and training equipment	Sport and Recreation	\$1,264
South Rovers Football Netball Club	Purchase of Netball safety equipment	Sport and Recreation	\$669
Nestles Cricket Club	Junior Cricket Equipment	Sport and Recreation	\$1,000
Warrnambool Swimming Club	Swimmer Development Program 2024	Sport and Recreation	\$1,361



Fairy Street Christmas Market

Warrnambool and Moyne Youth Awards

The Warrnambool and Moyne Youth Awards recognise local young people who demonstrate the values of respect, kindness, resilience, responsibility, and passion.

Warrnambool award winners were Mia Hynes (12-15 age category), Olive Adams (16-18 age category) and Brittany Watts (19-25 age category).

Runners up included Isabella Dean, Charlotte Townsend and Keelie Sheppard from Warrnambool.

- Sports ground sub surface irrigation and connection to the existing bore.
- Relocate the synthetic cricket wicket between the soccer pitches to meet run off compliance with Football Victoria.

Challenges and future outlook

Rising construction and building costs will continue to adversely impact Council.

Council must also absorb significant increases in State Government charges including substantial increases in Workcover premiums, Victorian Electoral Commission costs, and compliance and regulation costs.

At the same time as costs are increasing grant opportunities have diminished and Council continues to operate under a rate cap set by the Victorian Government.

A significant change will be a return to wards in late 2024. Following a review by the Victorian Electoral Commission, the Victorian Government announced Warrnambool would be divided into seven wards, each with a representative Councillors. The new wards are: Botanic, Central, Hopkins River, Pertobe, Platypus Park, Russells Creek and Wollaston.

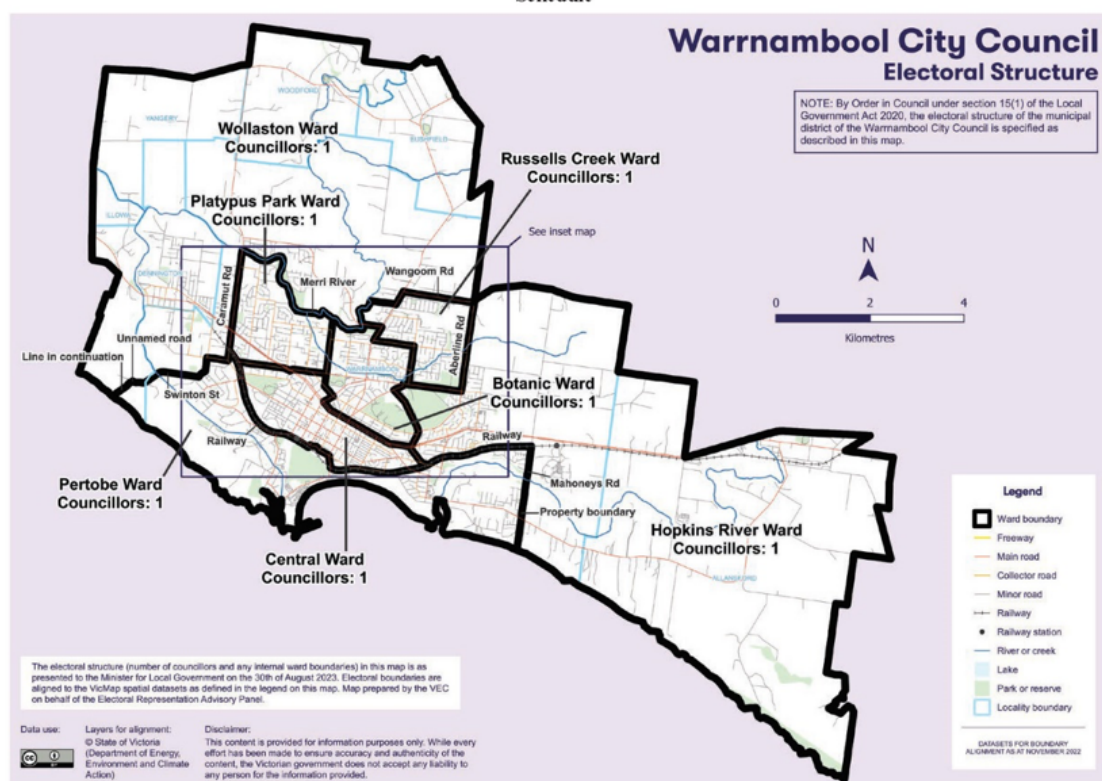
Brierly Reserve

Stage One of the redevelopment of Brierly Reserve was largely completed in the 2023-2024 year.

The \$2 million project, funded by the Victorian Government and Council, includes:

- Sports ground playing surface upgrade including drainage to achieve a year-round accessible oval.
- Surface realignment to support the development of two natural turf soccer pitches (100m x 65m) situated either side of synthetic cricket wicket.
- Installation of sports ground lighting to provide lighting that meets standards for semi-professional competition and professional training.

Schedule



Victoria Government Gazette

S 56

15 February 2024

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Financial summary

Council's financial position continues to remain sound.

A summary of our performance is outlined below. Detailed information relating to council's financial performance is included within the financial statements and performance statement sections of this report.

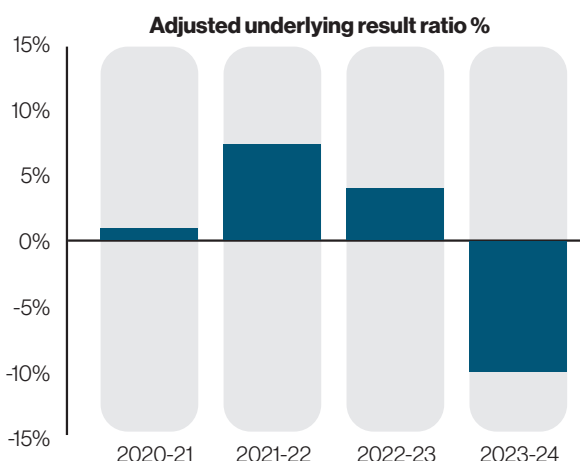
Operating position

Council achieved a surplus of \$10.6 million in 2023-24. This surplus is lower than the previous year's surplus of \$19.0 million, but higher than the budgeted surplus of \$7.2 million for the year.

The adjusted underlying surplus of council, after removing non-recurrent capital grants, cash capital contributions and non-monetary capital contributions, is a deficit of (\$9.2) million or (10.3%) when compared to adjusted underlying revenue. The underlying result is mainly due to once-off adjustments related to:

- Asset revaluations affecting depreciation expenses, and
- The decision by the Federal Government to delay the payment of Federal Assistance Grants.

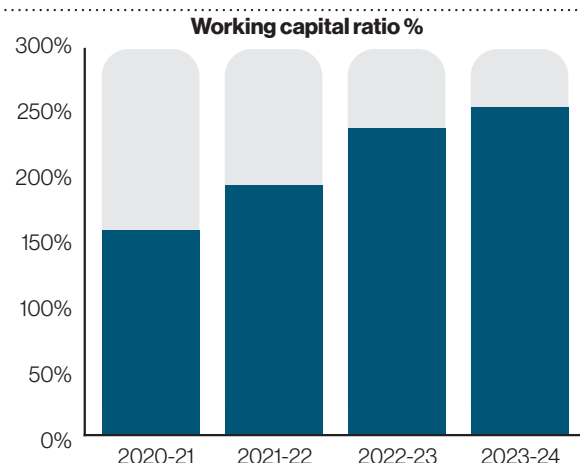
Over the long term, sustaining an adjusted underlying surplus is a critical financial strategy that provides capacity to renew the \$0.8 billion of community assets under council's control. Council is budgeting a break-even underlying result in the 2024-25 budget.



Liquidity

Cash and investment holdings have increased by \$3.5 million from the prior year in line with capital works funding and delivery.

The working capital ratio which assesses council's ability to meet current commitments is calculated by measuring council's current assets as a percentage of current liabilities. Council's result of 255% is an indicator of satisfactory financial position.



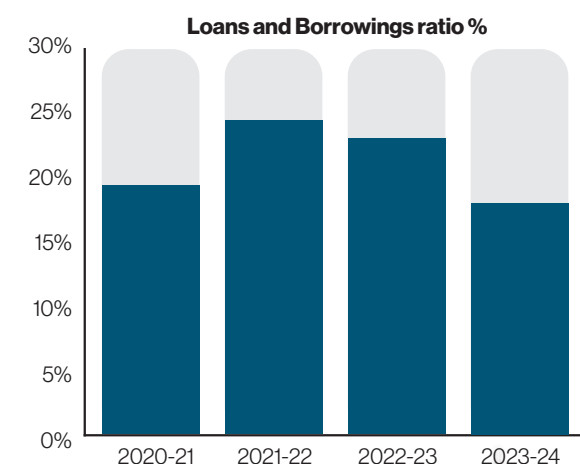
Obligations

Council aims to ensure that it is able to maintain its infrastructure assets at the expected levels, while at the same time continuing to deliver the services needed by the community.

To bridge the infrastructure gap, council invested \$10.7 million in renewal works during the 2023-24 year.

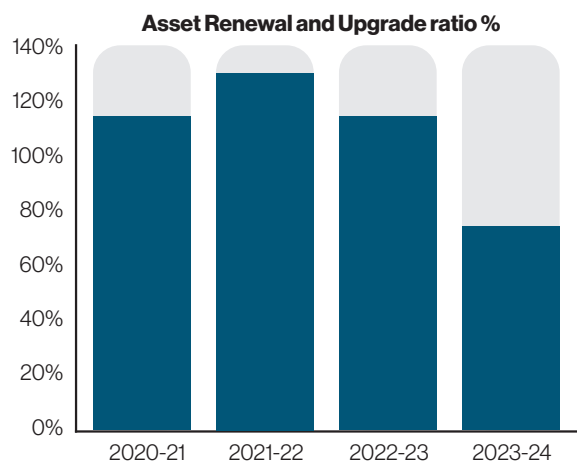
At the end of the 2023-24 year council's debt ratio which is measured by comparing interest bearing loans and borrowings to rate revenue was 18% which was well within industry guidelines of 0%-60%.

Council continues with its strategy to pay down debt to create capacity for future capital projects and to reduce interest payments.



Obligations continued

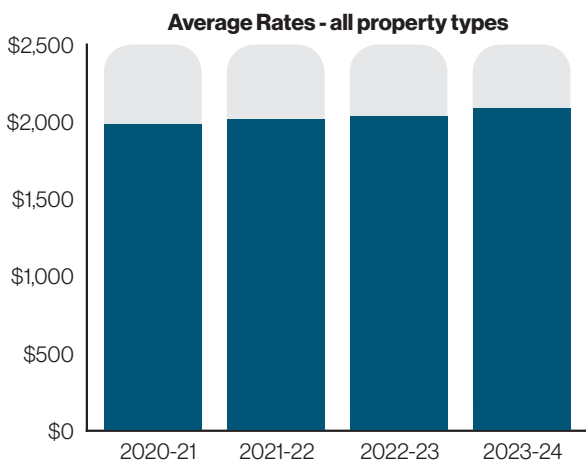
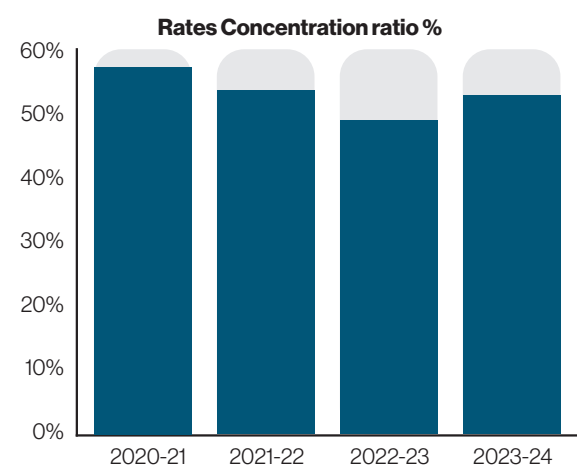
Council's asset renewal and upgrade ratio which is measured by comparing asset renewal and upgrade expenditure to depreciation was 75% which was below of the expected target band of over 100%. This was mainly due to Asset revaluations carried out during the 2023-24 financial year that led to a higher than budgeted depreciation expense.



Stability and efficiency

Rates, user fees, fines, grants and contributions make up the majority of Council's revenue sources.

The rates concentration ratio compares rate revenue to adjusted underlying revenue. This ratio was 53% for the 2023-24 which is within the expected target band of 40% to 80%. Council made the decision to increase rates at 2.95% for the 2023-24, which was below the state government's rate cap of 3.5%. This resulted in an average rate per property assessment across all property types of \$2,107, which compares favourably to similar councils in the regional city category.



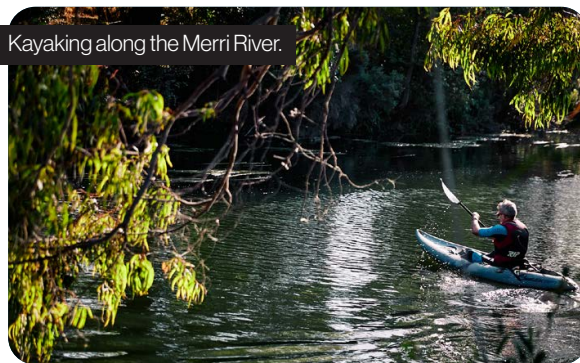
Description of operations

Warrnambool City Council provides a diverse range of services which include: the building and maintenance of municipal roads, parks and gardens, footpaths, cycling paths, public amenities, a regional airport, waste management, tourism and economic development, home support, early childhood services, recreation services including provision and maintenance of sporting facilities, planning, a live performance theatre, aquatic centre, community centre, art gallery, sporting stadium, a visitor information centre and maritime village tourism attraction.

Key infrastructure assets include 320km of sealed roads, 382km of pathways, more than 19,000 trees, 345 buildings including 28 public toilets, 63 playgrounds, 296km of underground drainage pipes, 11 bridges, 30 footbridges and 547 light poles.

Council's vision, strategic objectives and strategies to maintain or improve services and facilities are described in the Council Plan 2021-2025, the 2023-2024 Council budget and the annual

Kayaking along the Merri River.



report. The delivery of services, facilities, support and advocacy to achieve the Strategic Objectives is measured by a set of service performance indicators and measures. Council has a wide range of responsibilities under Victorian and Australian legislation.

Economic or other factors impacting on Council's performance

Construction costs, labour and skill shortages, housing shortages continue to adversely affect many cities including Warrnambool.

Major capital works

New foreshore amenities

The new amenities block at the entrance to McGennan Car Park opened in October 2023.

The new building was identified as a priority in the Lake Pertobe Master Plan in order to offer improved accessibility, baby change tables, bench seats and showers along with a safer facility.

The new building contains:

- two accessible toilets including junior toilets, baby change tables, bench seats and vanity;
- two ambulant toilets with bench seats and hooks;
- three other cubicles with bench seats and hooks;
- a communal hand wash basin area; and
- four warm water external showers, two of which are accessible.

Warrnambool-based Bolden Constructions built the new facility which was designed by another local firm, Guy McLeod Architects.

Funding came from Council and the Australian Government's Building Better Regions fund.

The cost of the building was \$840,000 while the paths, landscaping and signage were added at a cost of \$75,000.



McGennan amenities block



Hockey pitch

A new synthetic pitch was installed at the Warrnambool Hockey Centre.

The project included removal of the old surface and the installation of new rubber base material.

Funding for the pitch replacement project comprised \$800,000 from Council and \$200,000 from the Warrnambool Hockey Club. The result was a new synthetic surface of a high standard – similar to the pitch used at the Paris Olympics.



Rolling of new surface

Brierly Reserve

Council matched a grant of \$1 million from the Victorian Government to help deliver Stage One of the Brierly Recreation Reserve Easter Oval Redevelopment.

The project includes:

- Sports ground playing surface upgrade including drainage to achieve a year-round accessible oval.
- Surface realignment to support the development of two natural turf soccer pitches (100m x 65m) situated either side of synthetic cricket wicket.
- Installation of sports ground lighting to achieve minimum 200lux, to meet Australian Standard AS 2560.1 & AS 2560.2.3. Lighting compliant for Football Victoria's semi-professional competition and professional training requirements.
- Sports ground sub surface irrigation and connection to the existing bore.
- Relocate the synthetic cricket wicket between the soccer pitches to meet run off compliance with Football Victoria.

The existing playground and public barbeque and amenities will be retained in their current location, enabling the cricket club to continue operating and further developing participation outcomes.



Irrigation system being installed at Brierly Recreation Reserve.

Lava and Koroit streets roundabout

Work on the renewal of the roundabout at the intersection of Koroit and Lava streets began in May.

The upgrade included the installation of pedestrian priority crossings (zebra crossings) as well as a larger roundabout, wider pedestrian refuges, footpath renewal, drainage upgrades, new lighting as well as a completely rebuilt road surface.

The Australian Government contributed \$400,000 to the project via Black Spot funding.



Works on Lava St roundabout.

Major changes

Former Warrnambool saleyards

Work continued on the decommissioning of the Warrnambool saleyards that were closed in early 2023.

This included a number of clearing sales. At the same time a master plan was prepared to ensure the best possible use of the site and surrounding buffer land and In May 2024 Council adopted the *Highest and Best Use Master Plan Report 81-99 Caramut Road, Warrnambool*.

Aquatic Strategy

Council also adopted the Warrnambool Aquatic Strategy which outlines a way forward to provide an aquatic facility that meets the needs of the growing population.

The strategy recommended a staged approach to upgrading aquatic facilities at the current Botanic Road site.

This would include:

- Demolition of the existing 50m pool, 50m filtration system and room, dive pool structure and common equipment room.
- Retention of re-usable components from the indoor pool filtration systems, primarily in chemical measurement, dosing and storage.
- Refurbishment of the indoor pool finishes systems.
- Construction of a new outdoor 50m lap pool including pool shell, balance tank and pipework.
- Construction of a new common equipment room to accommodate all filtration systems on-site, chemical storage, heating systems, electrical requirements and general storage with easy access from the pool concourse.
- Provision of four new filtration systems to service the existing four pools.
- Provision of a new common pool heating system utilising heat pumps.
- Provision of a platform lift on the 25m pool.

Warrnambool Animal Shelter

Council also made a decision to bring management of the municipal animal shelter “in-house”.

Council assumed operational management of the shelter on July 1, 2024.



Above and below: artist impressions of a new aquatic centre.



Major achievements



Key Worker Accommodation and Affordable Housing Project - house design.



Members of the Meals on Wheels team.



A new master plan for Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village was adopted by Council.

Key Worker Accommodation and Affordable Housing Project

Council embarked on a Key Worker Accommodation and Affordable Housing project to identify possible solutions to the city's housing shortage.

This led to a proposal that, subject to ministerial approval and external funding, would see the installation of 50 modular houses along Harrington Road that would be a mix of one, two and three-bedroom homes.

Flagstaff Hill master plan

Council adopted a new master plan for the Flagstaff Hill site, the Flagstaff Hill Re-Imagined Vision and Opportunities Plan.

The plan identifies a preferred option for the prominent site that recommends an open and integrated visitor and community precinct along with opportunities for private and public sector investment.

Possible uses and activities included wellness/geothermal spaces, accommodation, functions and events, visitor servicing, hospitality and finding and an integrated First Nations experience.

Council also adopted other significant strategic planning documents including a "highest and best use" master plan for the former saleyards site in Caramut Road and the Warrnambool Aquatic Strategy.

Council re-commits to home support services

A review of aged and disability services was conducted and found the delivery of these services by Council – including Home Support - was supported by the community and was financially sustainable.

Council is the largest provider of in-home aged care and community care services in Warrnambool through the Federal Government funded Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), the Victorian Government funded Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP), brokered services and services funded through the Department of Veteran Affairs. At any time, between 1,200 to 1,400 residents depend on these services provided by Council.

A survey conducted as part of the review received about 500 responses from clients, their families and interested community members.

The overwhelming feedback was that Council was a highly trusted aged and disability services provider with Council's Commonwealth Home Support Program services typically rated very good or good.

Operating performance

Report of operations

Council profile

The Warrnambool municipality covers an area of 120sqkm and is situated in the Great South Coast region of Victoria, 263km south-west of Melbourne.

Warrnambool City Council includes the City of Warrnambool and the townships of Allansford, Bushfield and Woodford. In 2023 the estimated residential population was 35,907 and the municipality's population density was 297.1 people per square kilometre. The average household size is 2.32 and the median age is 42.

Stunning Lady Bay provides a focal point and major attraction for residents and visitors and in winter and spring the bay is home to southern right whales and their calves. Warrnambool serves as a centre for a regional population of about 120,000 people.

It contains a TAFE college, a Deakin University campus including a School of Medicine and a base hospital which is part of South West Healthcare.

The major employment sectors are health care and social assistance, retail, manufacturing, education and training, accommodation and food services, professional services and construction.

Warrnambool has a moderate climate with an average maximum summer temperature of about 24°C, while the average winter maximum is about 14°C.

The South West features major visitor attractions including the 12 Apostles, Tower Hill and Budj Bim National Park. Along with these natural attractions, visitors are drawn to events including the speedway car racing and the May Racing Carnival.

The region also features some of Australia's most fertile agricultural land much of which is dedicated to dairy and beef production. Major dairy manufacturers and a large meat processor are situated in and around Warrnambool providing a major source of employment.

Warrnambool's total employment is estimated at more than 18,500 jobs and the city's economic output is estimated at \$5,540.482 million with major contributions from the following industry sectors:

Construction - \$853.616 million

Manufacturing - \$714.902 million

Health care and social assistance - \$687.781 million

Council offices

25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool

Tel: 03 5559 4800

Email: contact@warrnambool.vic.gov.au

Web: www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

Postal address: PO Box 198, Warrnambool VIC 3280

Lisa Gorman's work featured in an exhibition at the Warrnambool Art Gallery alongside works by the late Mirka Mora.



Councillors

The council was elected to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community.

In 2020 the Warrnambool City Council community elected this Council for a four-year term. The municipality is represented by seven Councillors without wards.

Councillors have responsibility for setting the strategic direction for the municipality, policy development, identifying service standards and monitoring performance across the organisation.

The Councillors are listed below



Cr Otha Akoch
Elected: October 2020
E: oakoch@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
M: 0437 906 424



Cr Angie Paspaliaris
Elected: October 2020
E: apaspaliaris@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
M: 0418 595 745



Cr Debbie Arnott
Elected: October 2020
E: darnott@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
M: 0438 034 169



Cr Max Taylor
Elected: October 2020
E: mtaylor@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
M: 0438 091 575



Cr Ben Blain (Mayor)
Elected: October 2020 **E:** bblain@warrnambool.vic.gov.au **M:** 0437 900 646



Cr Richard Ziegeler
Elected: October 2020
E: rziegeler@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
M: 0437 928 490



Cr Vicki Jellie AM
Elected: October 2020
E: vjellie@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
M: 0437 937 810

Our people

Council is the governing body that appoints a Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The CEO has responsibility for the day-to-day management of operations in accordance with the strategic directions of the Council Plan.

Four Directors and the CEO form the Executive Management Team (EMT) and lead the organisation. Details of the CEO and senior officers reporting directly to the CEO are set out below.

Chief Executive Officer Andrew Mason

Senior officers reporting directly to the CEO:

Director City Growth Luke Coughlan

- Areas of responsibility: economic development and investment; city strategy and development; tourism.

Director City Infrastructure David Leahy

- Areas of responsibility: infrastructure services, city amenity, facilities and projects.

Director Community Development Ingrid Bishop July-December; Brooke Love February - current

- Areas of responsibility: community planning and policy, recreation and culture; capacity, access and inclusion; children's and family services.

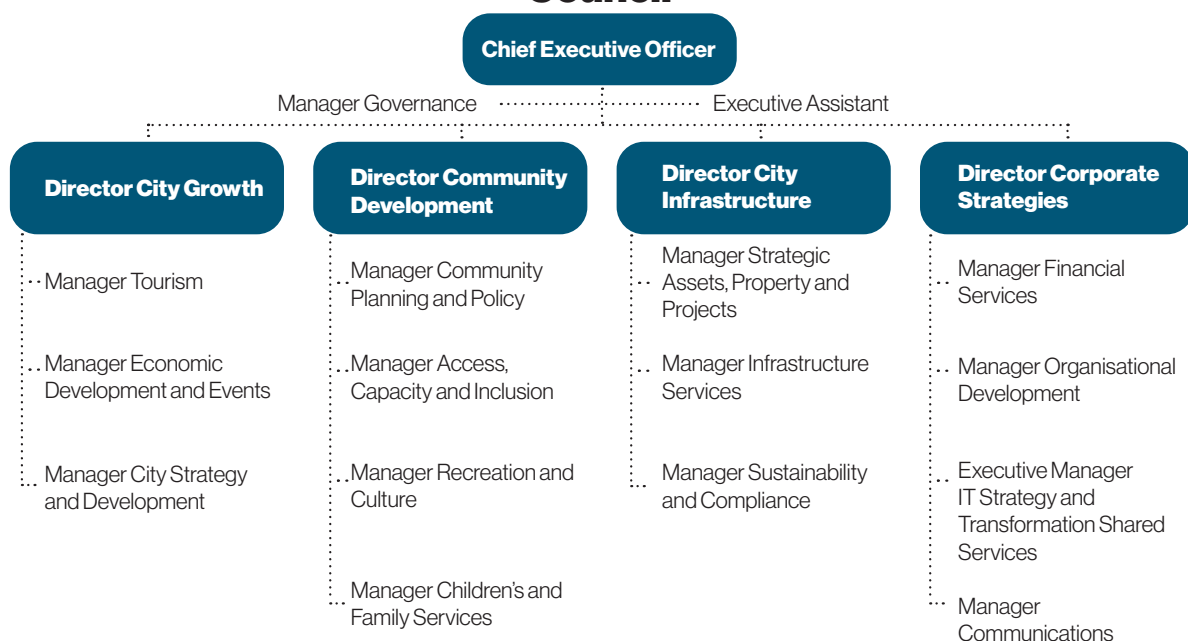
Director Corporate Strategies Peter Utri

- Areas of responsibility: financial services, organisational development, communications, information technology, livestock exchange (decommissioning).

Manager Governance James Plozza

- Areas of responsibility: governance.

Council



Introducing the next generation to the Warrnambool Art Gallery.

Action from the Seniors Festival.

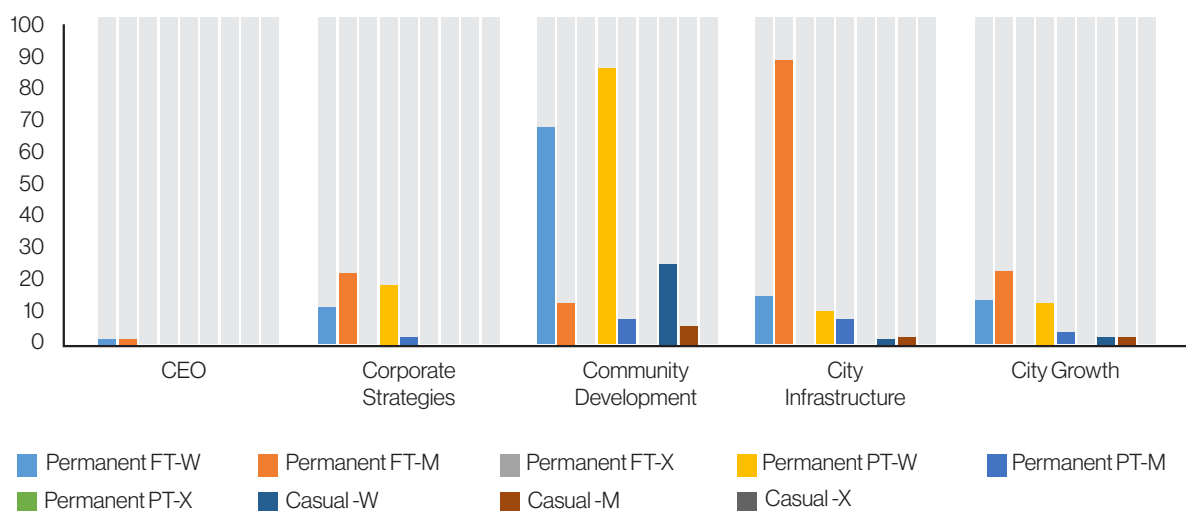


Council staff

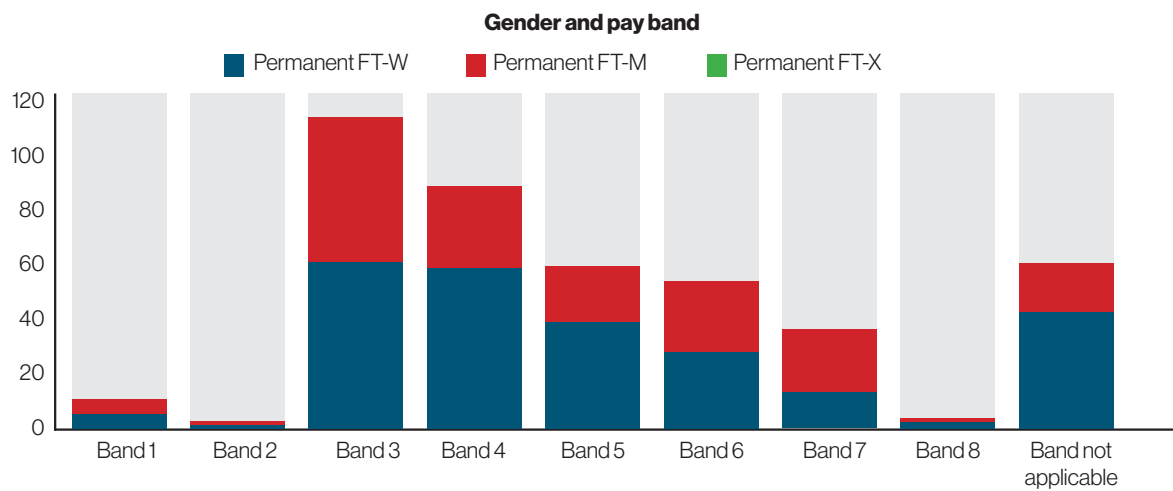
The tables below illustrate the number of full time equivalent (FTE) council staff by organisational structure, employment type and gender

Employee type/ gender	CEO	Corporate Strategies	Community Development	City Infrastructure	City Growth	Total
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE
Permanent FT – women	1	11	66	14	13	105
Permanent FT – men	2	21	12	87	22	144
Permanent FT – self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0
Permanent PT – women	0	17.5	84.9	9.5	12.3	124.2
Permanent PT – men	0	1.8	7.2	7.1	3.2	19.3
Permanent PT – self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casual – women	0	0.6	23.8	1.1	2.1	27.6
Casual – men	0	0	5	2	1.6	8.6
Casual – self-described gender	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	51.9	198.9	120.7	54.2	428.7

FTE = full-time equivalent



Classification	Women FTE	Men FTE	Self-described gender FTE	Total FTE
Band 1	6.7	5.6	0.0	12.3
Band 2	1.2	0.9	0.0	2.1
Band 3	61.6	50.6	0.0	112.2
Band 4	58.8	28.7	0.0	87.5
Band 5	39.7	20.4	0.0	60.1
Band 6	29.4	25.0	0.0	54.4
Band 7	14.6	22.9	0.0	37.5
Band 8	2.0	1.0	0.0	3.0
Band not applicable	41.8	17.8	0.0	59.6
Total	255.8	172.9	0.0	428.7



Jubilee Park Kinder Visit



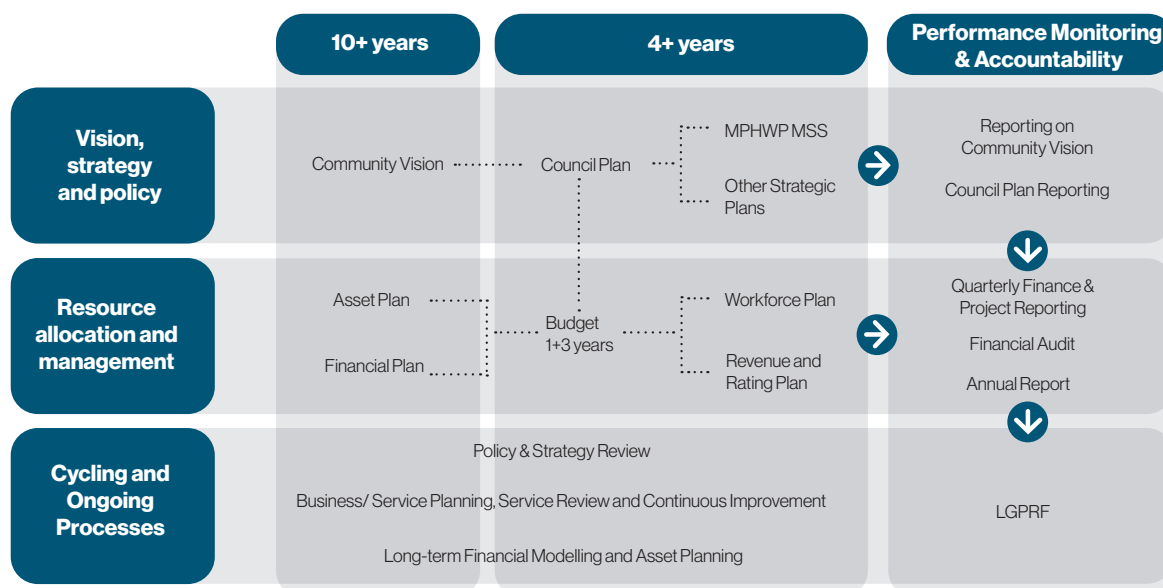
Strategic planning and reporting framework

Part 4 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires councils to prepare the following:

- A Community Vision (for at least the next 10 financial years);
- A Council Plan (for at least the next 4 financial years);
- A Financial Plan (for at least the next 10 financial years);
- An Asset Plan (for at least the next 10 financial years);
- A Revenue and Rating Plan (for at least the next 4 financial years);
- An Annual Budget (for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years);
- A Quarterly Budget Report;
- An Annual Report (for each financial year); and
- Financial Policies.

The Act also requires councils to prepare a Workforce Plan

The diagram below shows the relationships between the key planning and reporting documents that make up the integrated strategic planning and reporting framework for local government. It also shows that there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input and feedback.



Council Plan

The Council Plan 2021-2025 includes strategic objectives, strategies for achieving these for the four year period, strategic indicators for monitoring achievement of the strategic objectives and a strategic resource plan. The following are the five strategic objectives as detailed in the council plan.

1. A healthy community

We will be a healthy, inclusive and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.

2. A sustainable environment

We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.

3. A strong economy

We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities that attract ongoing investment.

4. A connected, inclusive place

We will provide high quality places that people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.

5. An effective Council

We will be recognised as a collaborative Council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool's community, environment and economy and for Victoria's South West.

Women's cricket at Reid Oval.



The award-winning Fabric of Life Festival.



Goal 1:

A Healthy Community

We will be a healthy, inclusive and thriving community with equitable access to services, cultural opportunities and recreational activities.

Strategic indicators

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results in achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic indicator/measure	Result	Comments
Recreational facilities – Community Satisfaction Survey	64	A decrease on last year's score of 67.
Community and cultural services – community Satisfaction Survey	64	A minor drop in last year's score of 65
Arts Centres and Libraries – Community Satisfaction Survey	74	Above the state-wide average of 73 and just below the regional centre average of 75.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2023-2024 Budget.

Major initiative	Progress
Brierly Reserve – first stage of redevelopment	Stage completed.
Aquatic Strategy	Adopted by Council in late 2023. The strategy provides a guide for the redevelopment of the current aquatic centre (AquaZone) site that will allow the facility to meet the needs of our growing population.
Early Years Workforce Plan	A regional strategy and local workforce plan was developed to support the Victorian Government's kindergarten reforms.
West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House	Construction under way second half of 2024
Key Worker Housing	Council endorsed proposal for establishing homes on former saleyards buffer land.
Warrnambool Art Gallery Business Case	Business case for a new art gallery at the existing Liebig Street site endorsed by Council.

Activity	Description	Net cost Actual Budget Variance \$'000
Aged Services	This area provides a range of services including meals on wheels, personal care, respite, home maintenance, home care, adult day care and senior citizens programs.	-421 -422 1
Family Services	This service provides family oriented support services including pre-schools, maternal & child health, child care, counselling & support, youth services, immunisation, family day care.	-60 -951 891
Art and Culture	Provision of high-quality venues where people can see, present and explore the arts, ideas and events provided at the Art Gallery and Lighthouse Theatre.	-1,111 -1,147 36
Library Services	Provision of quality library and information services to the community.	-1,232 -1,190 -42
Recreation	Provision of sport, recreation and cultural facilities, service and programs in response to identified community need and to provide information and advice to clubs and organisations involved in these areas.	-549 -549 0

Leisure Centres	The Arc and Aquazone provide premier indoor community leisure facilities in South West Victoria, providing equitable and affordable access to a wide range of aquatic and fitness activities.	-1,014 <u>-1,202</u> 188
Health Services	Administrations of legislative requirements pertaining to public health, immunisation and food premises. Preparation of the Health & Wellbeing plan and the Reconciliation Action Plan.	-510 <u>-750</u> 240

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including an explanation of the results.

Service / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comments
Aquatic Facilities					
Service standard					
<i>Health inspections of aquatic facilities</i>					
[Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities / Number of Council aquatic facilities]	4.00	4.00	0.00	3.00	
Utilisation					
<i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i>					
[Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Population]	3.65	3.96	5.63	5.74	Aquatic facilities utilisation has now stabilised post-Covid.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of aquatic facilities</i>					
[Direct cost of aquatic facilities less income received / Number of visits to aquatic facilities]	\$4.53	\$3.80	\$2.79	\$2.95	
Libraries					
Resource currency					
<i>Recently purchased library collection</i>					
[Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years / Number of library collection items] x100	77.01%	90.26%	67.53%	76.69%	The library received a lump sum collection fund of \$500,000 with the construction of the new building. This has contributed to a spike in recently purchased library collection items.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of library service per population</i>					
[Direct cost of the library service / Population]	\$22.67	\$25.77	\$38.20	\$46.66	The new Warrnambool Library and Learning Centre opened in October 2022. 2023-2024 is the first full year of operation in the new library which is four times the size of the previous library.
Utilisation					
<i>Loans per head of population</i>					
[Number of library collection item loans / Population]	New	New	New	7.35	
Participation					
<i>Library membership</i>					
[Number of registered library members / Population] x100	New	New	New	39.79%	New indicator for 2024
<i>Library visits per head of population</i>					
[Number of library visits / Population]	New	New	New	5.28	






Service / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comments
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)					
Service standard					
<i>Infant enrolments in the MCH service</i>					
[Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service (from birth notifications received) / Number of birth notifications received] x100	100.00%	103.10%	101.12%	100.00%	
Service cost					
<i>Cost of the MCH service</i> [Cost of the MCH service / Hours worked by MCH nurses]	\$81.30	\$87.24	\$83.13	\$79.62	
Participation					
<i>Participation in the MCH service</i>					
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	82.25%	82.97%	79.42%	77.14%	Participation rates were lower than previous years due to lower presentations and short term vacancies.
Participation					
<i>Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children</i>					
[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	86.81%	93.21%	80.75%	84.02%	The increase in participation rates for Aboriginal children occurred in line with a specific resource being allocated to the service.
Satisfaction					
<i>Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit</i>					
[Number of 4-week key age and stage visits / Number of birth notifications received] x100	96.10%	101.97%	98.04%	95.34%	

A Healthy Community

progress report against the Council Plan


Objective 1. Welcoming and inclusive city:

Warrnambool will be a city that is more welcoming to all and fosters diversity.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
1.1.1	Develop a new Customer Service Strategy to ensure it aligns with the Customer Service Charter and provides improved customer service outcomes for the community.	Manager Communications	50%		The Customer Service Strategy will become a key component of the Communications Strategy to be completed in the first half of 2025.
1.1.2	Increase access to participation for all abilities and raise awareness of the community regarding the needs of people with a disability.	Manager Community Policy & Planning	100%		Council staff and the South West All Abilities Advocacy Group discussed the design of future works including seating and picnic tables which are included in the Lake Pertobe Master Plan. Consultation with mobility scooter users to identify additional charging points around the city has begun.
1.1.3	Review and improve the Community Engagement Policy.	Manager Communications	100%		With the formal review of this policy not due until next year, an internal review was conducted with no changes to the policy required at this point.
1.1.4	Research and align current programs with community demand and need.	Manager Community Policy & Planning	100%		In line with the Federal Government reforms for Home Support Programs, Council has conducted the Aged and Disability Services Review and made a decision to continue to provide in-home support services to the elderly. In response to the current housing crisis, Council has endorsed for the Council-owned site on Harrington Road to be leased to Haven Home Safe for a period of up to 25 years to construct 50 homes, 25 for key worker accommodation and 25 for affordable housing.
1.1.5	Design and deliver a new West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House.	Manager Community Policy & Planning	75%		Council has awarded a contract for the construction of the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House at Pecten Avenue Park. Construction is expected to be completed in September 2024 with occupancy from early 2025.

Objective 2. Engagement with Aboriginal communities:







council will pursue improved partnerships and meaningful engagement with Aboriginal people to grow opportunities and better outcomes for aboriginal people.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
1.2.1	Facilitate and foster collaborative relationships with Aboriginal and Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to further the achievement of Reconciliation outcomes.	Manager Community Policy & Planning	100%		Council continues to meet with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and the Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative on issues within the Terms of Reference of Kaaratpeeten Ween (Message Stick) for the relevant agencies.
1.2.2	Increase participation of Aboriginal families and individuals across Council programs and services.	Manager Children & Family Services	100%		Enrolments for Aboriginal children and families have increased across all early years services with the connections made through the Maternal Child Health Program.

Objective 3. Health and wellbeing:

Council will take action to improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for Warrnambool's community.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
1.3.1	Develop a policy for liquor licences in recreation reserves.	Service Manager Recreation & Culture	0%	●	A stand-alone Liquor License Policy for recreation reserves is not required. In accordance with the Occupancy of Sport and Recreation Facilities Policy and License Agreement, the sale and consumption of alcohol at recreation reserves forms part of existing conditions of occupancy arrangements. The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation is responsible for issuing licences under the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998. New applications are referred to Council for assessment and comment.
1.3.2	Develop and action a marketing and customer engagement strategy that capitalises on Aquazone's unique offering.	Aquazone Service Manager	100%	●	Overall attendance at AquaZone increased by 6,049 to 205,995 (a 3% rise) despite cooler weather and staff shortages impacting some programs. There were substantial increases in casual attendance across the gym (69%) and group fitness classes (21%)..
1.3.3	Continue to implement the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 (Healthy Warrnambool) through the Committee of Practice model.	Manager Community Policy & Planning	100%	●	Three meetings of the Community of Practice (CoP) Groups were held in the fourth quarter. These include meetings for the Social and Emotional Wellbeing CoP, the Climate Change and the Community group and the Healthy Eating Community of practice. A community garden was opened at the Archie Graham Community Centre which is managed by a combination of volunteers, Council staff and external agencies. A food swap program is linked to the community garden. Council continues to implement the Victorian Local Government Partnership program. Initiatives include improving disability inclusion, safety and access across council services, gender equity and inclusion in sport, capturing the voice of young people via the Youth Strategy, protecting children and young people from harmful industries such as tobacco and alcohol, planning future mental health promotion and strengthening local food systems and increasing access to healthy food.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
1.3.4	Implement and review compliance with Child Safe Standards.	Service Manager Early Years Learning & Development	100%		Child Safe training was completed by all early years' staff with policies and procedures updated. Staff are aware of reporting responsibilities and continue to work to improve and educate outcomes for children and families under Child Safe Standards.
1.3.5	Continue to improve children and families' health and wellbeing as set by the Healthy Achievement Program.	Service Manager Early Years Learning & Development	100%		Staff continue to implement the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Gardens within the early years service. Staff share healthy eating skills and knowledge with the community and have identified new projects for 2024-2025.
1.3.6	Enhance the Maternal Child Health program for children aged up to four years in line with community needs.	Service Manager Early Years Intervention & Support	100%		A mental health group was set up and has recruited families from the EMCH program with maximum of 10 participants weekly. The program was developed by a family practitioner/social worker.
1.3.7	In line with community demand ensure programs for older people are accessible, relevant and affordable.	Manager Community Policy & Planning	100%		A survey of more than 200 mostly older people found 95% were either satisfied or very satisfied with the programs offered at the Archie Graham Community Centre. Accessibility and affordability were not raised as issues by most respondents. Feedback was to include more art-related and dance programs. In the fourth quarter, 6,076 attendances were recorded at Archie.
1.3.8	Advocate for early years workforce initiatives that support recruitment and retention of high quality early years staff and service.	Manager Children & Family Services	100%		Council has worked with the MAV workforce working group and Department of Education on the sector's needs. An advocacy document on workforce and infrastructure requirements for the city was presented to the Victorian Government.
1.3.9	Ensure our early years services meet the needs of our culturally diverse community.	Service Manager Early Years Learning & Development	100%		Three services have Reconciliation Action Plans in place with the other early services working towards publication.

Objective 4. An accessible city:

Council will improve the physical and social accessibility to community services, facilities, places and precincts.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
1.4.1	Develop a Community Services Infrastructure Plan.	Manager Community Policy & Planning	50%		Planning the review of Council's Community Services Infrastructure Plan has begun and the plan is expected to be completed in 2024-2025.
1.4.2	Deliver all-abilities access compliance as part of new infrastructure projects.	Manager Strategic Assets, Property & Projects	100%		Projects included accessibility improvements and incorporating all-abilities access into project designs. This includes accessible ramps in designs for Beach Access 123, the City Kinder entrance, West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House and all-abilities considerations when renewing playgrounds, Archie Graham, footpath, car parking and pram crossings.

Council engaged consultants to develop the Warrnambool-Moyne Youth Strategy. Over 65 expressions of interest were received from young people across the two municipalities to join the Co-Design panel, and 20 participants (10 from each municipality) have been selected, ensuring a diverse cohort who can give provide a wide range of insights into being a young person in this region.

Four FReeZA Crew members participated in the FReeZA summit in Melbourne, attending workshops on running events for young people.

1.4.3

Ensure Council's youth programs and activities are accessible, relevant and reflect current community demand and need.

Manager Community Policy & Planning

100%



Up In Lights, a public art exhibition on Timor Walk, showcases visual art by seven young artists. It runs in conjunction with the Scan Me Gallery which highlights musicians and events that young people organise. Over 100 people attended the opening night.




A Digital Art Workshop at One Day Studios gave five young artists an opportunity to learn the program Procreate.




An Audio Engineering Workshop trained five members of the FReeZA Crew on sound engineering basics so they can start to manage audio at smaller music events on the FReeZA program.

The Multicultural Leadership Group at Warrnambool College organised a festival for the school's 1300 students, plus teachers. They planned, organised and delivered activities and foods that reflected their cultures.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
					<p>Advance, a partnership with Brauer College, saw 25 young people participate a program that provides physical and mental health information, pathways to jobs and fosters connections within the wider community. The program teaches surf lifesaving skills and the importance and need for volunteering within the community.</p> <p>Green Futures members participated in workshops about the environment, sustainability and caring for our planet. The members planned the community project Rubbish Repurposed, an art competition where community members collect rubbish from parks, beaches and waterways and generate awareness of this issue by creating art using the rubbish.</p>
1.4.4	Undertake an accessibility audit of Council playgrounds including playground equipment.	Manager Strategic Assets, Property & Projects	100%		An audit was undertaken as part of the Playgrounds Condition Assessment. This information will inform a review of the Playground Strategy.



Objective 5. Recreation, arts, culture & heritage: **Council will support opportunities to participate in a wide range of recreational, arts and cultural programs that promote activity, well-being, diversity heritage and which increase community connectedness.**

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
1.5.1	Facilitate development of Warrnambool Art Gallery Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028.	Director Art Gallery	75%		A draft strategic plan is being reviewed. The strategy is an internal document that guides the development of future exhibitions and programs. It expresses the Mission for the gallery as "The Warrnambool Art Gallery presents new ideas by artists exploring the most important social, cultural, political and artistic questions of our time. It nurtures an environment of safety, experimentation and risk-taking, propelling art to advance community cohesion, shared understanding and inspire celebration", and identifies key strategies and actions to realise this mission.
1.5.2	Complete the Playspace Strategy for community playgrounds and spaces.	Manager Strategic Assets, Property & Projects	80%		Activities have included engagement, a review of asset data and information gathering such as safety auditing.
1.5.3	Deliver a Lighthouse Theatre season program that is marketable and relevant to the local/South West audience and provides opportunity to experience a diverse range of performing arts.	Service Manager Lighthouse Theatre	100%		Primary Performers' production of The Little Mermaid Jr sold out. Almost 3,000 people attended the theatre in the final quarter, including Bell Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Ella Hooper, Emma Donovan, and the Australian Chamber Orchestra's How To Catch A Star.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
1.5.4	Deliver Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibitions and experiences that engage community, attract and increase visitors, support artists and build new audience.	Director Art Gallery	100%		The Art Gallery hosted 33,208 visitors, a 14% increase in annual visitation. Visitors from Melbourne increased by 27%, alongside increases in interstate visitation of 77%, and international 145%.
1.5.5	Develop an Arts and Culture Strategy for Warrnambool.	Manager Recreation & Culture	40%		A working group is reviewing the draft strategy prior to community consultation.
1.5.6	Ensure the Library and Learning Centre programming is aligned to community need and developed in partnership with community organisations and business sector.	Service Manager - Library & Learning Hub	100%		Public programming continues to grow in response to community demand. Attendance rose along with membership (29.4 per cent over the previous year) and more of the community embraced learning and leisure opportunities of the library public programs. Over the year 786 program sessions attracted more than 17,580 attendees, an increase of 37 per cent in the number of sessions offered and 13.7 per cent in participation over the previous twelve months, which included the library opening celebrations. The Library has successfully partnered with more than 25 external organisations, agencies and businesses and continues to explore and develop outreach and partnership opportunities.

Objective 6. Community learning pathways:

Council will support and encourage lifelong learning that helps build community resilience and preparedness for change.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
1.6.1	Maintain and further develop Council's partnership with Deakin University to enable research and development opportunities for community and industry.	Manager Economic Development	100%		Council's Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee (EDTAC) has a representative from Deakin and provided input into the proposed Business Representative Group. Council continues to support and be updated on the progress of the Hycel Technology Hub, now under construction. Council introduced a potential partner for Deakin University to work in the hydrogen energy field, facilitating an on-site visit and meeting.
1.6.2	In response to State Government kindergarten reforms, deliver a Council transition plan.	Service Manager Early Years Learning & Development	100%		A regional strategy and local workforce plan was developed to support the Victorian Government's kindergarten reforms. A working group will address kinder modelling for 2026, the start of the reform rollout.

Goal 2:

A sustainable environment

We will protect and strengthen local ecosystems, enhance biodiversity and enable sustainable communities.**Strategic indicators**

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results in achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic indicator/measure	Result	Comments
Environmental sustainability – Community Satisfaction Survey	60	On par with the state average and one point below the regional centres average.
Waste management – Community Satisfaction Survey	69	Above the state and regional centre averages.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2023-2024 Budget.

Major initiative	Progress
Lake Pertobe Integrated Management Plan	Plan finalised and adopted by Council.
Return operational management of the municipal animal shelter to an "in-house" model.	Council staff took over operations at the shelter from the RSPCA on July 1, 2024.

Activity	Description	Net cost Actual Budget Variance \$'000
Environmental Management and Sustainability	This service develops environmental policy, coordinates and implements environmental projects and works with other services to improve Council's environmental performance.	-819 <u>-717</u> -102
Waste Management & Street Cleaning	This service provides kerbside rubbish collections of garbage, recycling and Food Organics Green Organics (FOGO) from all households and some commercial properties in Council. It also provides street cleaning, leaf collection and street litter bins throughout Council.	-4,889 <u>-5,251</u> 362
Parks and Gardens	This service covers a range of areas such as tree pruning, planting, removal, planning and street tree strategies, management of conservation and parkland areas, creeks and other areas of environmental significance. Parks Management provides management and implementation of open space strategies and maintenance programs.	-4,788 <u>-4,535</u> -253




The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including an explanation of the results.

Service / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comments
Animal Management					
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to action animal management requests</i>					
[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests / Number of animal management requests]	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	
Service standard					
<i>Animals reclaimed</i>					
[Number of animals reclaimed / Number of animals collected] x100	20.92%	17.25%	19.18%	17.84%	
<i>Animals rehomed</i>					
[Number of unclaimed collected animals rehomed / Number of unclaimed collected animals] x100	71.73%	66.72%	67.53%	74.45%	
Service cost					
<i>Cost of animal management service per population</i>					
[Direct cost of the animal management service / Population]	\$17.32	\$19.34	\$17.59	\$19.06	
Health and safety					
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i>					
[Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	Council did not initiate any animal management prosecutions in 2023-2024.
Food Safety					
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to action food complaints</i>					
[Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints / Number of food complaints]	1.00	1.00	3.82	1.36	Council now has adequate staffing to respond promptly to food complaints. This is reflected in the reduction of time taken to action food complaints from 3.82 days to 1.36 days.
Service standard					
<i>Food safety assessments</i>					
[Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that receive an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984 / Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984] x100	53.27%	20.32%	28.23%	97.97%	Significant increase from 28.2% to 98% in amount of food safety assessments of Class 1 and 2 premises. Assessments have been prioritised by staff.

Service / indicator / measure	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comments
<i>Food safety samples</i> [Number of food samples obtained / Required number of food samples] × 100	New	New	New	101.30%	Council obtained 100% of their statutory food samples.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of food safety service</i> [Direct cost of the food safety service / Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984]	\$289.76	\$353.27	\$391.81	\$442.98	Increase in average cost can be associated to an increase in staff and reduction of temporary food premises notifications and registrations on FoodTrader.
Health and safety					
<i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	47.22%	100.00%	50.00%	96.63%	Major non-compliances were reported by authorised officers from 89 premises, with 86 premises receiving follow up visits. Significant increase in amount of non-compliances due to an increase in amount of food safety assessments completed
Waste Management					
Service standard					
<i>Kerbside collection bins missed</i> [Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed / Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts] x10,000	10.43	2.19	0.67	8.29	There was a noticeable increase in the number of missed bin requests. Contaminated bins reported as missed are included in this figure.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service</i> [Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service / Number of kerbside garbage collection bins]	\$87.43	\$75.67	\$82.28	\$93.39	The cost increase is attributed to rising the rising landfill levy and fuel prices.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service</i> [Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service / Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins]	\$52.49	\$45.49	\$46.48	\$97.31	Kerbside FOGO included in result. Previous years may have omitted data from this newer service. Rising fuel prices also increased the service cost.
Waste diversion					
<i>Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill</i> [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	64.44%	66.24%	67.24%	65.45%	


Objective 1. Natural environment:


Council will enhance open spaces and infrastructure that support a healthy community, wildlife, flora, fauna and biodiversity.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
2.1.1	The Depot Team and Environmental Sustainability Team will work in collaboration to deliver the Albert Park Re-Vegetation Program.	Coordinator Municipal Depot Operations	100%		Working with local schools' Plant a Tree Day events Council has planted trees plantings as part of the Albert Park plan.
2.1.2	Implement Pest Plant and Animal Management Framework for the control of environmental weeds and pests.	Natural Environment Officer	80%		A draft action plan is almost complete. Actions from the Fox Action Plan - Coastal Reserve 2019 continue to be implemented. A Rabbit Action Plan is currently being drafted.
2.1.3	In line with targets in the Green Warrnambool strategy develop and implement programs that improve biodiversity and protect and enhance flora and fauna.	Natural Environment Officer	100%		Collaboration with Warrnambool Field Naturalists Club to enhance grasslands at Albert Park continue. Collaboration with Australian Plants Society - Warrnambool & District to future proof the only wild population of Correa 'Granny's Grave' continues.

Objective 2. Water and coastal management:




council will protect and enhance the health of Warrnambool's coastline and inland waterways to protect and improve biodiversity.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
2.2.1	Implement the Domestic Waste Water Management Plan to improve health and environmental outcomes for our community.	Coordinator Environmental Health	100%		Final report for high risk site audits via Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change grant submitted and accepted. Focus on assisting homeowners to comply with EPA guidelines for on-site wastewater management. Collaborated with Strategic Planning Department on wastewater considerations within the Bushfield-Woodford Strategic Framework Plan. Domestic Wastewater Management Plan due for renewal at the end of 2025.
2.2.2	Implement the Warrnambool Coastal Management Plan to guide the future use, development and management of Warrnambool's coastline.	Natural Environment Officer	100%		Implementation of the management plan continues with several actions either completed; part of daily operations.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
2.2.3	Complete the South Warrnambool Flood Study and begin Planning Scheme Amendment.	Coordinator City Strategy	80%		<p>The South Warrnambool Flood Model is being updated following a revision by the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to the Climate Change Considerations chapter of Australian Rainfall and Runoff (ARR).</p> <p>Draft mapping also highlighted potential significant flood risk upstream of the model boundary so the model will be extended to better define risks between the Princes Highway bridge and the Car-amut Road bridge.</p>


Objective 3. Environmental impact and a changing climate:

Council will encourage innovation and initiatives that minimise Warrnambool's environmental impact.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
2.3.1	Explore option of a seasonal increase of FOGO collection over warmer months.	Coordinator Natural Environment	100%		Financial estimates were included in the 2024-2025 budget process for Council consideration to fund a seasonal FOGO collection. The option for seasonal FOGO will continue to be examined in 2024-2025.
2.3.2	Deliver the 2023-2024 Smart Buildings energy efficiency program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and utilise renewable energy.	Natural Environment Officer	65%		An electric vehicle charging station was installed at Archie Graham Community Centre. Two charging stations will be installed at the Civic Centre. The Smart Buildings Opportunity report is being drafted.
2.3.3	Facilitate and support the delivery of climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience actions to raise awareness and prepare for a changing climate.	Natural Environment Officer	75%		Funding was secured for a Natural Coastal Asset Assessment project. Work towards an Urban Forest Plan continues.


Objective 4. Water resource management:

Council will promote and encourage awareness of sustainable practices in our work, and the community including water resource management.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
2.4.1	Development of the Lake Pertobe Integrated Water Management Plan.	Coordinator Natural Environment	100%		The Lake Pertobe Integrated Water Management Plan was endorsed by Council.


Objective 5. Waste minimisation:

Council will pursue programs to minimise waste throughout the community, industry and promote the benefits of reduction, reuse and recycling of materials.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
2.5.1	Develop and deliver education program supporting the reduction of landfill, and a greater understanding of contamination impacts.	Coordinator Natural Environment	55%		An educational program to support the reduction of landfill and reduce contamination impacts is under way and includes educational material and resources for the community on recycling and waste streams.

Objective 6. Awareness and celebration:

Council will foster community awareness and recognition of the benefits of positive outcomes for Warrnambool's environment.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
2.6.1	Monitor and manage organisational greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage.	Natural Environment Officer	100%		Monitoring of organisational greenhouse gas emissions and energy use continue. Actions to reduce outputs are ongoing.

Goal 3:

A strong economy

We will support a resilient local and self-sustaining regional economy that encourages economic growth and provides increased employment opportunities attracting ongoing investment.

Strategic indicators

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results in achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic indicator/measure	Result	Comments
Business/community development/tourism – Community Satisfaction Survey	61	Above the state and regional centres averages.
Business and community development	57	On par with the state average and above the regional centres average.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2023-2024 Budget.

Major initiative	Progress
Warrnambool Events Strategy 2024-2028	Strategy finalised and adopted by Council.
Warrnambool Economic Development Strategy 2023-2028	Strategy finalised and adopted by Council.

Activity	Description	Net cost Actual Budget Variance \$'000
Statutory Building Services	This service provides statutory building services to the Council community including processing of building permits.	-141 -174 33
City Strategy & Development	This service prepares and processes amendments to the Council Planning Scheme. This service processes statutory planning applications, provides advice and makes decisions about development proposals which require a planning permit, as well as representing Council at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal where necessary. It monitors the Council's Planning Scheme, prepares major policy documents and processes amendments to the Council Planning Scheme.	-1,168 -1,489 321
Warrnambool Livestock Exchange	The South West Victoria Livestock Exchange ceased operating during 2022-23. Ongoing costs relate to site maintenance only.	-966 -36 -930
Holiday Parks	Provides affordable holiday accommodation that is modern, clean and well maintained in a family orientation atmosphere.	1,681 1,533 148
Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village	A City and Regional tourism hub open 364 days of the year that includes a Visitor Information Centre and Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, which tells the maritime history of the region during the day and a "Shipwrecked" Sound & Light laser show in the evening.	-1,064 -999 -65
Economic Development	Includes the industry and business support, research and statistical analysis and project development which underpin economic development.	-799 -867 68




Activity	Description	Net cost Actual Budget Variance \$'000
Warrnambool Airport	This service provides a regional Airport that meets the needs of users and operates as a viable commercial enterprise to the benefit of the region.	-117 -192 75
Port of Warrnambool	Council manages the City's port facility on behalf of the State Government.	-68 0 -68
Festivals and Events Group	Delivers a range of promotions, festivals and events along with attracting events to the city to deliver economic benefits.	-999 -1,110 111

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including an explanation of the results.

Statutory Planning	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comments
Timeliness					
<i>Time taken to decide planning applications</i> [The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application]	28.00	53.00	83.00	66.00	Significant decrease in time taken to decide planning applications attributed to resolving staffing and structural issues.
Service standard					
<i>Planning applications decided within required time frames</i> [(Number of regular planning application decisions made within 60 days) + (Number of VicSmart planning application decisions made within 10 days) / Number of planning application decisions made] x100	100.00%	71.79%	66.97%	86.59%	(New audited indicator) During audit review of underlying supporting info it was found prior years indicators should be reported as 2021 - 86.73% (previously 100%) and 2022 - 70.79% (previously 71.79%) Historically the indicator numbers were pulled off YTD reporting in earlier July. These would've excluded late June applications, hence the discrepancy when running supporting reporting during the Audit Review period
Service cost					
<i>Cost of statutory planning service</i> [Direct cost of the statutory planning service / Number of planning applications received]	\$1,399.64	\$1,691.67	\$3,130.56	\$2,879.17	A slight decrease in cost for service commensurate with efficiencies seen in other metrics.
Decision making					
<i>Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT</i> [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	50.00%	0.00%	80.00%	75.00%	Four appealed planning matters were decided at Tribunal, where three were upheld and one set aside.

Objective 1. Build on competitive strengths:

Council will support initiatives that foster ongoing development and investment in the industries which underpin Warrnambool's economic strengths and comparative advantages.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
3.1.1	Manage Development Plans and Developer Contributions Plans to meet infrastructure requirements of new areas.	Coordinator City Strategy	100%		Development plans continue to be prepared and implemented. More recent plans include an amended plan for Emmanuel College. A further two development plans for residential growth areas are being assessed. Officers continue to work with developers on the developing and implementing development plans and managing developer contributions across the residential growth areas, particularly within the North of the Merri. Pre-application discussions are under way for a number of development plans and development fronts in the North of the Merri, with the likelihood that applications will be submitted in late 2024.
3.1.2	Develop programs and collateral to promote Warrnambool as an appealing investment destination.	Manager Economic Development	100%		Council is finalising an online investment and attraction prospectus for businesses, investors, workers and families considering a move to Warrnambool. The information falls under 'Live, Work or Invest' categories and is the focus of the website, www.warrnambool.com . The prospectus aims to be a valuable resource for Council and for local businesses. Feedback from areas within Council, EDTAC and some external businesses and groups for feedback has been completed. The 'Embrace Winter' to encourage locals and increase visitation is under way with input from business areas which are typically quieter during this period. Council is working with registered accommodation providers to encourage visitors and corporate bookings to shop locally. Accommodation providers will receive a card that entitles them to a range of discounts and special offers at participating local businesses who have opted in to the promotion.
3.1.3	Grow engagement with local businesses across the municipality through events and training opportunities.	Manager Economic Development	100%		The potential establishment of a Warrnambool Business Representative Group concluded with insufficient nominations received to proceed with the group. As part of the process over 500 businesses were visited and a strong promotion and communication strategy implemented including direct emails, newsletter updates, social media and local media coverage.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
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An accommodation audit across the city has been completed and will support Council's investment and attraction work. Interim findings indicated a need for more accommodation, in particular high end accommodation options.

The Ideas Place business pre-accelerator/start-up program funded via Launch-Vic, was delivered to the Great South Coast region by Council with support from Moyne and Corangamite shires, South West TAFE, The Fletcher Jones Foundation and Great South Coast Food and Fibre.

In this time The Ideas Place has also conducted two pitch night events where six local start-ups and scale-ups have shared in over \$40,000 of financial support to continue to make their business dreams a reality. A final pitch night to be held in Camperdown in September.

Council's Warrnambool Winter Discount cards were issued to visitors. Cardholders were entitled to a range of discounts and specials at participating businesses.

Objective 2. Emerging industries: **Council will encourage emerging industry sectors that contribute to Warrnambool's economic growth and diversity.**



Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
3.2.1	Facilitate and partner in initiatives to progress the implementation of the Great South Coast Economic Futures Plan.	Manager Infrastructure Services	100%		Council continues to partner and contribute to the great South Coast Economic Futures group and notes the work by the group on delivery of the high value pathways including: Hydrogen development, Food and Fibre investment, Barwon South West clean energy investment footprint, Cross boarder collaboration through green triangle forest industries, and the geothermal tourism prospectus.
3.2.2	Review and implement the Warrnambool Economic Development and Investment Strategy to facilitate investment and employment growth across the Warrnambool municipality.	Manager Economic Development	100%		<p>The 2023-2028 Economic Development Strategy was adopted by Council in late 2023. Initiatives in place to facilitate investment and employment growth include:</p> <p>The Ideas Place: supporting entrepreneurial start-ups;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business workshops, mentoring and business speakers; • Supporting the AgFutures Program; • Better Approvals - business support, new business inquiries; • Warrnambool Funding Finder (Grant Guru) - free access to source funding opportunities for local businesses, organisations and community groups; • Provision of economic data to support major events; • Economic Development Australia (EDA) Investment and Attraction Group; • Completion of an accommodation Audit for Warrnambool; and, • Council representation on the Local Skills & Jobs Taskforce (DEWR) and the EDA Victorian Practitioner Network.
3.2.3	Plan for the development and implementation of precinct structure plans to facilitate investment in appropriate development across the municipality.	Coordinator City Strategy	100%		<p>The Allansford Strategic Framework Plan is being implemented with a range of technical reports being produced to support rezoning of key sites, including a flood and stormwater investigation. The Bushfield-Woodford strategic framework plan is being reviewed and updated to reflect community feedback. The feedback included a response from the CFA that necessitated further assessment for bushfire risk. This work has been externally funded and is under way.</p> <p>The Eastern Activity Centre structure plan continues to be implemented by site-specific rezonings. A rezoning of land at 19 Horne Road to the Commercial 2 Zone has been approved by the Minister for Planning and was gazetted into the planning scheme on 16 May 2024.</p>



Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
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Council officers continue to work with the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) in the development of the East of Aberline precinct structure plan, Council's largest residential growth area anticipated to accommodate 5,000 lots and a population of 9,000 residents. The Victorian Government has identified the precinct structure plan as a priority and the project is now fully funded. Technical reports are under way for the precinct to support the future urban structure. A co-design workshop was held with landowners and government agencies in July. Implementation of Council's other four residential growth areas is progressing with development occurring across all growth areas at a healthy rate. The Warrnambool Foreshore Framework Plan is under way to provide guidance for a variety of issues across the Foreshore precinct. The plan is being developed under the guidance of a range of stakeholders and government agencies, including Eastern Maar, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

Objective 3. Visitor growth:



Council will facilitate Warrnambool's visitor growth and year-round visitation through industry development, effective destination management and promotion of attractions and experiences leveraging key events.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
3.3.1	Review and implement the Warrnambool Destination Action Plan in partnership with Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism and industry.	Service Manager Flagstaff Hill	100%		Council has had input into the plan, the final draft of which is with Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism (GORRT). The process involved collaboration between industry, Council and GORRT and included workshops, product offering audits and product gap analysis.
3.3.2	Increase visitation with events across the year and enhance the profile of Warrnambool as a destination.	Service Manager, Events & Promotion	100%		<p>Solstice Search Party was delivered on Saturday 29 June in Lake Pertobe. 4,176 free tickets were registered and the estimated attendance was similar. A quarter of attendees travelled from outside 3280 to attend.</p> <p>Attendee experience was enhanced with more food vendors and the opening of the beach kiosk.</p> <p>The additions of the fire effigy and roaming performers were popular and post-event survey responses were very positive with the community anticipating Solstice Search Party to be an annual event.</p> <p>The Embrace Winter digital event campaign began on Saturday 1 June increase Warrnambool event-driven visitation, event attendance and brand awareness over the off-peak winter period. Embrace is a digital campaign with four pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace the Dark - night time economy and evening events, such as Solstice Search Party • Embrace the Wild - big nature and creative events • Embrace the Culture - arts and culture, indigenous • Embrace the Taste - dining and markets. <p>The Festivals and Events Fund was announced and delivered during May with over 60 local clubs, committees and businesses attending an information session at the library after which 37 applications were received for events to be delivered in 2024/2025.</p> <p>Council assisted 122 events for 2023/2024, processing 68 events through the Council Event Control Group Process and funded a total of 46 events to a total of \$412,388 including the delivery of Solstice Search Party.</p>

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
3.3.3	Develop and share economic data and analysis to business and industry to inform the performance of the Warrnambool economy.	Manager Economic Development	100%		<p>The online investment and attraction prospectus warrnambool.com provides local businesses, industry and investors with quick access to current and key economic data. It is being promoted locally, state-wide and beyond to promote Warrnambool as a great place to 'live, work or invest'.</p> <p>Council supports funding opportunities for businesses and events with data strengthens applications using tools such as REMPLAN, Spendmapp, business survey findings and other data streams. The recent accommodation audit was shared with participating accommodation providers and is included in our investment and attraction package. The annual Mayor's Breakfast will be held later this year.</p>
3.3.4	Ensure that Council's position is advocated strongly to the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.	Manager Infrastructure Services	100%		<p>The Victorian Government has advised the transfer of coastal Crown land parcels within Council to Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is not currently on the radar or funded. Council continues to engage with Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority on their strategic plan and visitation to the Great Ocean Road.</p>


Objective 4. Workforce capability:

Council will foster the development of a workforce capable of supporting the needs of the local and regional economy.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
3.4.1	Deliver the Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) representative role for the Great South Coast region and the Regional Certifying Body function on behalf of the Great South Coast.	Designated Area Migration Agreement Coordinator	100%		Council has endorsed 40 positions, with another 54 currently under assessment. Council has begun receiving requests for the ENS visa, indicating that workers have remained in the region for at least two years. There is strong program demand, especially those within the healthcare sector. Recently, information sessions were conducted in Warrnambool and Corangamite Shire. Council is planning an upcoming session in Southern Grampians Shire. A submission to the Australian Government's Review of Regional Migration Settings is being prepared.
3.4.2	Partner on projects and initiatives with Deakin University Warrnambool and South West TAFE that help provide a skilled workforce that meets local industry needs.	Manager Economic Development	100%		Since early 2023 Council, as the lead agent, has partnered with South West TAFE, Moyne and Corangamite shires to deliver The Ideas Place with Victorian Government funding. The funding supports start-up entrepreneurs who have an idea for a start-up and want to establish their business. A South West TAFE representative sits on the program advisory group. Deakin University has a representative on Council's Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee which meets on a quarterly basis. Council introduced a potential hydrogen energy program partner to Deakin University. Council has representation on the South Coast Local Skills and Jobs Taskforce (DEWR) and attends the Victorian Government's Skilled and Business Migration Program forums (Industry, Trade and Investment Division). Council is also a member of Economic Development Australia's Victorian Practitioners Network.

Objective 5. The digital economy:

Council will facilitate greater digital capability.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
3.5.1	Participate in the implementation of the Great South Coast Digital Plan to address connectivity issues for industry and households.	Executive Manager IT Strategy & Transformation Shared Services	100%		Council contributed to the Great South Coast Digital Plan which was issued to the participating councils. Council continues to use the plan to inform decisions relating to digital participation across the organisation.

Goal 4:

A connected and inclusive place

We will provide quality places that all people value and want to live, work, play and learn in.

Strategic indicators

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results in achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic indicator/measure	Result	Comments
Appearance of public areas	71	Above the state and regional centres averages.
Parking facilities	55	Above the state and regional centres averages.
Local streets and footpaths	56	Above the state and regional centres averages.
Traffic management	56	Above the state and regional centres averages.
Sealed local roads	54	Significantly above the state and regional centres averages.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2023-2024 Budget.

Major initiative	Progress
50kW public electric vehicle charger.	Charger installed at Flagstaff Hill.
New school crossing, Raglan Parade.	New supervised crossing opened at the intersection of Hider and Ardlie streets.
Roundabout upgrade Fairy and Koroit streets.	Completed in late 2023.
Flood mitigation project – Japan Street precinct	Two underground basins able to capture 960,000 litres of water installed to reduce the impact of flooding.
New school crossing, Landmann Street	New supervised crossing connects Merrivale Primary School to the Merrivale Recreation Reserve and the surrounding homes.


Activity	Description	Net cost Actual Budget Variance \$'000
Asset Maintenance	This service prepares long term maintenance management programs for Council's property assets in an integrated and prioritised manner in order to optimise their strategic value and service potential. These include buildings, pavilions, roads, footpaths and tracks and drainage.	-2,378 <u>-2,306</u> -72
Infrastructure Services	This service prepares and conducts capital works and maintenance planning for Council's main civil infrastructure assets in an integrated and prioritised manner in order to optimise their strategic value and service potential. These include roads, laneways, car parks, foot/bike paths, drains and bridges.	-5,311 <u>-3,946</u> -1,365
Regulatory Services	Local laws enforcement including parking fees and fines, public safety, animal management and traffic control.	1,768 <u>921</u> 847

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including an explanation of the results.

Statutory Planning	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comments
Roads					
Satisfaction of use					
<i>Sealed local road requests</i>					
[Number of sealed local road requests / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	60.19	54.98	60.00	59.38	
Condition					
<i>Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards</i>					
[Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kilometres of sealed local roads] x100	96.05%	95.43%	93.56%	89.69%	An independent review of road conditions was carried out in 2023-2024 which showed road asset conditions slightly lower than previously recorded.
Service cost					
<i>Cost of sealed local road reconstruction</i>					
[Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction / Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed]	\$98.78	\$112.65	\$142.71	\$156.81	
Service Cost					
<i>Cost of sealed local road resealing</i>					
[Direct cost of sealed local road resealing / Square metres of sealed local roads resealed]	\$6.85	\$5.87	\$6.52	\$6.42	
Satisfaction					
<i>Satisfaction with sealed local roads</i>					
[Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	59.00	60.00	50.00	54.00	




Objective 1. Effective planning:

Council will ensure its planning acknowledges the unique character and attributes of local places, and that it supports social connection, equitable access, appropriate housing and sustainable population growth.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
4.1.1	Deliver City Parking Strategy including accessible parking and expansion of off-street parking areas.	Coordinator Natural Environment	90%		Consultation for a draft Car Parking Strategy is under way.



Objective 2. Connected community:

Council will enhance Warrnambool's connectivity through the delivery of, or advocacy for, improvement to roads, public transport, footpaths, trails and digital infrastructure.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
4.2.1	Participate in regional activity efforts for improvements to safety on the Princes Highway.	Director City Infrastructure	100%		The regional action group advocating for the Princes Highway has ceased operating and a broader transport advocacy model is proposed to cover all modes of transport investment.
4.2.2	Review Pathway Asset Management Plan and identify key gaps and opportunities for improvement.	Manager Strategic Assets, Property & Projects	80%		The Pathway Asset Management Plan is being reviewed along with the Bridges and Drainage Asset Management Plans and is due for completion in 2024-2025.
4.2.3	Facilitate the implementation of Cycling Reference Group actions adopted by Council.	Projects Engineer	100%		Council continues to facilitate the implementation of Cycling Reference Group actions adopted by Council. The updated group for 2024-2025 has been endorsed by Council, with the works plan to be considered by Council at a future meeting.

Objective 3. Stronger neighbourhoods:




Council will foster neighbourhood connection and capacity building including the development of inclusive recreational and cultural opportunities.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
4.3.1	Deliver Stage 1 of the Brierly Reserve redevelopment.	Service Manager Recreation & Culture	100%		Field of play and lighting works are complete. Reinstatement of surrounds is finalised. Temporary fencing to remain in place for grass establishment period.
4.3.2	In consultation with the community, carry out preliminary design and costing for a new accessible sports pavilion at Brierly Reserve and research community need for potential community hub.	Manager Recreation & Culture	50%		Community engagement on the needs and aspirations for a new community hub showed support for compliant sporting change-rooms, a social room, multi-purpose spaces for community groups, meeting rooms, space for health and well-being support services, maternal child health, child play and parents groups. Barbeques, picnic shelters and public amenities are main aspirations for the open space. A business plan informed by the engagement findings is being developed.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
4.3.3	Implement 2023-2024 initiatives of the Open Space Strategy.	Coordinator City Strategy	100%		A review of the Open Space Strategy 2014-2024 is under way with the likelihood of a new or revised strategy being developed in 2024-2025. An outstanding recommendation of the strategy is the development of an open space contributions policy. Economic modelling and analysis will be undertaken to examine the rationale and justification of the policy in 2025, following endorsement of a new or revised Open Space Strategy.

Objective 4. Sustainable practices:

Council will promote and encourage the implementation of sustainable design across the municipality including the attractiveness, safety, accessibility and functionality of our built environment.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
4.4.1	Implement environmentally sustainable development targets into the Planning Scheme to provide for improved sustainability outcomes across the municipality.	Coordinator City Strategy	100%		Warrnambool, together with 23 other councils, is working under the lead of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) to implement elevated Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) targets into the planning scheme. A planning scheme amendment has been prepared and was submitted to the Minister for Planning for authorisation by all individual 24 councils. CASBE holds regular meetings with the Victorian Government to advocate for this work. The Victorian Government is also rolling out ESD planning reforms, including transitioning to a gas-free community, as part of the State Government's ESD Roadmap.
4.4.2	Review the Sustainable Buildings Policy.	Coordinator Natural Environment	35%		The Sustainable Buildings Policy & Guidelines are under review. This includes consideration of the policy's implementation and where there is further opportunity to embed sustainable design into Council's buildings and facilities.
4.4.3	Participate in the Sustainable Subdivisions Framework trial.	Coordinator City Strategy	100%		The Sustainable Subdivisions Framework trial was completed in 2022.

Goal 5:

An effective Council:

We will be recognised as a collaborative council and a high-performing organisation that enables positive outcomes for Warrnambool's community, environment and economy and for Victoria's south west.

Strategic indicators

The following statement reviews the performance of Council against the Council Plan including results in achieved in relation to the strategic indicators included in the Council Plan.

Strategic indicator/measure	Result	Comments
Overall performance	55	Above the state and regional centres averages.
Value for money	48	On par with state and regional centres averages.
Overall Council direction	51	Significantly above the state and regional centres averages.
Informing the community	52	Improvement on the 2023 result, below the state and regional centres averages.
Consultation and engagement	48	Improvement on the 2023 result, below the state and regional centres averages.
Community decisions	46	Improvement on the 2023 result, below the state and regional centres averages.
Lobbying	46	Lower than the 2023 result, below the state and regional centres averages.
Sealed local roads	54	Significantly above the state and regional centres averages.

Major initiatives

The following statement reviews the progress of Council in relation to major initiatives identified in the 2023-2024 Budget.

Major initiative	Progress
Use of AI Policy	First policy adopted by Council to address the use of artificial intelligence.
Coastal Connect	Ongoing IT project which is a partnership with Moyne and Corangamite shires to share an enterprise software system. The joint venture agreement was extended for five years in June 2024.

Services

The following statement provides information in relation to the services funded in the 2023-2024 budget and the persons or sections of the community who are provided the service.

Services	Description	Net cost Actual Budget Variance \$'000
Governance and elected Council	Elected Council governs our City in partnership with and on behalf of our community, and encourages and facilitates participation of all people in civic life. Also includes contributions made to community groups and organisations.	-670 -789 119
Executive services	Manages and facilitates the Council governance service, implementation of Council decisions and policies and compliance with the legislative requirements.	-590 -564 -26
Communications and customer service	Provides a customer interface for various service units and a wide range of transactions. Includes media and marketing.	-1,140 -1,224 84
Volunteers services	Volunteer Connect provides support and guidance to organisations and community groups that involve volunteers in their work, and provides a volunteer matching service to bring together volunteer roles, and volunteers to fill them.	-169 -134 -35





Information services	Enables Council staff to have access to the information they require to efficiently perform their functions. Includes software support, licensing and lease commitments.	-2,883 <u>-2,691</u> -192
Organisation development and risk management	This service promotes and implements positive human resources strategies to assist staff reach their full potential and, at the same time are highly productive in delivering Council's services to the community. Includes recruitment, staff inductions, training, implementation of the Corporate Risk Management Framework and managing Council's insurance portfolio.	-1,513 <u>-1,967</u> 454
Corporate and financial services	Provides corporate support to Council and all divisions/branches in meeting organisational goals and objectives and includes banking and treasury functions, loan interest, audit, grants commission, legal, procurement, overhead costs including utilities and unallocated grants commission funding.	10,762 <u>2,211</u> 8,551
Depreciation	Depreciation is the allocation of expenditure write down on all of Council's assets over their useful lives.	-22,646 <u>-13,097</u> -9,549

The following statement provides the results of the prescribed service performance indicators and measures including an explanation of the results.

Statutory Planning	2021	2022	2023	2024	Comments
Governance					
Transparency					
<i>Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public</i> [Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public / Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors] x100	5.77%	1.88%	4.03%	8.24%	The appointment of new Chief Executive Officer and a new chair of the Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters Committee required an increased number of decisions be made at confidential meetings. Decisions at closed meetings still in the expected range for the measure and the increase was small in terms of quantum.
Consultation and engagement					
<i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on community consultation and engagement]	50.00	56.00	46.00	48.00	
Attendance					
<i>Councillor attendance at council meetings</i> [The sum of the number of Councillors who attended each Council meeting / (Number of Council meetings) x (Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election)] x100	100.00%	100.00%	95.92%	93.41%	
Service cost					
<i>Cost of elected representation</i> [Direct cost of the governance service / Number of Councillors elected at the last Council general election]	\$47,574.14	\$45,870.43	\$57,041.14	\$59,011.29	
Satisfaction					
<i>Satisfaction with council decisions</i> [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	49.00	58.00	44.00	46.00	



Objective 1. Leadership and governance:

Council will be a high-functioning team committed to respectful relationships, collaboration, and ongoing engagement. It will provide strong, effective leadership, sound governance and informed decision-making.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.1.1	Ensure our suite of policies and procedures are current.	Manager Governance	100%		A tracking software solution has been implemented, allowing regular reporting.
5.1.2	Improve Council's governance process and systems to support good governance.	Manager Governance	100%		Software for addressing both policies and delegations has been implemented. Key policies have been reviewed and reporting on Council's policy framework is ongoing. Key instruments of delegation and authorisation have been reviewed and updated.
5.1.3	Work with the South West Alliance to deliver benefits for the region.	Manager Governance	100%		Council has taken on the role of Chair of the South West Alliance and is providing active leadership in the region across a number of areas.
5.1.4	Continue to enhance organisational awareness of Victoria's Child Safe Standards via customised training programs. Implement measures to maintain and improve compliance with the Standards.	Manager Organisation Development	100%		Approval provided in budget to create a Child Safety Officer position to embed Child Safety Standards.


Objective 2. Engaged and informed community:

Council will ensure ongoing community engagement to identify changing needs and priorities when developing and delivering services and programs.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.2.1	Monitor and report on the reach and effectiveness of Council's communications measures including engagement through the Your Say website.	Manager Communications	100%		Council sought feedback and advice from the community on matters that included the draft Budget and draft Revised Council Plan; the proposed Brierly Recreation Reserve Community Centre (circa 110 survey responses, with further feedback received from listening posts and stakeholder interviews); the Key Worker and Affordable Housing Project (survey, listening posts, public meeting) and the Fair Access and Use Policy.
5.2.2	Provide communications support to promote Council services, facilities, programs and events.	Manager Communications	100%		Videos, social media tiles, posters and other materials were developed to promote events including the Solstice Search Party, Embrace Winter campaign and the Volunteer Expo.






Objective 3. Customer-focused services:

council will continue and develop a program of council services that are delivered to the community's satisfaction.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.3.1	Improve outcomes in the delivery of Council's customer services.	Manager Communications	100%		Council has been refining its online form processes and introducing improved customer experiences where possible. The annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results recorded an improved score in 2024 which was on par with the state average.






Objective 4. High-performance culture:

Council will foster an organisational culture to support engaged, committed and high-performing staff for the effective delivery of council's services and programs.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.4.1	Support an organisational approach to strategic procurement to ensure effective operational decision making that improves organisational performance.	Director Corporate Strategies	100%		Centralised procurement continues to be developed as a support mechanism for the organisation. Value-add opportunities for the organisation will be a focus for 2024-2025.
5.4.2	Continue to evolve the staff training and development programs in order to drive enhanced employee engagement and culture.	Manager Organisation Development	100%		Centralised staff training and development model has been fully embedded into daily operations and is working well.
5.4.3	Implement workplace actions identified within Council's Gender equity Action Plan, (GEAP), resulting in improved gender equity outcomes.	Manager Organisation Development	100%		All current actions have been completed and implemented. Periodic reporting to the Gender Equality Commission is complete.
5.4.4	Review Council's Workforce Management Plan.	Manager Organisation Development	100%		Workforce plan is under review.
5.4.5	Continue implementation of Council's Volunteer Strategy.	Manager Community Policy & Planning	100%		Council benefits from the efforts of 300 volunteers across Community Development, Environment, Arts and Tourism, Children's & Youth Services, and Recreation programs. Volunteers were celebrated at a combined Council and community event during National Volunteer Week in May. Council adopted the Volunteer Policy 2024-2028 following staff and community consultation. The Volunteer Handbook is a new resource, designed to strengthen volunteer recruitment and retention and to improve information and communication links between volunteers and Council. The Volunteer Handbook will be available to volunteers in late 2024.


Objective 5. Organisational and financial sustainability:





council will ensure organisational and financial sustainability through the effective and efficient use of council's resources and assets.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.5.1	Ensure procurement compliance and risk mitigation and that Council is operationally effective.	Manager Financial Services	100%		Procurement Policy has been drafted and will be considered at an open Council meeting.
5.5.2	Review Council's property management processes in relation to leases and licensing.	Manager Strategic Assets, Property & Projects	100%		Council's lease and licence management systems are being reviewed in line with the Coastal Connect project. Work continues with business improvement activities for open space bookings, consent applications, and conditions of use on Council and Crown land for which Council is the Committee of Management.
5.5.3	Review and update the Long Term Financial Plan to ensure Council remains financially sustainable into the future.	Manager Financial Services	100%		Budget was adopted in June. A comprehensive review of the Long Term Financial Plan (10 years) will be undertaken in line with the Workforce Plan, Assets Plan and other integrated plans.
5.5.4	Enhance business processes including IT systems integration.	Manager Financial Services	100%		Implementation project continuing for Coastal Connect (IT enterprise system) upgrade. Design stages are complete, data migration is under way. User acceptance testing will occur after data migration followed by commissioning.
5.5.5	Improve digital capacity for Council staff.	Executive Manager IT Strategy & Transformation Shared Services	100%		Council continues to roll out digital improvements across the organisation including MS Teams upgrades. The recent staff survey rated Council highly for its investments in IT systems. Improvements in IT and digital capacity will continue as part of business as usual.

Objective 6. Risk mitigation:


Council will mitigate and manage organisational risks through sound management systems and processes.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.6.1	Review the IT Strategy and system resilience in relation to data security by collaborating with Corangamite and Moyne shires to develop a shared Cyber Security strategy.	Executive Manager IT Strategy & Transformation Shared Services	100%		Warrnambool and Corangamite councils have proceeded to action items from the shared Cyber Security Strategy. A SEIM solution to detect unauthorised attempts at accessing councils' systems is in place. Additionally a phishing test program has been established along with online training resources. The cooperative work achieved to date across organisations in the region has been exemplary.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.6.2	Implement the 2023-2024 elements of Council's Victorian Protective Data Security Plan lodged with the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner in August 2022.	Executive Manager IT Strategy & Transformation Shared Services	100%		The Victorian Protective Data Security Framework contains on-going actions. Council has completed the 2023-2024 external attestation and reporting required, and continues to work through the established action plan. A joint approach to satisfy common requirements is part of the on-going Moyne Shire/Corangamite Shire/Warrnambool City collaboration and this work will continue.
5.6.3	Ensure effective Business Continuity Planning (BCP) is in place.	Manager Organisation Development	100%		All organisational and corporate risks have undergone a thorough review with controls and action owners identified and allocated.
5.6.4	Enhance Council's risk management processes to ensure key strategic and operational decision-making considers risk factors.	Manager Organisation Development	100%		All risks have now been reviewed and the Risk Management Framework, (Risk Policy and Procedure) updated and implemented.
5.6.5	Continue the development and implementation of Council's Health and Safety Management System with a focus on injury prevention, improved return-to-work processes, OHS training calendar implementation and increased organisation engagement.	Safety & Risk Coordinator	100%		Council's OH&S Management System continues to be reviewed, refined and implemented. All Health and Safety Management System documents are now in controlled documents and available to all staff via the Intranet page.



Objective 7. Effective advocacy:

Council will pursue effective advocacy by providing compelling materials for desired support and funding for community priorities through establishing strong relationships with other levels of government, strategic partners and key stakeholders.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.7.1	Provide materials to support advocacy efforts and report on advocacy outcomes.	Manager Communications	100%		Council has developed a suite of documents which describe priority projects including repair of the Breakwater, further work at Brierly Reserve, renewal of the whale viewing platform, the Clean Energy Centre of Excellence, Raglan Parade pedestrian safety and Merri River revegetation. These documents are available on Council's website.

Objective 8. Regional role and relationships:

Council will acknowledge Warrnambool's capability as the regional centre of south-west Victoria through appropriate leadership, advocacy and partnerships that enable greater opportunity for the region.

Action Code	Action Name	Responsible Officer	Progress	Traffic Lights	Comments
5.8.1	Participate in shared services project - for a shared Information technology enterprise system and associated processes - with Moyne and Corangamite shires.	Executive Manager IT Strategy & Transformation Shared Services	100%		The established governance structure for the Shared Services Project continues to operate successfully via the Joint Venture Governance Committee comprising three CEOs and three corporate directors. The Coastal Connect Project is a major component of the joint venture and continues to be rolled out with intensive participation by the three councils. In May 2024 each of the three councils agreed to extend the Joint Venture Agreement until 2030.
5.8.2	Pursue funding for animal shelter redevelopment in collaboration with surrounding municipalities to facilitate a regional facility if appropriate.	Coordinator Natural Environment	100%		Regional discussions have been undertaken and indicate that a regional facility may not be appropriate for all surrounding municipalities at this stage.



Warrnambool City Council

Governance, management and other information



Warrnambool City Council is constituted under the Act to provide leadership for the good governance of the municipal district and the local community.

Council has a number of roles including:

- Taking into account the diverse needs of the local community in decision-making
- Providing leadership by establishing strategic objectives and monitoring achievements
- Ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner
- Advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments
- Fostering community cohesion and encouraging active participation in civic life.

Council is committed to effective and sustainable forms of democratic and corporate governance as the key to ensuring that council and its administration meet the community's priorities.

The community has many opportunities to provide input into council's decision-making processes including community consultation, public forums and the ability to make submissions to Council.

Council's formal decision-making processes are conducted through council meetings. To ensure the timely delivery of services Council delegates much of its decision-making to Council staff. These delegations are exercised in accordance with adopted council policies and instruments of delegation.

Meetings of council

Council conducts open public meetings on the first Monday of each month.

Members of the community are welcome to attend these meetings and observe from the gallery. Council meetings also provide the opportunity for community members to submit a question to the council, make a submission or speak to an item.

In 2023-2024 Council held 11 scheduled meetings, two additional meetings and four in-camera meetings.

The following table provides a summary of councillor attendance at council meetings for the 2023-2024 financial year.

COUNCILLOR	Scheduled Council Meetings attended	Annual/Additional Council Meetings Attended	In-Camera Meetings of Council Attended	Informal Meetings of Council Attended
Cr. Otha Akoch	8/11	2/2	2/4	31/33
Cr. Debbie Arnott	10/11	2/2	3/4	29/33
Cr. Ben Blain, Mayor	11/11	2/2	4/4	33/33
Cr. Vicki Jellie AM	11/11	2/2	4/4	33/33
Cr. Angie Paspaliaris	9/11	2/2	3/4	32/33
Cr. Max Taylor	11/11	2/2	4/4	32/33
Cr. Richard Ziegeler	11/11	2/2	4/4	29/33

Councillors declared 14 conflicts of interest in 2023-2024.

Type of Meeting	No. of Cr. Conflicts declared
Scheduled	3
Special/Additional	0
In-Camera	0
Informal	11

Delegated committees

The Act allows Councils to establish one or more delegated committees consisting of:

- Councillors
- Council staff
- Other persons
- Any combination of the above.

The following table contains a list of delegated committees established by the Council that are in operation and the purpose for which each committee was established.

Delegated committee	Councillors	Officers	Other	Purpose
Community and International Relations Advisory Committee	1	1	8	The purpose of the Committee is to provide strategic advice on Council's sister city relationships, international relations and to advance Council's progress against the Welcoming Cities Standard. The Welcoming Cities Standard promotes acts of enabling all groups of people within a society to have a sense of belonging and to be able to participate in community life.
Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee	1	3	8	The purpose of the Committee will be to provide strategic advice on environmental and sustainability projects and programs to advance the Green Warrnambool vision that by 2040 Warrnambool will be the most environmentally sustainable regional city in Australia.
Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee	2	2	8	The purpose of the Committee is to provide strategic advice and direction in relation to Warrnambool economic development and tourism matters and to act as a conduit of information between stakeholders and the Warrnambool City Council.
Audit and Risk Committee	2	-	3	The purpose of the Committee is to advise Council on the effectiveness of the organisation's governance, risk, and financial internal control systems, processes and compliance culture to provide the Council with assurance and confidence in the integrity of these activities.

Code of Conduct

The Act requires councils to develop and approve a councillor Code of Conduct within 12 months after each general election.

On February 1, 2021, Council adopted a revised Councillor Code of Conduct which is designed to:

- Assist councillors to maintain the highest standards of conduct and behaviour as well as provide a means to deal with problems they may encounter
- Attract the highest level of confidence from Council's stakeholders
- Assist the mayor and councillors to discharge the responsibilities of their public office appropriately.

In addition to setting out the Councillor Conduct Principles, the Code also outlines:

- Other conduct definitions under the Act, such as those relating to misuse of position, improper direction, breach of confidentiality and conflict of interest
- Roles and relationships
- Dispute resolution procedures.

Councillor allowance

In accordance with Section 39 of the Act, councillors are entitled to receive an allowance while performing their duty as a councillor. The Mayor is also entitled to receive a higher allowance.

The State Government sets the upper and lower limits for all allowances paid to councillors and Mayors. Councils are divided into three categories based on the income and population of each council. In this instance Victorian City Council is recognised as a category two council.

The following table contains details of current allowances fixed for the mayor and councillors during the year.

Councillors	\$ Allowance
Cr Otha Akoch	31,980
Cr Debbie Arnott	59,906
Cr Ben Blain	74,724
Cr Vicki Jellie	43,681
Cr Angie Paspaliaris	31,980
Cr Max Taylor	39,625
Cr Richard Ziegeler	31,980

Councillor expenses

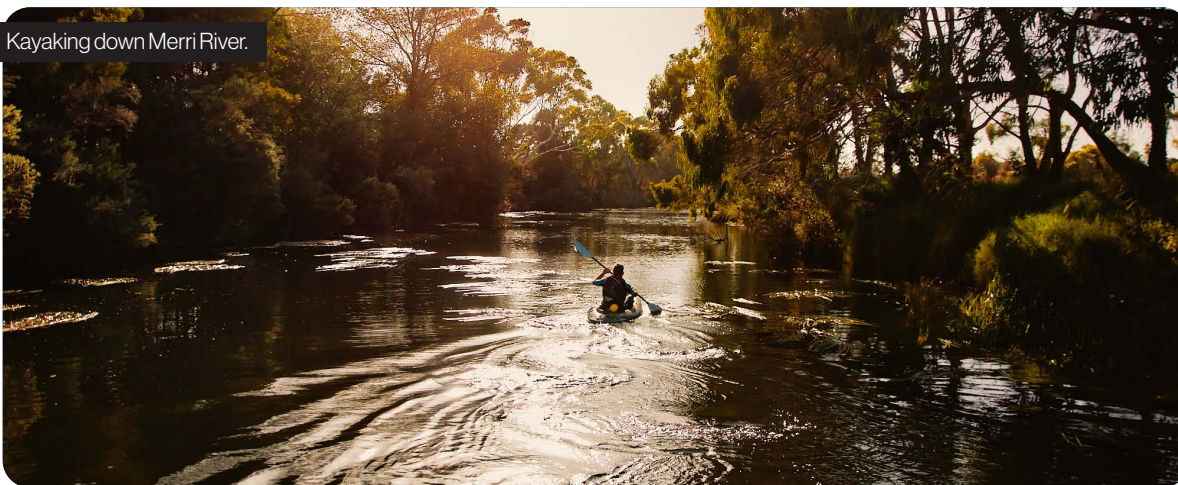
In accordance with Section 40 of the Act, council is required to reimburse a councillor for expenses incurred whilst performing their duties as a councillor.

Council is also required to adopt and maintain a policy in relation to the reimbursement of expenses for councillors. The policy provides guidance for the payment of reimbursements of expenses and the provision of resources, facilities and other support to the mayor and councillors to enable them to discharge their duties. Council also publishes in its Annual Report the details of the expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for each councillor and member of a council committee paid by the council.

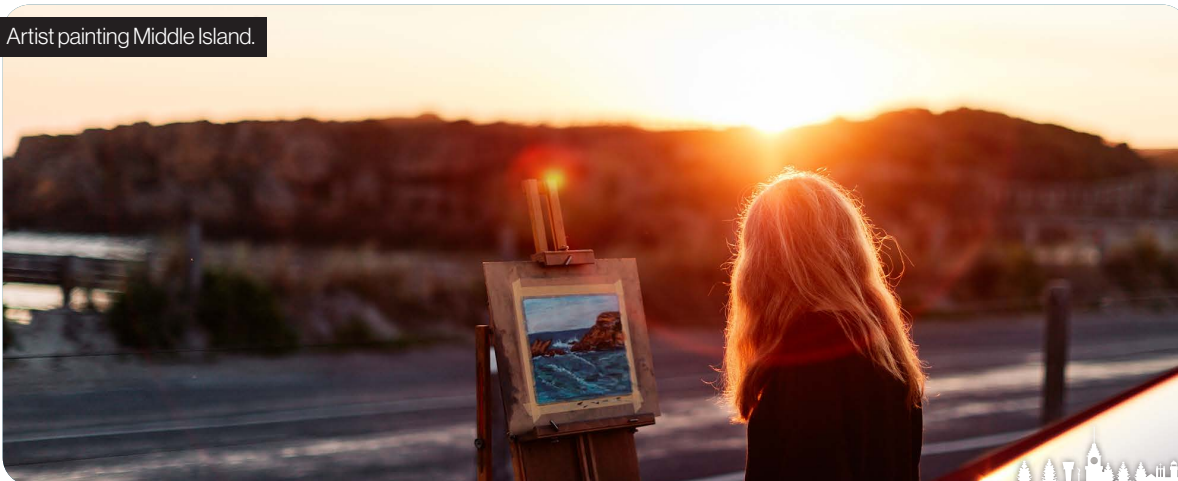
The details of the expenses including reimbursement of expenses for each councillor and member of a council committee paid by the council for the 2023-2024 year are set out in the following table.

Councillors	Travel \$	Car mileage \$	Childcare \$	Information and communications \$	Conferences \$	Training \$
Cr Otha Akoch	580	0	0	636	1055	786
Cr Debbie Arnott	287	0	0	636	0	786
Cr Ben Blain	2,802	0	0	636	859	786
Cr Vicki Jellie	292	0	0	636	859	786
Cr Angie Paspaliaris	344	0	0	636	859	786
Cr Max Taylor	0	0	0	636	0	786
Cr Richard Ziegeler	0	0	0	636	0	786

Kayaking down Merri River.



Artist painting Middle Island.



Governance and management checklist

Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
1 Community engagement policy (policy under section 55 of the Act outlining Council's commitment to engaging with the community on matters of public interest)	Adopted in accordance with Section 55 of the Act on February 1, 2021.	✓
2 Community engagement guidelines (guidelines to assist staff to determine when and how to engage with the community)	Revised guidelines/template commenced with the adoption of the Community Engagement Policy on February 1, 2021.	✓
3 Financial Plan (plan under section 91 of the Act outlining the financial and non-financial resources required for at least the next 10 financial years)	Adopted in accordance with section 92 of the Act on June 28, 2021.	✓
4 Asset Plan (plan under section 92 of the Act setting out the asset maintenance and renewal needs for key infrastructure asset classes for at least the next 10 years)	Adopted in Accordance with Section 92 of the Act on June 27, 2022.	✓
5 Revenue and Rating Plan (plan under section 93 of the Act setting out the rating structure of Council to levy rates and charges)	Adopted in accordance with Section 93 of the Act on June 28, 2021.	✓
6 Annual budget (plan under section 94 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken during the budget year and the funding and other resources required)	Adopted in accordance with section 94 of the Act Date of adoption: June 26, 2023	✓
7 Risk policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risks to council's operations)	Policy commenced on May 14, 2022.	✓
8 Fraud and Corruption Control Policy (policy outlining council's commitment and approach to minimising the risk of fraud)	Adopted July 6, 2020	✓
9 Municipal emergency management plan (plan under section 60ADB of the Emergency Management Act 2013 for emergency mitigation, response and recovery)	Prepared and maintained in accordance with section 20 of the Emergency Management Act 1986. Reviewed March 2024.	✓
10 Procurement policy (policy under section 108 of the Act outlining the principles, processes and procedures that will apply to the purchase of goods and services by the Council)	Adopted in accordance with Section 108 October 4, 2021.	✓
11 Business continuity plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to ensure that key services continue to operate in the event of a disaster)	Plan updated January 2021.	✓
12 Disaster recovery plan (plan setting out the actions that will be undertaken to recover and restore business capability in the event of a disaster)	Plan updated January 2021.	✓
13 Risk management framework (framework outlining council's approach to managing risks to the council's operations)	Commenced in February 2021.	✓
14 Audit and Risk Committee (see sections 53 and 54 of the Act)	Established in accordance with section 53 of the Act. Committee charter adopted in May 2020.	✓
15 Internal audit (independent accounting professionals engaged by the council to provide analyses and recommendations aimed at improving council's governance, risk and management controls)	Independent auditors engaged.	✓

Governance and Management Items	Assessment	
16 Performance reporting framework (a set of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Local Government Act 2020)	Framework Date of adoption of current framework: 1 July 2015	✓
17 Council Plan report (report reviewing the performance of the council against the council plan, including the results in relation to the strategic indicators, for the first six months of the financial year)	Council provides quarterly reports to the community on progress made in each of the Council Plan objectives (activities and initiatives reports). Reports presented September 4, 2023; October 2, 2023; November 6, 2023; May 6, 2024.	✓
18 Financial reporting (quarterly statements to the Council under section 97(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, comparing actual and budgeted results and an explanation of any material variations)	Reports presented to the Council in accordance with section 97(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 Date reports presented: September 5, 2022; November 7, 2022; February 6, 2023; May 1, 2023.	✓
19 Risk reporting (6-monthly reports of strategic risks to Council's operations, their likelihood and consequences of occurring and risk minimisation strategies)	Date of reports: September 5, 2022 and May 1, 2023.	✓
20 Performance reporting (6-monthly reports of indicators measuring financial and non-financial performance, including the performance indicators referred to in section 98 of the Local Government Act 2020)	Date of reports: to be completed. Community Satisfaction Survey results presented July 3, 2023.	✓
21 Annual report (annual report under sections 98, 99 and 100 of the Local Government Act 2020 containing a report of operations and audited financial and performance statements)	2022-2023 Annual Report presented at a meeting of the Council in accordance with section 100 of the Act Date statements presented: October 2, 2023.	✓
22 Councillor Code of Conduct (Code under section 139 of the Act setting out the standards of conduct to be followed by Councillors and other matters)	Code of Conduct reviewed and adopted on February 1, 2021.	✓
23 Delegations (documents setting out the powers, duties and functions of Council and the Chief Executive Officer that have been delegated to members of staff, in accordance with sections 11 and 47 of the Act)	Delegations reviewed in accordance with section 11(7) of the Act and a register kept in accordance with sections 11(8) and 47(7) of the Act. S6 Instrument of Delegation adopted in March, 2023. S5 Instrument of Delegation adopted in March 2023.	✓
24 Meeting procedures (Governance Rules under section 60 of the Act governing the conduct of meetings of Council and delegated committees)	Governance Rules adopted in accordance with section 60 of the Act. Governance Rules adopted May 3, 2021.	✓

I certify that this information presents fairly the status of council's governance and management arrangements.



Andrew Mason
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 9/9/2024



Cr Ben Blain
Mayor

Date: 9/9/2024



Statutory information

The following information is provided in accordance with legislative and other requirements applying to council.

Documents available for public inspection

In accordance with regulation 12 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 the following are prescribed documents that are available for public inspection or copies of the documents can be obtained for the purposes of section 222 of the Act at 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool:

- A document containing details of overseas or interstate travel (other than interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by councillor or any member of council staff in the previous 12 months.
- Minutes of ordinary and special meetings held in the previous 12 months which are kept under section 93 of the Act, other than those agendas and minutes relating to a part of a meeting which was closed to members of the public under section 89 of the Act and are confidential information within the meaning of section 77(2) of the Act.
- The minutes of meetings of special committees established under section 86 of the Act and held in the previous 12 months, other than those minutes relating to a part of a meeting which was closed to members of the public under section 89 of the Act and are confidential information within the meaning of section 77(2) of the Act.
- A register of delegations kept under sections 87(1) and 98(4) of the Act, including the date on which the last review took place under sections 86(6) and 98(6), respectively, of the Act.
- A document containing details of all leases involving land which were entered into by the council as lessor, including the lessee and the terms and the value of the lease.
- A register maintained under section 224(1A) of the Act of authorised officers appointed under that section.
- A list of donations and grants made by the council in the previous 12 months, including the names of persons who, or bodies which, have received a donation or grant and the amount of each donation or grant.

Contracts

Contracts awarded by Council in 2023-2024 that exceeded the \$300,000 threshold and requiring a competitive tender or expression of interest.

Contract Title	Supplier Name	Value	Department
Design & Construction West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House	The Trustee for MODULAR BUILDINGS UNIT TRUST	\$706,724	City Infrastructure
Warrnambool Futures 2040 and Beyond: Blueprint to a Sustainable City	SGS Economics and Planning Pty Ltd	\$480,000	City Strategy & Development
Provision of Cleaning Services for Public Conveniences & BBQ's 2024	Makim Pty Ltd	\$711,000	Building Strategy & Services
Design & Construct Beach Access WCC 123 - Ramp & Stairs	Civilnow Pty Ltd	\$436,000	City Infrastructure
Coastal Connect Data Migration	Chartertech Pty Ltd	\$386,000	Information Services

Council did not enter any other contracts, valued at \$300,000 or more, for goods or services without engaging in a competitive process.



AquaZone Swim Carnival

Pickering Point.



Disability Action Plan

Council staff discussed with the South West All Abilities Advocacy Group discussed the design of future works at Lake Pertobe including seating and picnic tables.

Consultation with users of mobility scooters has started to identify additional charging points around the city is under way. In line with the Federal Government reforms for Home Support Programs, Council has conducted the Aged and Disability Services Review and made a decision to continue to provide in-home support services to the elderly.

Footpath, bicycle path and playground renewals (Bradley and Auty streets) increased access to participation for all abilities. New car parks in the city centre include accessible parks and allow greater access to shops and services.

AquaZone has partnered in research aimed at helping people with cerebral palsy take part in physical activity. The FitSkills program aims to increase participation in physical activity, improve social connections, and promote positive effects on health quality and well-being.

Domestic animal management plan

Council adopted the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021–2025 in October 2021. The plan was developed through consultation with council's Local Laws team and after community consultation.

Food Act Ministerial directions

In accordance with section 7E of the Food Act 1984, council is required to publish a summary of any Ministerial Directions received during the financial year in its annual report. No Ministerial Directions were received by council during the financial year.

Freedom of information

Access to documents may be obtained through written request to the Freedom of Information Officer, as detailed in section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and in summary as follows:

- it should be in writing
- it should identify as clearly as possible which document is being requested
- it should be accompanied by the appropriate application fee (the fee may be waived in certain circumstances).

Requests for documents in the possession of council should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer. Requests can also be lodged online or by email.

Access charges may also apply once documents have been processed and a decision on access is made (e.g. photocopying and search and retrieval charges).

Further information regarding FOI can be found at www.foi.vic.gov.au and at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au. Council received 134 FOI requests over 2023-2024.

Protected disclosure procedures

The Protected Disclosure Act 2012 aims to ensure openness and accountability in government by encouraging people to disclose improper conduct within the public sector and provide protection for people who make disclosures. Procedures on how to make a disclosure are publicly available at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au. During 2023-2024 no disclosures were notified to council officers appointed to receive disclosures, or to IBAC.

Road Management Act Ministerial direction

No Ministerial Directions were received by Council during the financial year.

Infrastructure and development contributions

For the 2023-2024 year the following information about infrastructure and development contributions is disclosed.

Total DCP Levies received in 2023-24 Financial Year

DCP name and year approved	Levies received in 2023-24 financial year (\$)
North of the Merri DCP (2011)	-
North Dennington DCP (2014)	-

Total

-

DCP land, works, services or facilities accepted as works-in-kind in 2023-24 financial year

DCP name and year approved	Project ID	Project description	Item purpose	Project value (\$)
North of the Merri DCP (2011)	DR02	Riverland Estate Stages 8 & 9	Footpath, Road, and Drainage Assets provided in-kind	\$4,970,095
North Dennington DCP (2014)	RO02			\$-

Total

\$4,970,095

Total DCP contributions received and expended to date

DCP name and year approved	Total levies received (\$)	Total levies expended (\$)	Total works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Total DCP contributions received (levies and works-in-kind) (\$)
North of the Merri DCP (2011)	1,406,804.52	1,355,471.07	7,873,316.00	9,280,120.52
North Dennington DCP (2014)	-	-	289,114.00	289,114.00
Total	\$1,406,805	\$1,355,471	\$8,162,430	\$9,569,235

Land, works, services or facilities delivered in 2023-24 financial year from DCP levies collected

Project description	Project ID	DCP name and year approved	DCP fund expended (\$)	Works-in-kind accepted (\$)	Council's contribution (\$)	Other contributions (\$)	Total project expenditure (\$)	Percentage of item delivered
Wollaston Road	DR02	North of the Merri DCP (2011)	156,129.74	4,970,095.00	-	156,129.74	156,129.74	5%
North Dennington DCP (2014)	RO02	North Dennington DCP (2014)	-	-	-		-	0%
Total	\$-	\$-	\$156,130	\$4,970,095	\$-	\$156,130	\$156,130	



Warrnambool City Council

Performance Statement

For the year ended June 30, 2024



Housing development in East Warrnambool




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Certification of the Performance Statement

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.



John Brockway CPA
Principal Accounting Officer
Dated: 09 September 2024

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of Warrnambool City Councils for the year ended June 30, 2024, presents fairly the results of Council's performance in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

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

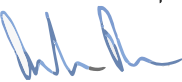
We have been authorised by Council and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 to certify this performance statement in its final form.



Cr Ben Blain
Councillor
Dated: 09 September 2024



Cr Angie Paspaliaris
Councillor
Dated: 09 September 2024



Andrew Mason
Chief Executive Officer
Dated: 09 September 2024



Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Warrnambool City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the accompanying performance statement of Warrnambool City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description of municipality for the year ended 30 June 2024 • service performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024 • financial performance indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024 • sustainable capacity indicators for the year ended 30 June 2024 • notes to the accounts • certification of the performance statement. <p>In my opinion, the performance statement of Warrnambool City Council in respect of the year ended 30 June 2024 presents fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the performance statement</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the performance statement in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the performance statement	<p>The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the performance statement in accordance with the performance reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and for such internal control as the Councillors determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a performance statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p>

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au



Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the performance statement

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the performance statement based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance statement 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 Standards on Assurance Engagements 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 decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance statement. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Standards on Assurance Engagements, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance statement, 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 the council's internal control
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the performance statement, including the disclosures, and whether performance statement represents the underlying events and results in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors 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.



MELBOURNE
13 September 2024

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Section 1. Description of the municipality

The Warrnambool municipality covers an area of 120sqkm and is situated in the Great South Coast region of Victoria, 263km south-west of Melbourne.

Warrnambool City Council includes the City of Warrnambool and the townships of Allansford, Bushfield and Woodford. In 2023 the estimated residential population was 35,907 and the municipality's population density was 297.1 people per square kilometre. The average household size is 2.32 and the median age is 42.

Stunning Lady Bay provides a focal point and major attraction for residents and visitors and in winter and spring the bay is home to southern right whales and their calves. Warrnambool serves as a centre for a regional population of about 120,000 people.

It contains a TAFE college, a Deakin University campus including a School of Medicine and a base hospital which is part of South West Healthcare.

The major employment sectors are health care and social assistance, retail, manufacturing, education and training, accommodation and food services, professional services and construction.

Warrnambool has a moderate climate with an average maximum summer temperature of about 24°C, while the average winter maximum is about 14°C.

The South West features major visitor attractions including the 12 Apostles, Tower Hill and Budj Bim National Park. Along with the natural attractions visitors are drawn to events including the speedway car racing, the May Racing Carnival and surf lifesaving events. The region also features some of Australia's most fertile agricultural land much of which is dedicated to dairy and beef production. Major dairy manufacturers and a large meat processor are situated in and around Warrnambool providing a major source of employment.

Warrnambool's total employment is estimated at more than 18,500 jobs and the city's economic output is estimated at \$5,540.482 million with major contributions from the following industry sectors:

Construction - \$853.616 million

Manufacturing - \$714.902 million

Health care and social assistance - \$687.781 million



Section 2. Service performance indicators

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2021	2022	2023	2024		Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target as per budget	Actual	
Aquatic Facilities						
Utilisation						
<i>Utilisation of aquatic facilities</i> [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	3.65	3.96	5.63	N/A	5.74	Aquatic facilities utilisation has stabilised post-Covid.
Animal Management						
Health and safety						
<i>Animal management prosecutions</i> [Number of successful animal management prosecutions / Number of animal management prosecutions] x 100	0%	0%	0%	N/A	0%	During the 2023/24 financial year Council did not initiate any animal management prosecutions.
Food Safety						
Health and safety						
<i>Critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications</i> [Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance outcome notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises] x100	47.22%	100 %	50.00%	N/A	96.63%	Major non-compliances were reported by authorised officers from 89 premises, with 86 premises receiving follow-up visits. Significant increase in non-compliances due to an increase in food safety assessments completed.
Governance						
Satisfaction						
<i>Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement (community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council)</i>	50	56	46	56	48	Council's survey result improved after a significant drop in the prior year most likely attributable to a number of controversial community issues being discussed at the time.

Libraries**Participation**

Library membership
[percentage of the population that are registered library members] x100

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

39.79%

New indicator for 2024.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)**Participation**

Participation in the MCH service
[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

82.25%

82.97%

79.42%

N/A

77.14%

Participation rates were lower than previous years due to fewer presentations and short term vacancies.

Participation

Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children

[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

86.81%

93.21%

80.75%

N/A

84.02%

The increase in participation rates for Aboriginal children occurred in line with a specific resource being allocated to the service.

Roads**Condition**

Sealed local roads below the intervention level (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal)

96.05%

95.43%

93.56%

95.43%

89.69%

An independent review of road conditions was carried out in 2023/24 which showed road asset conditions slightly lower than previously recorded.

Statutory Planning**Service standard**

Planning applications decided within the relevant required time
(percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time)

86.73%

70.79%

66.97%

71.79%

86.59%

(New audited indicator) During audit review of underlying supporting information it was found prior years indicators should be reported as 2021 - 86.73% (previously 100%) and 2022 - 70.79% (previously 71.79%). Previously reported numbers excluded some applications that were received by Council in the last month of the financial year.

Waste Management**Waste diversion**

Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill
[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100

64.44%

66.24%

67.24%

67.85%

65.45%



Section 3. Financial performance indicators For the year ended 30 June 2024

Dimension/indicator/ measure	2021	2022	2023	2024		2025	2026	2027	2028	Material Variations and Comments
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Target As per budget	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	
Efficiency Expenditure level <i>Expenses per property assessment</i> [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$4,122.63	\$4,177.02	\$4,724.40	\$4,834.00	\$5,256.62	\$4,795.41	\$4,805.77	\$4,907.70	\$5,029.91	Council completed a number of projects in 2023-2024 carried forward from previous years. This lead to the expenditure level being higher than budgeted target. Higher depreciation on assets also contributed to an increase in expenditure level per property assessment.
Revenue level <i>Average rate per property assessment</i> [Sum of all general rates and municipal charges / Number of property assessments]	\$1,996.37	\$2,026.28	\$2,036.72	N/A	\$2,107.11	\$2,188.35	\$2,257.91	\$2,309.79	\$2,370.84	Rates increased at 2.95 per cent on the previous year, below than the Victorian Government rate cap of 3.5% for the 2023-2024 financial year.
Liquidity Working capital <i>Current assets compared to current liabilities</i> [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	158.93%	196.17%	240.47%	249.00%	255.95%	228.45%	230.58%	207.64%	196.5%	Council continues to hold funds committed for incomplete projects that will be delivered in the 2024-2025 financial year.
Unrestricted cash <i>Unrestricted cash com- pared to current liabilities</i> [Unrestricted cash / Cur- rent liabilities] x100	77.97%	109.24%	-38.81%	N/A	-50.26%	-87.56%	-91.02%	-96.99%	-93.06%	Council considers the current definition of “unrestricted cash” as misleading, as it excludes investments with a maturity date of 90 days. Council held over \$40m of cash in these investments at 30 June 2024, which will be used to fund operations, capital works, and projects. Council uses careful and timely treasury management to maximise investment returns and ensure cash availability for its operations.

Obligations

Loans and borrowings
Loans and borrowings compared to rates
 [Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100

19.54%

24.54%

22.93%

N/A

18.01%

14.06%

10.58%

8.07%

11.2%

Council reduced debt slightly in 2023-2024 because it retired some loans. In the forecast period, Council intends to reduce borrowings as loans are repaid.

New borrowings will be considered in the 2028 financial year to assist with funding council's capital works plan.

Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates
 [Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue] x100

4.28%

4.42%

3.66%

N/A

3.84%

3.82%

3.23%

2.37%

2.3%

Indebtedness

Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue
 [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100

15.42%

17.03%

14.73%

N/A

12.29%

9.22%

6.81%

7.56%

8.80%

Council's indebtedness ratio continues to decrease as borrowings are repaid.

New borrowings will be considered in the 2028 financial year to assist with funding council's capital works plan.

Asset renewal and upgrade

Asset renewal and upgrade compared to depreciation
 [Asset renewal and asset upgrade expense / Asset depreciation] x100

115.13%

131.15%

114.67%

176%

74.9%

183.55%

157.86%

238.14%

203.76%

The 2023-2024 depreciation expense was significantly higher than budgeted as a result of asset revaluations. This led to the Asset Renewal and Upgrade indicator showing as significantly lower than budget.

Operating position
Adjusted underlying result

Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)
 [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100

0.81%

7.57%

4.05%

N/A

-10.31%

0.86%

2.33%

2.01%

1.89%

The adjusted underlying result has gone into deficit due to the impact of a depreciation adjustment on road assets in 2023-2024 and the decision by other levels of government to delay payment of Federal Assistance Grants.

Stability Rates concentration <i>Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue</i> [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	57.11%	53.35%	49.54%	53%	52.92%	53.64%	54.34%	54.62%	54.77%	
Rates effort <i>Rates compared to property values</i> [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality] x100	0.58%	0.57%	0.42%	N/A	0.41%	0.43%	0.43%	0.43%	0.44%	

Section 4. Sustainable capacity indicators For the year ended 30 June 2024

Results

Indicator / measure [formula]	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	Comments
Population <i>Expenses per head of municipal population</i>	\$2,044.55	\$2,102.06	\$2,455.97	\$2,743.45	Increases in Materials and Services due to current costs of materials and labour shortages has resulted in higher cost per head of municipal population.
<i>Infrastructure per head of municipal population</i> [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$13,429.65	\$16,094.87	\$17,353.60	\$18,658.31	
<i>Population density per length of road</i> [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	104.82	104.11	102.96	102.30	
<i>Own-source revenue</i> <i>Own-source revenue per head of municipal population</i> [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$1,617.14	\$1,813.41	\$1,934.68	\$2,047.23	
Recurrent grants <i>Recurrent grants per head of municipal population</i> [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$359.36	\$389.45	\$444.62	\$296.99	Council received 100% of the 2023/24 Victoria Grants Commission payment in 2022/23, no advances were received during 2023/24. The grants allocated to 2024/25 were received in July 2024.
Disadvantage <i>Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage</i> [Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage by decile]	5	5	5	5	
Workforce turnover <i>Percentage of staff turnover</i>					
[Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	10.5%	13.1%	12.4%	10.9%	During audit review of underlying supporting information it was found prior years indicators should be reported as 2023 - 11.29% (previously 12.39%) as casuals had been incorrectly included in the staff numbers.

Section 5. Notes to the accounts

5.1. Basis of preparation

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

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

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

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

5.2. Definitions

Key term	Definition
Aboriginal children	means a child who is an Aboriginal person
Aboriginal person	has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
adjusted underlying revenue	means total income other than: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and • non-monetary asset contributions; and • contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to above
adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure
annual report	means an annual report prepared by a council under section 98 of the Act
asset renewal expenditure	means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability
asset upgrade expenditure	means expenditure that — (a) enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service; or (b) extends the life of the asset beyond its original life
critical non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
current assets	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
current liabilities	has the same meaning as in the Australian Accounting Standards
food premises	has the same meaning as in the Food Act 1984
intervention level	means the level set for the condition of a road beyond which a council will not allow the road to deteriorate and will need to intervene
local road	means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004
major non-compliance outcome notification	means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the Food Act 1984, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken

MCH	means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
non-current liabilities	means all liabilities other than current liabilities
own-source revenue	means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)
population	means the resident population estimated by council
rate revenue	means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges
relative socio-economic disadvantage	in relation to a municipal district, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipal district is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of SEIFA
restricted cash	means cash, cash equivalents and financial assets, within the meaning of the Australian Accounting Standards, not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year
SEIFA	means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet site
unrestricted cash	means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash

5.3. Other Matters

Overview of 2024

Work continued on the decommissioning of the Warrnambool saleyards that were closed in early 2023.

This included a number of clearing sales to clear the site. At the same time a master plan was prepared to ensure the best possible use of the site and surrounding buffer land and In May 2024 Council adopted the Highest and Best Use Master Plan Report 81-99 Caramut Road, Warrnambool.

Council also adopted the Warrnambool Aquatic Strategy which outlines a way forward to provide an aquatic facility that meets the needs of the growing population. The strategy recommended a staged approach to upgrading aquatic facilities at the current Botanic Road site.

A new amenities block at the entrance to McGennan Car Park opened in October 2023.

The new building was identified as a priority in the Lake Pertobe Master Plan in order to offer improved accessibility, baby change tables, bench seats and showers along with a safer facility.

Work on the first stage the Brierly Reserve redevelopment was completed. This included a playing surface upgrade with new drainage to achieve a year-round accessible oval. The oval was realigned to allow for two natural turf soccer pitches either side of a synthetic cricket wicket. Sports ground lighting was added and complies with Football Victoria's semi-professional competition and professional training requirements.



Warrnambool City Council

Annual Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2024



Warrnambool City Council

Annual Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Warrnambool City Council

Annual Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Certification of the Financial Statements

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

**John Brockway, CPA****Principal Accounting Officer****Dated:** 09 September 2024

Warrnambool

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

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

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

**Cr Ben Blain****Mayor****Dated:** 09 September 2024

Warrnambool

**Cr Angie Paspaliaris****Councillor****Dated:** 09 September 2024

Warrnambool

**Andrew Mason****Chief Executive Officer****Dated:** 09 September 2024

Warrnambool



Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Councillors of Warrnambool City Council

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Warrnambool City Council (the council) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> balance sheet as at 30 June 2024 comprehensive income statement for the year then ended statement of changes in equity for the year then ended statement of cash flows for the year then ended statement of capital works for the year then ended notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the council as at 30 June 2024 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 4 of the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>, the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020 and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Councillors' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Councillors of the council are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the 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 it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit 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 the council's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' 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 the 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 conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the 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 represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Councillors 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.



Travis Derricott

as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

MELBOURNE
13 September 2024

Warrnambool City Council

Annual Financial Report

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Understanding Council's Financial Statements**Introduction**

Each year, individual Local Governments across Victoria are required to present a set of audited financial statements to their council and community.

What you will find in the Report

The financial report set out the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The format of the financial report is standard across all Victorian Councils and complies with both the accounting and reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and requirements as set down by Local Government Victoria.

About the Certification of the Financial Statements

The financial statements must be certified by senior staff and Councillors as "presenting fairly" the Council's financial results for the year as well as Council's financial position, and are required to be adopted by Council - ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the financial statements.

About the Primary Financial Statements

The financial statements incorporate 5 "primary" financial statements:

1. Comprehensive Income Statement

Summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income & expenses.

Includes other comprehensive income which primarily records changes in the fair values of Council's property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

2. Balance Sheet

A 30 June snapshot of Council's financial position indicating its assets, liabilities and "net wealth".

3. Statement of Changes in Equity

The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's "net wealth".

4. Statement of Cash Flows

Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent.

5. Statement of Capital Works

This statement details all amounts expended by Council on capital works.

About the Notes to the Financial Report

The Notes to the financial statements provide greater detail and additional information on the 5 primary financial statements.

About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by the Victorian Auditor Generals Office.

The auditor provides an audit report which gives an opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position.

Who uses the Financial Report?

The financial report is a publicly available document and is used by (but not limited to) Councillors, residents and ratepayers, employees, suppliers, contractors, customers, Local Government Victoria, state and federal governments, and financiers including banks and other financial institutions.

The financial statements must be presented at a Council meeting (open to the public) by 31 October.

Warrnambool City Council

Comprehensive Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Income / Revenue			
Rates and charges	3.1	47,258	45,038
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	2,245	2,296
User fees	3.3	19,778	19,435
Grants - operating	3.4	12,356	18,062
Grants - capital	3.4	6,161	9,150
Contributions - monetary	3.5	3,012	3,709
Contributions - non monetary	3.5	14,107	6,647
Other income	3.7	4,229	1,951
Total income / revenue		109,146	106,288
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	40,335	37,635
Materials and services	4.2	31,253	30,312
Depreciation	4.3	22,793	13,375
Depreciation - Right of use assets	4.4	554	307
Allowance for impairment losses	4.5	39	212
Borrowing costs	4.6	223	272
Finance Costs - Leases	4.7	57	29
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	2,456	4,234
Other expenses	4.8	799	860
Total expenses		98,509	87,236
Surplus for the year		10,637	19,052
Other comprehensive income:			
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods			
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	9.1	(46,800)	86,038
Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result		(46,800)	86,038
Total other comprehensive income		(46,800)	86,038
Total comprehensive result		(36,163)	105,090

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

Warrnambool City Council

Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	3,534	7,795
Trade and other receivables	5.1	4,253	3,243
Prepayments	5.2	1,100	987
Other financial assets	5.1	43,000	40,500
Inventories	5.2	181	190
Contract assets	5.1	2,194	2,099
Total current assets		54,262	54,814
Non-current assets			
Other financial assets	5.1	2	2
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	791,964	830,928
Right-of-use assets	5.8	1,647	992
Total non-current assets		793,613	831,922
Total assets		847,875	886,736
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	5,178	4,458
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	2,403	2,026
Contract and other liabilities	5.3	4,219	7,224
Provisions	5.5	7,222	6,913
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	1,679	1,909
Lease liabilities	5.8	499	277
Total current liabilities		21,200	22,807
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	5.5	977	961
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	6,833	8,420
Lease liabilities	5.8	1,221	741
Total non-current liabilities		9,031	10,122
Total liabilities		30,231	32,929
Net assets		817,644	853,807
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		291,291	274,746
Reserves	9.1	526,353	579,061
Total Equity		817,644	853,807

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

Warrnambool City Council

Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Total \$ '000	Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Revaluation Reserves \$ '000	Other Reserves \$ '000
2024					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		853,807	274,746	555,494	23,567
Surplus for the year		10,637	10,637	—	—
Other comprehensive income					
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	(46,800)	—	(46,800)	—
Other comprehensive income from investment in associates		—	—	—	—
Other comprehensive income		(46,800)	—	(46,800)	—
Total comprehensive income		(36,163)	10,637	(46,800)	—
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	—	(7,229)	—	7,229
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	—	13,137	—	(13,137)
Balance at end of the financial year		817,644	291,291	508,694	17,659
2023					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		748,717	265,259	469,456	14,002
Surplus for the year		19,052	19,052	—	—
Other comprehensive income					
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	6.1	86,038	—	86,038	—
Other comprehensive income from investment in associates		—	—	—	—
Other comprehensive income		86,038	—	86,038	—
Total comprehensive income		105,090	19,052	86,038	—
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	—	(10,074)	—	10,074
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	—	509	—	(509)
Balance at end of the financial year		853,807	274,746	555,494	23,567

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

Warrnambool City Council

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

		2024 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$ '000	2023 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$ '000
	Note		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Rates and charges		46,989	44,766
Statutory fees and fines		2,072	2,489
User fees		19,758	21,506
Grants - operating		12,525	17,849
Grants - capital		3,007	10,339
Contributions - monetary		3,012	3,709
Interest received		2,338	1,268
Trust funds and deposits taken		6,753	4,204
Other receipts		1,189	(2,145)
Net GST refund/(payment)		(12)	203
Employee costs		(39,882)	(38,094)
Materials and services		(29,418)	(30,538)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments		(248)	(260)
Trust funds and deposits repaid		(6,376)	(4,212)
Other payments (incl. Interest paid)		(1,150)	(622)
Net cash provided by operating activities	9.2	20,557	30,462
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	(20,397)	(20,034)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		460	635
Payments for investments		(39,000)	(27,500)
Proceeds from sale of investments		36,500	12,000
Net cash used in investing activities		(22,437)	(34,899)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from borrowings		—	1,375
Repayment of borrowings		(1,817)	(1,647)
Interest paid - lease liability		(57)	(29)
Repayment of lease liabilities		(507)	(305)
Net cash flow used in financing activities		(2,381)	(606)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(4,261)	(5,043)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		7,795	12,838
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		3,534	7,795
Financing arrangements	5.6	10,582	11,697

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

Warrnambool City Council

Statement of Capital Works

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Property		
Land improvements	–	62
Total land	–	62
Buildings specialised	2,721	3,750
Buildings non-specialised	–	18
Building improvements	26	–
Total buildings	2,747	3,768
Total property	2,747	3,830
Plant and equipment		
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,749	1,032
Computers and telecommunications	2,322	513
Library books	169	591
Total plant and equipment	4,240	2,136
Infrastructure		
Roads	5,475	3,509
Bridges	131	1,256
Footpaths and cycleways	1,979	3,542
Drainage	1,350	779
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	327	458
Parks, open space and streetscapes	3,147	1,587
Aerodromes	333	478
Off street car parks	153	–
Other infrastructure	516	2,448
Total infrastructure	13,411	14,057
Total capital works expenditure	20,398	20,023
Represented by:		
New asset expenditure	3,320	4,573
Asset renewal expenditure	10,654	9,211
Asset expansion expenditure	7	113
Asset upgrade expenditure	6,417	6,126
Total capital works expenditure	20,398	20,023

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Overview**Introduction**

Warrnambool City Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 20 September 1994 and is a body corporate.

The Council's main office is located at 25 Liebig Street, Warrnambool.

Statement of compliance

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

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

Accounting policy information**1.1 Basis of accounting**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1.)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1.).
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.5.).
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.5.)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with AASB 16 *Leases*, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.8)
- whether or not AASB 1059 *Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors* is applicable
- other areas requiring judgements

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1. Overview (continued)

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

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

1.2 Impact of Covid-19

During 2023-24 the COVID-19 pandemic impact to Council's financial operations was:

- Council received a further \$60,000 COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Program grant in addition to \$90,000 received in 2022-23. The full amount of \$150,000 was expended and acquitted this year.
- Council spent \$66,281 of Pre-School COVID-19 grant funding brought forward from 2022-23.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2. Analysis of our results**Note 2.1 Performance against budget**

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of greater than 10 percent and at least \$500,000 where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

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

	Budget 2024 \$ '000	Actual 2024 \$ '000	Variance \$ '000	Variance %	Ref
2.1.1 Income / Revenue and expenditure					
Income / Revenue					
Rates and charges	46,879	47,258	379	1%	
Statutory fees and fines	2,283	2,245	(38)	(2)%	
User fees	20,482	19,778	(704)	(3)%	
Grants - operating	15,013	12,356	(2,657)	(18)%	1
Grants - capital	4,531	6,161	1,630	36%	2
Contributions - monetary	2,181	3,012	831	38%	3
Contributions - non monetary	5,000	14,107	9,107	182%	4
Other income	1,028	4,229	3,201	311%	5
Total income / revenue	97,397	109,146	11,749	12%	
Expenses					
Employee costs	42,691	40,335	2,356	6%	
Materials and services	33,045	31,253	1,792	5%	
Depreciation	13,097	22,793	(9,696)	(74)%	6
Depreciation - right of use assets	265	554	(289)	(109)%	
Allowance for impairment losses	147	39	108	73%	
Borrowing costs	224	223	1	0%	
Finance costs - leases	46	57	(11)	(24)%	
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	218	2,456	(2,238)	(1,027)%	7
Other expenses	482	799	(317)	(66)%	
Total expenses	90,215	98,509	(8,294)	(9)%	
Surplus for the year	7,182	10,637	3,455	48%	
Other comprehensive income					
Net asset revaluation gain/(loss)	10,409	(46,800)	(57,209)	(550)%	8
Total comprehensive result	17,591	(36,163)	(53,754)	(306)%	

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)**(i) Explanation of material variations**

Variance Ref.	Explanation
1	<p>Operating grant income was \$2.65m unfavourable to budget. Council budgeted to receive its annual Victorian Grant Commission funding for 2024-25 in June 2024 as per previous practice. Council was informed in June that the amount would not be paid until July 2024, resulting in an unfavourable \$4.90m variance. This was offset by \$1.20m project grants received in prior years recognised as income in 2023-24 as performance obligations were met, including Parent & Child Intensive Targets project (\$254K), Coastal Process Study (\$135K), pre-school School Readiness Funding for 2023 (\$126K), South Warrnambool Flood Investigation Study (\$94K), Supported Playgroup funding (\$78K), Workforce Community Navigator mental health program (\$74K), Flagstaff Hill Future Directions funding (\$62K) and multiple smaller projects of less than \$50K each.</p> <p>New unbudgeted grant income included pre-school projects for Inclusion Equipment (\$107K), 2024 School Readiness Funds (\$61K) and Educational Toys (\$54K); environmental planning projects for Kerbside Reform Support (\$224K), Circular Economy Household Education (\$34K) Coastal Support grants (\$115K) and Electric Charging Station support (\$54K); Flagstaff Hill Museum projects (\$23K); Emergency Management (\$60K); Covid-19 impact (\$60K); and other small projects.</p>
2	Capital grant income was favourable to budget due to Coastal Connect funding received last year and recognised as income in 2023-24 as expenses were incurred.
3	Contributions were \$831K above budget. These included developer contributions \$567K above budget, Visit Victoria funding for the Art Gallery's major exhibition (\$115K), funds from the Victorian container deposit scheme (\$56K), funds for the AFLW match (\$35K above budget), and multiple smaller projects (\$58K).
4	A number of unbudgeted developer contributions were received during 2023-24. These relate to ongoing development projects and totalled \$9.10m.
5	Other income was above budget, mainly due to higher interest on Council's investments (\$1.58m above budget) and on Coastal Connect funds held (\$145K). Council also received unbudgeted reimbursements from Corangamite and Moyne Shire Councils relating to the Coastal Connect project (\$346K). Other unbudgeted income included an insurance payment for storm damage to the Friendlies Society booth (\$300K), asbestos removal funds (\$206K) and recognition of volunteer workforce services income at Lighthouse Theatre and Meals on Wheels (\$319K, offset by an equivalent amount in expenditure).
6	The 2023-24 financial year depreciation expense includes an adjustment for roads assets that were under-expensed in previous years.
7	The 2023-24 net loss on disposal of assets variance mainly relates to the sale of assets that were subsequent to the closure of the South West Victoria Livestock Exchange in the previous financial year.
8	An independent review was conducted into Council's land asset values in 2023-24 in accordance with relevant accounting standards and following guidance from the Victorian Valuer-General's office. Council has applied Community Service Obligation (CSO) discount rates to its land assets which has led to a material reduction in the value of Council's land portfolio under recognition rules by recognising their public use purpose.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)

	Budget 2024 \$ '000	Actual 2024 \$ '000	Variance \$ '000	Variance %	Ref
2.1.2 Capital works					
Property					
Land improvements	70	–	(70)	(100)%	
Total land	70	–	(70)	(100)%	
Buildings specialised	2,514	2,721	207	8%	
Building improvements	–	26	26	∞	
Total buildings	2,514	2,747	233	9%	
Total property	2,584	2,747	163	6%	
Plant and equipment					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,202	1,749	547	46%	1
Computers and telecommunications	3,862	2,322	(1,540)	(40)%	2
Library books	215	169	(46)	(21)%	
Total plant and equipment	5,279	4,240	(1,039)	(20)%	
Infrastructure					
Roads	4,281	5,475	1,194	28%	3
Bridges	275	131	(144)	(52)%	
Footpaths and cycleways	2,002	1,979	(23)	(1)%	
Drainage	1,368	1,350	(18)	(1)%	
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	8,509	327	(8,182)	(96)%	4
Parks, open space and streetscapes	779	3,147	2,368	304%	5
Aerodromes	43	333	290	674%	
Off street car parks	–	153	153	∞	
Other infrastructure	2,062	516	(1,546)	(75)%	6
Total infrastructure	19,319	13,411	(5,908)	(31)%	
Total capital works expenditure	27,182	20,398	(6,784)	(25)%	
Represented by:					
New asset expenditure	3,662	3,320	(342)	(9)%	
Asset renewal expenditure	8,909	10,654	1,745	20%	7
Asset expansion expenditure	–	7	7	∞	
Asset upgrade expenditure	14,611	6,417	(8,194)	(56)%	8
Total capital works expenditure	27,182	20,398	(6,784)	(25)%	

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.1 Performance against budget (continued)**(i) Explanation of material variations****Variance Ref Explanation**

1. Council's fleet replacement program for 2022-23 was impacted by global supply chain issues and delivery delays. The higher spend than budget in 2023-24 is mainly due to the timing of these delayed purchases. These purchases were funded from 2022-23 budget funds that were quarantined and carried forward for this purpose.
2. The majority of the Computers and telecommunications budget is represented by the Coastal Connect Project, which is a multi-year major systems upgrade between three regional councils being delivered with support from the Victorian State Government's Regional Councils Transformation Program. This project has experienced delays but major contracts have been signed and work is progressing in the 2024-25 financial year.
3. Expenditure on roads projects was higher than budgeted due to incomplete projects carried forward from the previous financial year. These projects mainly relate to Council's local roads renewal program and road safety improvement programs.
4. Council's budgeted spend for Recreational, Leisure and Community Facilities included \$2.9 million of carried forward projects from the previous year, \$2.7 million for the Brierly Recreation Reserve project, \$1.0 million for the hockey pitch replacement, and \$0.9 million for the Animal Shelter upgrade.

\$2.3 million of expenditure relating to the Brierly Recreational Reserve Project was recognised in the Parks, Open Space, and Streetscapes capital expenditure category below.
5. The 2023-24 Parks, Open Space, and Streetscapes expenditure of \$3.1 million includes \$2.3 million of expenditure on the Brierly Recreation Reserve Project that was budgeted in under the Recreational, leisure and community facilities category
6. During 2023-24, Council completed a major playspace and reserve upgrade at Lake Pertobe. Council's budget included an unspent allocation for the Energy saving and sustainability fund that will be carried forward to the next financial year and help fund future environmental initiatives under the Green Warrnambool and Warrnambool 2040 strategic plans.
7. Asset renewal higher than budgeted due to a higher expenditure during the year related to Councils Foothpath, Roads, Plant and Fleet, and Buildings renewal programs. The budgets for these projects were carried forward from the previous financial year.
8. Incomplete projects to be carried forward and delivered in future years include Coastal Connect \$1.6 million (per note 2), Council's Energy saving and sustainability fund \$1.8 million (per note 6), and the Animal Shelter upgrade \$0.85 million, and Ziegler Parade parking upgrade \$0.5m

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program**2.2.1 Analysis of Council results by program**

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

Corporate Strategies

The Corporate Strategies directorate is largely responsible for servicing the administrative and legislative needs of other directorates with back-of-house systems and other support.

The Financial Services branch provides budgeting, reporting and accounting support to other branches of the organisation, as well as rates and revenue, procurement, business improvement, and fleet support.

The Communications branch supports external and internal stakeholder management, council reporting and engagement services, and manages our customer service centre.

The Organisational Development branch provides human resources support to other internal branches, manages training and payroll services, and oversees Council's occupational health and safety and risk areas.

The Information Services branch provides IT management and support to all Council branches and facilities, digital transformation programs, and Council's records department.

City Infrastructure

The City Infrastructure directorate provides infrastructure, capital works, asset management, waste management, environment and sustainability services, local laws, and services to the Port of Warrnambool and the management of the Warrnambool Regional Airport. The directorate also assists in facility management and oversight of the council cleaning contract, security contract and essential safety measures contract, through the building services team included in the strategic assets property and projects branch. City Infrastructure has recently taken over the operational responsibilities for the Warrnambool Animal Shelter.

The directorate provides engineering services including investigation, design, road safety projects, processing of development approvals, project management and supervision of key infrastructure projects. Strategy and policy advice is provided to council along with technical services and advice to the community. This service also Provides contract management, and oversight of the city's road, drainage and footpath networks, parks, recreational and sporting facilities and fleet. City Infrastructure also takes responsibility for playground renewals, accessible parking and project management advice. The engineering services team oversee the traffic management plans to accommodate significant regional projects such as the Warrnambool Base Hospital upgrade.

The Sustainability and Compliance Branch is responsible for local law enforcement, traffic and animal control and administration of school crossing supervision. The sustainability team oversee the various environmental programs and facilitate environmental projects in accordance with the Warrnambool 2040 plan. The immunisation team also managed the school immunisation program and the annual flu shot program.

The 2023-24 financial year saw the Project Management Team oversee in excess of \$20m worth of capital works, including large volumes of renewal works on key asset categories such as roads and footpaths. It also saw the completion of the Japan Street drainage project, and the progression of the West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House project.

Community Development

The Community Development directorate plans for and provides a broad range of strategies, plans and policies, programs and services across social, cultural, community, recreational and educational services, children and family services and community facilities to support residents and users of all ages and stages of life.

Services in the Directorate include:

Children & Family Services - Maternal Child Health, Parenting and Children's Intervention and Support Services (PACS), Parenting Advice and Education Services, Integrated Family Services, Early Years Customer Service and Administration; Early Learning Centres, Family Day Care, 3 & 4 year old Kindergarten, Preschool Field Officer Program, Inclusion and Care.

Recreation & Culture - Warrnambool Art Gallery, Lighthouse Theatre, Warrnambool Library and Learning Centre, Community Arts; Aquazone; Warrnambool Stadium; Recreation facilities and sports grounds; recreation participation and activation; Grants Management and administration of several municipal funding programs.

Capacity Access & Inclusion - Home care services including HACC PYP Assessment, Personal Care, Domestic Assistance, Respite Care, Social Support, Home Maintenance and Modifications, and Meals on Wheels; Community Support services such

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program (continued)

as Volunteer Connect, Community programs, Youth Services, West Warrnambool Neighbourhood House; Archie Graham Community Centre: Public meeting spaces, Community centre programs, commercial kitchen and café, and Hydrotherapy pool.

Strategic Community Planning and Policy - The Branch is responsible for developing the community strategic plan, undertaking research and analysis of strategic areas of public, social and community policy that impact on Council and providing strategic advice across Council, reporting and delivery of programs. The Branch oversees the development, management and implementation of the Warrnambool 2040 Community Vision, the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Council's Reconciliation Action Plan through cross-sectoral strategic partnerships.

The Directorate receives funding from a variety of sources including Fee for service, State and Federal Government departments in order to subsidise, deliver and/or support Council services and facilities provided. The Directorate also works in partnership with a range of Government departments, not-for-profits and non-government agencies, private sector/philanthropic partners in order to plan, advocate, develop and/or deliver projects, programs or initiatives that achieve the community's strategic goals and aspirations.

City Growth

The City Growth Directorate is required to plan, facilitate and deliver growth of population, jobs and investment but with the added responsibility of maintaining the liveability of Warrnambool for residents and visitors. City Growth has a key role in engaging business and all tiers of government, as well as supporting regional growth in business and tourism.

The City Growth directorate provides many services including tourism development and destination marketing, visitor information centre, holiday parks, Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, economic development and investment, business support, events and promotions, regional skilled migration programs (including the Great South Coast Designated Area Migration Agreement), city statutory planning and development, strategic planning to cater for new residential and commercial/industrial growth, building services, environmental health services and open space planning.

The directorate also has responsibility for supporting and adding value to the city's international relationships with Miura (Japan), Changchun (China), Knoxville (USA) and Mariestad (Sweden).

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2.2 Analysis of Council results by program (continued)

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

Functions/activities	Income / Revenue \$ '000	Expenses \$ '000	Surplus / (Deficit) \$ '000	Grants included in income / revenue \$ '000	Total assets \$ '000
2024					
Corporate Strategies	69,210	35,222	33,988	3,318	61,561
City Infrastructure	9,022	26,491	(17,469)	4,037	764,842
Community Development	23,317	27,279	(3,962)	10,796	16,406
City Growth	7,597	9,517	(1,920)	366	5,066
Total functions and activities	109,146	98,509	10,637	18,517	847,875
2023					
Corporate Strategies	62,363	25,012	37,351	7,837	70,390
City Infrastructure	12,823	28,771	(15,948)	8,040	815,004
Community Development	22,652	24,908	(2,256)	10,452	718
City Growth	8,450	8,545	(95)	883	624
Total functions and activities	106,288	87,236	19,052	27,212	886,736

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

3.1 Rates and charges

Council uses Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The CIV of a property is its imputed market value.

The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2023/24 was \$11.395 billion (2022/23: \$10.494 billion).

Residential Rates	24,393	23,251
Municipal charge	5,493	5,248
Waste management charge	7,588	7,240
Commercial rates	5,643	5,345
Vacant Land rates	1,507	1,418
Industrial rates	1,984	1,892
Urban farm rates	467	454
Cultural and recreational land rates	72	75
Interest on rates and charges	111	115
Total rates and charges	47,258	45,038

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

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

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

3.2 Statutory fees and fines

Town planning and building	530	561
Parking fines	632	716
Animal control	471	517
Permits and certificates	418	354
Health and Local Laws	194	148
Total statutory fees and fines	2,245	2,296

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
3.3 User fees		
Children's services	4,760	4,506
Foreshore holiday parks	4,022	3,523
Regulatory control	1,909	1,993
Cultural centres	2,753	2,610
Indoor aquatic centre	2,019	1,912
Tourism and promotion	1,346	1,510
Livestock exchange	88	511
Property management	792	846
Multi Purpose Sports Stadium	748	894
Aged services fees	863	690
Other fees and charges	478	440
Total user fees	19,778	19,435
User fees by timing of revenue recognition		
User fees recognised over time	—	—
User fees recognised at a point in time	19,778	19,435
Total user fees	19,778	19,435

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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3.4 Funding from other levels of government

Grants were received in respect of the following:

Summary of grants

Commonwealth funded grants	4,671	11,824
State funded grants	13,846	15,388
Total grants received	18,517	27,212

(a) Operating Grants**Recurrent - Commonwealth Government**

Victoria Grants Commission - Financial Assistance Grant	197	5,631
Victoria Grants Commission - local roads	36	1,044
Aged Services	2,011	1,890

Recurrent - State Government

Family and children	5,227	3,861
Aged services	581	758
Pension rebate	798	792
Cultural centres	735	737
School crossing supervision	264	236
Port operations	97	97
Environment initiatives	36	70
Other	257	252

Total recurrent operating grants	10,239	15,368
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Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government

Other	13	32
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Non-recurrent - State Government

Family and children	971	1,152
Economic development	100	612
Aged services	14	127
Environment initiatives	545	192
Cultural centres	60	154
Recreation	—	1
Infrastructure Services	173	142
Other	241	282

Total non-recurrent operating grants	2,117	2,694
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Total operating grants	12,356	18,062
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Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(b) Capital Grants		
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Roads to recovery	425	425
Total recurrent capital grants	425	425
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government		
Infrastructure services	1,989	2,802
Non-recurrent - State Government		
Other	2,473	1,360
Infrastructure services	177	715
Recreation	857	591
Port operations	240	3,257
Total non-recurrent capital grants	5,736	8,725
Total capital grants	6,161	9,150

(c) Recognition of grant income

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

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

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

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

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Income recognised under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities		
General purpose	10,409	15,028
Specific purpose grants to acquire non-financial assets	6,414	8,781
Other specific purpose grants	1,091	2,188
Revenue recognised under AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers		
Specific purpose grants	603	1,215
	18,517	27,212

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(d) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner:		
Operating		
Balance at start of year	1,998	2,274
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	679	1,488
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(510)	(1,764)
Balance at year end	2,167	1,998
Capital		
Balance at start of year	5,206	4,017
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	522	5,197
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(3,676)	(4,008)
Balance at year end	2,052	5,206

Unspent grants are determined and disclosed on a cash basis.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
3.5 Contributions		
Monetary contributions		
Monetary	3,012	3,709
Total monetary contributions	3,012	3,709
Non-monetary contributions		
Non-monetary	14,107	6,647
Total non-monetary contributions	14,107	6,647
Total contributions	17,119	10,356

Contributions of non monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes.

Roads	8,147	3,108
Drainage	3,726	2,174
Footpaths and cycleways	2,234	1,335
Parks, Open Space & Streetscape	–	30
Total non-monetary contributions	14,107	6,647

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Land and buildings		
Proceeds of sale	—	150
Written down value of assets disposed	—	(3,995)
Total net loss on disposal of land and buildings	—	(3,845)
Plant and equipment		
Proceeds of sale	173	485
Written down value of assets disposed	(234)	(266)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of plant and equipment	(61)	219
Infrastructure Assets		
Proceeds of sale	287	—
Written down value of assets disposed	(2,682)	(608)
Total net loss on disposal of Infrastructure Assets	(2,395)	(608)
Total net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(2,456)	(4,234)

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 3. Funding for the delivery of our services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
3.7 Other income		
Reimbursements	1,379	193
Interest	2,338	1,217
Infrastructure services	75	115
Family and community	13	8
Recreation and cultural programs	5	2
Recognition of in-kind volunteer support	319	343
Other	100	73
Total other income	4,229	1,951

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4. The cost of delivering services

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

4.1 Employee costs**(a) Employee costs**

Wages and salaries	35,257	33,097
Superannuation	3,808	3,349
WorkCover	975	861
Fringe benefits tax	295	328
Total employee costs	40,335	37,635

(b) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	189	184
	189	184

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	2,295	2,180
Employer contributions - other funds	1,324	985
	3,619	3,165

Total superannuation costs

	3,808	3,349
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Employer contributions payable at reporting date

322 297

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

4.2 Materials and services

Infrastructure services	7,653	9,304
Recreation and cultural services	5,541	4,712
Corporate services	5,504	5,148
Waste management	4,417	4,155
Tourism and promotion	1,810	1,672
Children's services	1,432	1,718
Health and local laws	1,116	1,031
Livestock Exchange	1,054	391
Aged services	1,027	858
Foreshore caravan parks	842	695
Family day care	112	134
Other	745	494
Total materials and services	31,253	30,312

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
4.3 Depreciation		
Property		
Land improvements	24	26
Buildings - specialised	911	2,158
Buildings - non specialised	–	34
Building improvements	–	23
Total depreciation - property	935	2,241
Plant and equipment		
Plant machinery and equipment	1,146	1,077
Fixtures fittings and furniture	95	101
Computers and telecomms	571	611
Library books	148	137
Total depreciation - plant and equipment	1,960	1,926
Infrastructure		
Roads	14,947	4,691
Bridges	67	275
Footpaths and cycleways	1,996	1,481
Drainage	1,021	1,033
Recreational, leisure and community	310	166
Waste management	41	41
Parks open spaces and streetscapes	388	647
Aerodromes	90	291
Off street car parks	887	350
Other infrastructure	151	233
Total depreciation - infrastructure	19,898	9,208
Total depreciation	22,793	13,375

Refer to note 5.8 and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

4.4 Depreciation - Right of use assets

Property	33	39
Plant & equipment	521	268
Total Depreciation - Right of use assets	554	307

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4. The cost of delivering services (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
4.5 Allowance for impairment losses		
Local Laws debtors	32	188
Other debtors	7	24
Total allowance for impairment losses	39	212
Movement in allowance for impairment losses in respect of debtors		
Balance at the beginning of the year	1,088	880
New allowances recognised during the year	25	218
Amounts already allowed for and written off as uncollectible	(14)	(5)
Amounts allowed for but recovered during the year	(7)	(5)
Balance at end of year	1,092	1,088

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

4.6 Borrowing costs

Interest - Borrowings	223	272
Total borrowing costs	223	272

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred, except where they are capitalised as part of a qualifying asset constructed by Council.

4.7 Finance Costs - Leases

Interest - Lease Liabilities	57	29
Total finance costs	57	29

4.8 Other expenses

Councillors' allowances	323	358
Auditors' remuneration - Internal Audit	85	105
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	67	51
Recognition of in-kind volunteer support	324	346
Total other expenses	799	860

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
5.1 Financial assets		
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Current		
Cash at bank	3,508	7,747
Cash on hand	26	48
Total current cash and cash equivalents	3,534	7,795
Total cash and cash equivalents	3,534	7,795
(b) Other financial assets		
Current		
Term deposits	43,000	40,500
Total current other financial assets	43,000	40,500
Non-current		
Unlisted shares in corporations	2	2
Total non-current other financial assets	2	2
Total other financial assets	43,002	40,502
Total current financial assets	46,534	48,295
Total non-current financial assets	2	2
Total cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets	46,536	48,297

Cash and term deposits held to fund carried forward capital works.

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

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

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(c) Trade & Other Receivables		
Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Rates debtors	1,200	931
Infringement debtors	1,684	1,494
Allowance for expected credit loss - infringements	(1,067)	(1,050)
GST receivable	418	463
<i>Non-statutory receivables</i>		
Development and buildings	140	243
Animals	101	195
Child care	34	45
TAFE	72	62
Fire Service Levy	12	11
Loans and advances to community organisations	10	14
Other debtors	1,674	873
Allowance for expected credit loss - other debtors	(25)	(38)
Total current trade and other receivables	4,253	3,243
Total trade and other receivables	4,253	3,243

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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(d) Ageing of receivables

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

Current (not yet due)	1,684	707
Past due by up to 30 days	112	81
Past due between 31 and 180 days	173	427
Past due between 181 and 365 days	25	62
Past due by more than 1 year	24	128
Total trade and other receivables	2,018	1,405

(e) Ageing of individually impaired receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$0.03m (2023: \$0.04m) were impaired. The amount of the allowance raised against these debtors was \$0.03m (2023: \$0.04m). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

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

Current (not yet due)	3	4
Past due by up to 30 days	—	—
Past due between 31 and 180 days	9	15
Past due between 181 and 365 days	6	10
Past due by more than 1 year	7	9
Total trade and other receivables	25	38

(f) Contract assets**Current**

Contract Assets	2,194	2,099
Total Current	2,194	2,099

Total contract assets	2,194	2,099
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Contract assets are recognised when Council has transferred goods or services to the customer but where Council is yet to establish an unconditional right to consideration.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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5.2 Non-financial assets

(a) Inventories

Current

Inventories held for sale	116	125
Inventories held for distribution	65	65
Total current inventories	181	190

Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

(b) Other assets

Prepayments

Prepayments	1,100	987
Total current Prepayments	1,100	987

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
5.3 Payables, trust funds and deposits and contract and other liabilities		
(a) Trade and other payables		
Current		
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Accrued expenses	4,200	3,603
Trade payables	975	840
<i>Statutory payables</i>		
Net GST payable	3	15
Total current trade and other payables	5,178	4,458
(b) Trust funds and deposits		
Current		
Refundable deposits	2,162	1,967
Retention amounts	241	59
Total current trust funds and deposits	2,403	2,026
(c) Contract and other liabilities		
Contract liabilities		
Current		
Grants received in advance - operating	2,167	1,998
Grants received in advance - capital	2,052	5,206
Total contract liabilities	4,219	7,204
Other liabilities		
User fees	–	20
Total other liabilities	–	20
Total current contract liabilities	4,219	7,224
Total contract and other liabilities	4,219	7,224

Trust funds and deposits

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

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities reflect consideration received in advance from customers in respect of which Council is yet to meet its obligations. Contract liabilities are derecognised and recorded as revenue when promised goods and services are transferred to the customer. Refer to Note 3.

Purpose and nature of items

Refundable developer deposits - Deposits are taken by council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to building works, tender deposits, contract deposits and the use of civic facilities.

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities		
Current		
Treasury Corporation of Victoria borrowings - secured	502	397
Other borrowings - secured	1,177	1,512
Total current interest-bearing liabilities	1,679	1,909
Non-current		
Treasury Corporation of Victoria borrowings - secured	4,050	4,639
Other borrowings - secured	2,783	3,781
Total non-current interest-bearing liabilities	6,833	8,420
Total	8,512	10,329

Borrowings are secured by Council rates

a) The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:

Not later than one year	1,679	1,909
Later than one year and not later than five years	4,975	6,665
Later than five years	1,858	1,755
	8,512	10,329

Borrowings are initially measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities, net of transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the Council has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either financial liabilities designated at fair value through the profit and loss, or financial liabilities at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value is recognised in net result over the period of the borrowing using the effective interest method.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest bearing liabilities. The Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities based on contractual repayment terms at every balance date.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	Employee provisions \$ '000	Landfill restoration \$ '000	Total \$ '000
5.5 Provisions			
2024			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	7,361	513	7,874
Additional provisions	3,663	–	3,663
Amounts used	(3,252)	(70)	(3,322)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	42	(58)	(16)
Balance at the end of the financial year	7,814	385	8,199
Provisions			
Provisions - current	7,143	79	7,222
Provisions - non-current	671	306	977
Total Provisions	7,814	385	8,199
2023			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	7,238	567	7,805
Additional provisions	2,992	–	2,992
Amounts used	(2,871)	(43)	(2,914)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	2	(11)	(9)
Balance at the end of the financial year	7,361	513	7,874
Provisions			
Provisions - current	6,832	81	6,913
Provisions - non-current	529	432	961
Total Provisions	7,361	513	7,874

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(a) Employee provisions		
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months		
Annual leave	2,437	2,307
Long service leave	613	635
	<u>3,050</u>	<u>2,942</u>
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	128	201
Long service leave	3,965	3,689
	<u>4,093</u>	<u>3,890</u>
Total current employee provisions	<u>7,143</u>	<u>6,832</u>
Non-Current		
Long service leave	671	529
Total Non-Current Employee Provisions	<u>671</u>	<u>529</u>
Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions:		
Current	7,143	6,832
Non-current	671	529
Total Aggregate Carrying Amount of Employee Provisions	<u>7,814</u>	<u>7,361</u>

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

Annual leave

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

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

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

Long service leave

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

Key assumptions:

- on-cost rate	14.06%	13.07%
- wage inflation rate	4.45%	4.35%
- discount rate	4.35%	4.06%

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
(b) Landfill restoration		
Current		
Current	79	81
Total current	79	81
Non-current		
Non-current	306	432
Total non-current	306	432

Council is obligated to restore Watson Street landfill site to a particular standard. The forecast life of the site is based on current estimates of remaining capacity and the forecast rate of infill. The provision for landfill 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 reviews the landfill restoration provision on an annual basis, including the key assumptions listed below.

Key assumptions:

- inflation rate	3.80%	6.00%
- rehabilitation years	30	30
- remaining rehabilitated years	5	6

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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5.6 Financing arrangements

The Council has the following funding arrangements in place as at 30 June 2024.

Bank overdraft	200	200
Credit card facilities	150	150
Treasury Corporation of Victoria facilities	4,552	5,036
Other facilities - bank loans and leases	5,680	6,311
Total Facilities	10,582	11,697
Used facilities	10,267	11,390
Used facilities	10,267	11,390
Unused facilities	315	307

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)**5.7 Commitments**

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

(a) Commitments for expenditure

	Not later than 1 year \$ '000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$ '000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$ '000	Later than 5 years \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2024					
Operating					
Recycling collection	1,351	1,400	1,450	—	4,201
Waste collection	2,144	2,151	2,229	—	6,524
Consultancies	608	16	—	—	624
Food and organics collection	1,448	1,500	1,107	—	4,055
Glass collection	566	587	608	—	1,761
Transactional banking	63	65	67	—	195
Cleaning services	250	—	—	—	250
Security Services	240	—	—	—	240
Parking Services	67	—	—	—	67
Animal Services	—	—	—	—	—
Internal Audit	66	70	36	—	172
Meals for delivery	256	—	—	—	256
Information technology	141	82	82	—	305
Total	7,200	5,871	5,579	—	18,650
Capital					
Information technology	446	—	—	—	446
Infrastructure	1,289	—	—	—	1,289
Total	1,735	—	—	—	1,735
2023					
Operating					
Recycling collection	1,309	1,400	3,102	—	5,811
Waste collection	2,078	2,177	4,788	—	9,043
Consultancies	538	—	—	—	538
Other	63	23	17	—	103
Food and organics collection	1,412	1,511	2,849	—	5,772
Glass collection	547	585	1,296	—	2,428
Transactional banking	63	67	148	—	278
Cleaning services	688	218	—	—	906
Security Services	232	207	—	—	439
Parking Services	50	—	—	—	50
Animal Services	169	—	—	—	169
Internal Audit	42	—	—	—	42
Meals for delivery	179	—	—	—	179
Information technology	51	—	—	—	51
Total	7,421	6,188	12,200	—	25,809
Capital					
Infrastructure	3,358	21	—	—	3,379
Total	3,358	21	—	—	3,379

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)**5.8 Leases**

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

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

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

As a lessee, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, an appropriate incremental borrowing rate. Generally, Council uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- Fixed payments
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- The exercise price under a purchase option that Council is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if Council is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless Council is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Under *AASB 16 Leases*, Council as a not-for-profit entity has elected not to measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

(a) Right-of-Use Assets

	Property \$ '000	Plant & Equipment \$ '000	Total \$ '000
2024			
Balance at 1 July 2023	–	992	992
Additions	62	1,146	1,208
Adjustments to right-of-use assets due to re-measurement of lease liability	–	–	–
Other	31	1	32
Depreciation charge	(46)	(508)	(554)
Balance at 30 June 2024	47	1,600	1,647
2023			
Balance at 1 July 2022	83	1,142	1,225
Additions	–	75	75
Adjustments to right-of-use assets due to re-measurement of lease liability	–	–	–
Other	(31)	30	(1)
Depreciation charge	(52)	(255)	(307)
Balance at 30 June 2023	–	992	992

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
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(b) Lease Liabilities

Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows

Less than one year	545	301
One to five years	1,281	778
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	1,826	1,079

Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:

Current	499	277
Non-current	1,221	741
Total lease liabilities	1,720	1,018

Short-term and low value leases

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

Expenses relating to:

Leases of low value assets	241	260
Total	241	260

Variable lease payments (not included in measurement of lease liabilities)

Variable lease payments	–	–
Total	–	–

Variable lease payments are those that depend on an index or a rate, for example payments linked to the consumer price index, a benchmark interest rate or changes in market rental rates.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5. Investing in and financing our operations (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000
Non-cancellable lease commitments - Short-term and low-value leases		
Commitments for minimum lease payments for short-term and low-value leases are payable as follows:		
Payable:		
Within one year	175	248
Later than one year but not later than five years	157	332
Total lease commitments	332	580



Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage

6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Carrying amount 30 June 2023 \$ '000	Additions \$ '000	Contributions \$ '000	Revaluation \$ '000	Disposal \$ '000	Depreciation \$ '000	Write-off \$ '000	Transfers \$ '000	Carrying amount 30 June 2024 \$ '000
Property	344,114	1,113	–	(61,263)	–	(935)	(3)	1,277	284,303
Plant and equipment	21,342	1,918	–	2,547	(236)	(1,960)	(1)	–	23,610
Infrastructure	448,040	6,732	14,107	11,916	(2,680)	(19,898)	(515)	8,318	466,020
Work in progress	17,432	10,635	–	–	–	–	(440)	(9,595)	18,032
Total	830,928	20,398	14,107	(46,800)	(2,916)	(22,793)	(959)	–	791,965

Summary of Work in Progress	Opening WIP \$ '000	Additions \$ '000	Write-off \$ '000	Transfers \$ '000	Closing WIP \$ '000
Property	5,128	1,634	(377)	(1,277)	5,108
Plant and equipment	658	2,322	(33)	–	2,947
Infrastructure	11,647	6,679	(30)	(8,318)	9,978
Total	17,433	10,635	(440)	(9,595)	18,033

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Land specialised \$ '000	Land non specialised \$ '000	Land improvements \$ '000	Total land and land improvements \$ '000	Buildings specialised \$ '000	Buildings non specialised \$ '000	Building improvements \$ '000	Total buildings \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total property \$ '000
Property										
At fair value 1 July 2023	212,039	1,900	1,053	214,992	144,401	1,257	861	146,519	5,128	366,639
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	—	—	(463)	(463)	(16,671)	(120)	(143)	(16,934)	—	(17,397)
	<u>212,039</u>	<u>1,900</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>214,529</u>	<u>127,730</u>	<u>1,137</u>	<u>718</u>	<u>129,585</u>	<u>5,128</u>	<u>349,242</u>
Movements in fair value										
Additions	—	—	—	—	1,087	—	26	1,113	1,634	2,747
Contributions and Found Assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Revaluation	(92,163)	(340)	—	(92,503)	30,760	480	—	31,240	—	(61,263)
Disposal	—	—	—	—	—	—	(5)	(5)	—	(5)
Write-off	—	—	(2)	(2)	—	—	(1)	(1)	(377)	(380)
Transfers	—	—	—	—	1,277	—	—	1,277	(1,277)	—
	<u>(92,163)</u>	<u>(340)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(92,505)</u>	<u>33,124</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>33,624</u>	<u>(20)</u>	<u>(58,901)</u>
Movements in accumulated depreciation										
Depreciation and amortisation	—	—	(24)	(24)	(872)	(32)	(7)	(911)	—	(935)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	5
Revaluation	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	(1)	—	(1)
Transfers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(24)</u>	<u>(24)</u>	<u>(873)</u>	<u>(32)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>(907)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(931)</u>
At fair value 30 June 2024	119,876	1,560	1,051	122,487	177,525	1,737	881	180,143	5,108	307,738
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	—	—	(487)	(487)	(17,544)	(152)	(145)	(17,841)	—	(18,328)
Carrying amount	<u>119,876</u>	<u>1,560</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>122,000</u>	<u>159,981</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>162,302</u>	<u>5,108</u>	<u>289,410</u>

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Plant machinery and equipment \$ '000	Fixtures fittings and furniture \$ '000	Computers and telecomms \$ '000	Library books \$ '000	Paintings and exhibits \$ '000	Total \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total plant and equipment \$ '000
Plant and Equipment								
At fair value 1 July 2023	11,157	5,787	7,274	834	13,260	38,312	659	38,971
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(7,085)	(4,935)	(4,752)	(199)	—	(16,971)	—	(16,971)
	4,072	852	2,522	635	13,260	21,341	659	22,000
Movements in fair value								
Additions	1,749	—	—	169	—	1,918	2,322	4,240
Contributions and Found Assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Revaluation	—	—	—	—	2,547	2,547	—	2,547
Disposal	(1,318)	—	(100)	(121)	—	(1,539)	—	(1,539)
Write-off	—	—	(1)	—	—	(1)	(33)	(34)
Transfers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	431	—	(101)	48	2,547	2,925	2,289	5,214
Movements in accumulated depreciation								
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,146)	(95)	(571)	(148)	—	(1,960)	—	(1,960)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	1,139	—	100	64	—	1,303	—	1,303
Transfers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(7)	(95)	(471)	(84)	—	(657)	—	(657)
At fair value 30 June 2024	11,587	5,787	7,173	882	15,807	41,236	2,948	44,184
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(7,091)	(5,030)	(5,223)	(283)	—	(17,627)	—	(17,627)
Carrying amount	4,496	757	1,950	599	15,807	23,609	2,948	26,557

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	Roads \$ '000	Bridges \$ '000	Foot- paths and cycle- ways \$ '000	Drainage \$ '000	Recreati- on, leisure, communi- ty \$ '000	Waste manage- ment \$ '000	Parks, open spaces, streetsca- pes \$ '000	Aerodro- mes \$ '000	Off street car parks \$ '000	Other infra- structure \$ '000	Total \$ '000	Work in progress \$ '000	Total infra- structure \$ '000
Infrastructure													
At fair value 1 July 2023	314,260	28,750	82,902	112,685	9,963	606	19,339	9,725	14,727	10,945	603,902	11,647	615,549
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2023	(56,354)	(8,618)	(44,636)	(22,345)	(4,529)	(172)	(7,064)	(1,375)	(5,849)	(4,921)	(155,863)	–	(155,863)
	<u>257,906</u>	<u>20,132</u>	<u>38,266</u>	<u>90,340</u>	<u>5,434</u>	<u>434</u>	<u>12,275</u>	<u>8,350</u>	<u>8,878</u>	<u>6,024</u>	448,039	<u>11,647</u>	459,686
Movements in fair value													
Additions	3,124	14	1,408	963	327	–	–	333	153	410	6,732	6,679	13,411
Contributions and Found Assets	8,147	–	2,234	3,726	–	–	–	–	–	–	14,107	–	14,107
Revaluation	55,425	19,403	(19,266)	22,600	115	–	2,837	420	5,310	242	87,086	–	87,086
Disposal	(1,052)	(18)	(91)	(29)	–	–	–	–	–	(4,985)	(6,175)	–	(6,175)
Write-off	21	–	(2)	–	(500)	–	–	(2)	–	(32)	(515)	(30)	(545)
Transfers	4,420	286	1,518	466	–	–	1,610	–	–	18	8,318	(8,318)	–
	<u>70,085</u>	<u>19,685</u>	<u>(14,199)</u>	<u>27,726</u>	<u>(58)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>4,447</u>	<u>751</u>	<u>5,463</u>	<u>(4,347)</u>	109,553	<u>(1,669)</u>	107,884
Movements in accumulated depreciation													
Depreciation and amortisation	(14,947)	(67)	(1,996)	(1,021)	(310)	(41)	(388)	(90)	(887)	(151)	(19,898)	–	(19,898)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	445	9	33	28	–	–	–	–	–	2,980	3,495	–	3,495
Accumulated depreciation on revaluation	(70,971)	(2,354)	21,690	(21,798)	–	–	416	(134)	(2,019)	–	(75,170)	–	(75,170)
Revaluations	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Transfers	1	–	(1)	–	–	(1)	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
	<u>(85,472)</u>	<u>(2,412)</u>	<u>19,726</u>	<u>(22,791)</u>	<u>(310)</u>	<u>(42)</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>(224)</u>	<u>(2,906)</u>	<u>2,829</u>	(91,573)	<u>–</u>	(91,573)
At fair value 30 June 2024	384,345	48,435	68,703	140,411	9,905	606	23,786	10,477	20,190	6,628	713,486	9,978	723,464
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2024	(141,826)	(11,030)	(24,910)	(45,136)	(4,839)	(214)	(7,035)	(1,600)	(8,755)	(2,122)	(247,467)	–	(247,467)
Carrying amount	<u>242,519</u>	<u>37,405</u>	<u>43,793</u>	<u>95,275</u>	<u>5,066</u>	<u>392</u>	<u>16,751</u>	<u>8,877</u>	<u>11,435</u>	<u>4,506</u>	466,019	<u>9,978</u>	475,997

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)*Acquisition*

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

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

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

Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods

	Depreciation Period years	Threshold Limit \$ '000
Land and land improvements		
land	n/a	–
land improvements	10 - 200 years	5
Buildings		
buildings	20 - 150 years	5
building improvements	25 - 60 years	1
leasehold improvements	10 - 20 years	1
Plant and Equipment		
plant, machinery and equipment	3 - 40 years	1
fixtures, fittings and furniture	2 - 25 years	5
computers and telecommunications	5 - 30 years	2
paintings and exhibits	n/a	–
Infrastructure		
roads	16 - 80 years	5
bridges	30 - 200 years	5
footpaths and cycleways	10 - 80 years	5
drainage	20 - 200 years	1
recreational, leisure and community facilities	20 - 80 years	1
parks, open spaces and streetscapes	15 - 80 years	5
off street car parks	16 - 60 years	5
aerodromes	16 - 80 years	1
other infrastructure	20 - 80 years	5

Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value from 1 January 2008.

Depreciation and amortisation

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.

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

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

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

Repairs and maintenance

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

Valuation of land and buildings*Land- Non Specialised*

Valuation of non-specialised land was undertaken by Mr Aaron Armistead, Preston Rowe Patterson in 2024. The review was conducted in accordance with relevant accounting standards and under official guidance from the Victorian Valuer-General's office, in particular, with the application of the Community Service Obligation (CSO) discount rates. The valuation of land is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Land - Specialised

Valuation of specialised land was undertaken by Mr Aaron Armistead, Preston Rowe Patterson in 2024. The review was conducted in accordance with relevant accounting standards and under official guidance from the Victorian Valuer-General's office, in particular, with the application of the Community Service Obligation (CSO) discount rates. The valuation of land is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

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

Buildings - Non-specialised

Non-specialised buildings valuation was performed by internal professional staff who reviewed the unit rates and valuation process which has been approved by 2024 by Mr David Leahy, Director of Infrastructure with Warrnambool City Council. The date of current assessment is June 2024. It should be noted that non-specialised buildings are fair value hierarchy 2 due to the available market for this type of asset.

Buildings - Specialised

Specialised buildings valuation was performed by internal professional staff who reviewed the unit rates and valuation process which has been approved by 2024 by Mr David Leahy, Director of Infrastructure with Warrnambool City Council. The date of current assessment is June 2024. The details of the current valuation are detailed in the table below.

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table.

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

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of Valuation
Land - non specialised	–	1,560	–	Jun-24	Full
Land - specialised	–	–	119,876	Jun-24	Full
Land improvements	–	–	564	Jun-24	Indexed
Buildings - non-specialised	–	1,585	–	Jun-24	Indexed
Buildings - specialised	–	–	159,981	Jun-24	Indexed
Building improvements	–	–	736	Jun-24	Indexed
Total	–	3,145	281,157		

Valuation of Infrastructure

Valuation of infrastructure assets was performed by internal professional staff, and independent assessments by qualified external subject matter experts whom have all been approved by Mr. David Leahy, Director City Infrastructure with Warrnambool City Council. The date of the current assessment is 30 June 2024.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

The date and type of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. The valuation is at fair value based on current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation.

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

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Date of valuation	Type of Valuation
Roads	—	—	242,519	Jun-24	Indexed
Bridges	—	—	37,405	Jun-24	Indexed
Footpaths and cycleways	—	—	43,793	Jun-24	Indexed
Drainage	—	—	95,275	Jun-24	Indexed
Recreational, leisure & community facilities	—	—	5,066	Jun-24	Indexed
Waste management	—	—	392	Jun-24	Indexed
Parks, open space & streetscapes	—	—	16,751	Jun-24	Indexed
Aerodromes	—	—	8,877	Jun-24	Indexed
Off street car parks	—	—	11,435	Jun-24	Indexed
Other	—	—	4,506	Jun-24	Indexed
Total	—	—	466,019		

Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique.

Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 70% and 95%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions.

Specialised buildings are valued using a current replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 20 years to 150 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the current replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 10 years to 200 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

Reconciliation of specialised land

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Land under roads	5,372	5,506
Crown land	44,493	75,144
Council freehold land	70,011	131,390
Total specialised land	119,876	212,040

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 6. Assets we manage (continued)

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

6.2 Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries

(a) Investments in associates

Council does not have any investments in associates, joint arrangements or subsidiaries.

	2024	2023
	\$ '000	\$ '000

(b) Committees of management

Committees of management

Port of Warrnambool

The Council is the Committee of Management for the Port of Warrnambool. The financial transactions have been included in Council's financial statements and are summarised below:

Summarised Statement of Comprehensive Income**Income**

Grants - operating	97	97
User fees	3	6
Grants - capital	240	1,750

Expenditure

Materials and Services	(167)	(103)
Capital expenditure	(244)	(3,187)

Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year

	<u>(71)</u>	<u>(1,437)</u>
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The operation of the Port of Warrnambool is by an agreement between Warrnambool City Council and the Department of Transport. Any assets are returnable on cessation of the agreement.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. People and relationships

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

(a) Related Parties

Parent entity
Warrnambool City Council is the parent entity.

Subsidiaries and Associates
Interests in subsidiaries and associates are detailed in Note 6.2.

(b) Key Management Personnel

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

Details of KMP at any time during the year are:

Councillors	Councillor Debbie Arnott (Mayor 01/07/2023 - 23/10/2023) Councillor Max Taylor (Deputy Mayor 01/07/2023 - 23/10/2023) Councillor Ben Blain (Mayor 24/10/2023 – 30/06/2024) Councillor Vicki Jellie (Deputy Mayor 24/10/2023 – 30/06/2024) Councillor Richard Ziegeler Councillor Otha Akoch Councillor Angie Paspaliaris
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Andrew Mason
Key Management Personnel	Director - Corporate Strategies Mr Peter Utri Director - City Infrastructure Mr David Leahy Director - City Growth Mr Luke Coughlan Director - Community Development Ms Ingrid Bishop (01/07/2023 – 04/11/2023), Ms Ali Kemp (Acting 04/11/2023 – 02/02/2024), Ms Brooke Love (05/02/2024 – 30/06/2024)

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Total Number of Councillors	7	7
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	7	8
Total Number of Key Management Personnel	14	15

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)**(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel**

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

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

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

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

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

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	1,441	1,436
Other long-term employee benefits	28	26
Post-employment benefits	112	113
Termination benefits	—	25
Total	1,581	1,600

	2024 No.	2023 No.
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The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

\$20,000 - \$29,999	—	1
\$30,000 - \$39,999	4	5
\$40,000 - \$49,999	2	—
\$50,000 - \$59,999	1	1
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	1
\$80,000 - \$89,999	1	—
\$90,000 - \$99,999	1	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	—	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	—	1
\$200,000 - \$209,999	—	2
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	1
\$230,000 - \$239,999	—	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	2	—
\$340,000 - \$349,999	1	—
	14	15

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)**(d) Remuneration of other senior staff**

Other senior staff are officers of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$170,000 and who report directly to a member of the KMP.

Total remuneration of other senior staff was as follows:

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Short-term employee benefits	310	—
Other long-term employee benefits	8	—
Post-employment benefits	36	—
Termination benefits	—	—
Total	354	—

The number of other senior staff are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Income Range:		
\$170,000 - \$179,999	2	—
	2	—

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Total remuneration for the reporting year for other senior staff included above, amounted to:	354	—

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 7. People and relationships (continued)**7.2 Related party disclosure****(a) Transactions with related parties**

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

Councillor	Related Party	Nature of Relationship	Terms and Conditions	Nature of Transaction	Aggregate Total \$'000
Cr Taylor	Taylor's Surfodesy	Controlled entity	Commercial	Voucher	0.2
Cr Paspaliaris	Alex Pye Electrics	Spouse controlled entity	Commercial	Electrical repairs and maintenance	3.3

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

The following balances are outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties:

2024 - Nil (2023 - Nil)

(c) Loans to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party as follows:

2024 - Nil (2023 - Nil)

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

The aggregate amount of commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the council to a related party are as follows:

2024 - Nil (2023 - Nil)

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties**8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities**

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

(a) Contingent assets

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

Construction of infrastructure assets by developers in the course of creating new subdivisions results in the infrastructure assets being vested in Council when Council issues a Statement of Compliance.

At reporting date, developers had commenced construction of assets that will eventually be transferred to Council contingent upon council issuing a Statement of Compliance.

Due to the nature of the arrangements in place and the assets involved, a contingent asset amount cannot be reliably measured prior to completion.

(b) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

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

Superannuation

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

Liability Mutual Insurance

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

MAV Workcare

Council was a participant of the MAV WorkCare Scheme. The MAV WorkCare Scheme provided workers compensation insurance. MAV WorkCare commenced business on 1 November 2017 and the last day the Scheme operated as a self-insurer was 30 June 2021. In accordance with the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013, there is a six year liability period following the cessation of the Scheme (to 30 June 2027). During the liability period, adjustment payments may be required (or received). The determination of any adjustment payments is dependent upon revised actuarial assessments of the Scheme's tail claims liabilities as undertaken by WorkSafe Victoria. If required, adjustments will occur at the 3-year and 6-year points during the liability period, and will affect participating members.

Gallagher Bassett is a direct provider appointed by WorkSafe Victoria to provide workers compensation insurance and have been appointed as Council's agent since the closure of the MAV WorkCare Scheme.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)**(c) Guarantees for loans to other entities**

The amount disclosed for financial guarantee in this note is the nominal amount of the underlying loan that is guaranteed by the Council, not the fair value of the financial guarantee.

Financial guarantee contracts are not recognised as a liability in the balance sheet unless the lender has exercised their right to call on the guarantee or Council has other reasons to believe that it is probable that the right will be exercised.

The Council acts as guarantor in respect of bank loans provided to the following clubs and community groups:

Entity and Institution	Original Loan \$'000	Balance of borrowings 2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Warrnambool Returned Services Club -Commonwealth Bank	3,351	2,187	2,236
Warrnambool Football Netball Club - Commonwealth Bank *	426	389	474
Old Collegians Football Netball Club - NAB	100	82	86
Dennington Football Netball Club - Bendigo Bank	49	26	31

* Warrnambool Football Netball Club's original loan was \$800,000. During 2023-24, the bank informed Council of rearranged loan terms, reducing the loan to \$425,506.

8.2 Change in accounting standards

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

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

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

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

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

8.3 Financial instruments**(a) Objectives and policies**

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank and/or TCV borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

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

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Council's interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes Council to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

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

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

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

(c) Credit risk

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

- Council has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities Council deals with;
- Council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- Council only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in Council's investment policy.

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

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

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when Council provides a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

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

(d) Liquidity risk

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

To help reduce these risks Council:

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

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(c), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

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

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 5.4.

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

(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

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

- A shift of + 1 % and - 1 % in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 4.35%.

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

8.4 Fair value measurement*Fair Value Hierarchy*

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

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

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

- Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above. In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Revaluation

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8. Managing uncertainties (continued)

measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

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

Impairment of assets

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

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ '000	Increase (decrease) \$ '000	Share of inc (decr) on revaluation of asset by an associate \$ '000	Balance at end of reporting period \$ '000
9.1 Reserves				
(a) Asset revaluation reserves				
2024				
Property				
Land and Improvements	175,930	(92,503)	—	83,427
Buildings	94,689	31,240	—	125,929
	270,619	(61,263)	—	209,356
Plant and equipment				
Artworks	2,640	2,547	—	5,187
	2,640	2,547	—	5,187
Infrastructure				
Roads	200,883	(15,546)	—	185,337
Bridges	10,491	17,049	—	27,540
Footpaths and cycleways	4,784	2,424	—	7,208
Drainage	39,747	802	—	40,549
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	—	115	—	115
Parks, open space and streetscapes	—	3,253	—	3,253
Aerodromes	733	286	—	1,019
Offstreet car parks	(64)	3,291	—	3,227
Other infrastructure	25,661	242	—	25,903
	282,235	11,916	—	294,151
Total asset revaluation reserves	555,494	(46,800)	—	508,694

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ '000	Increase (decrease) \$ '000	Share of inc (decr) on revaluation of asset by an associate \$ '000	Balance at end of reporting period \$ '000
2023				
Property				
Land and Improvements	124,251	51,679	—	175,930
Buildings	94,689	—	—	94,689
	218,940	51,679	—	270,619
Plant and equipment				
Artworks	2,640	—	—	2,640
	2,640	—	—	2,640
Infrastructure				
Roads	171,768	29,115	—	200,883
Bridges	9,403	1,088	—	10,491
Footpaths and cycleways	—	4,784	—	4,784
Drainage	39,758	(11)	—	39,747
Aerodromes	733	—	—	733
Offstreet car parks	553	(617)	—	(64)
Other infrastructure	25,661	—	—	25,661
	247,876	34,359	—	282,235
Total asset revaluation reserves	469,456	86,038	—	555,494

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$ '000	Transfer from Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Transfer to Accumulated Surplus \$ '000	Balance at end of reporting period \$ '000
(b) Other reserves				
2024				
Main drainage fund	189	1,545	(1,227)	507
Committed reserve	18,474	2,762	(8,783)	12,453
Heritage restoration fund	48	2	–	50
Insurance claims reserve	90	–	(90)	–
Art gallery reserve	49	2	–	51
Resort and recreation reserve	550	295	(113)	732
Car park fund	445	938	(1,383)	–
North of the Merri developer contribution reserve	911	–	(356)	555
Hopkins Point Road developer contribution reserve	372	80	–	452
North East growth area developer contribution reserve	1,041	733	(253)	1,521
Small infrastructure fund	595	372	(932)	35
Horne Road developer contribution reserve	803	500	–	1,303
Total Other reserves	23,567	7,229	(13,137)	17,659
2023				
Main drainage fund	399	–	(210)	189
Committed reserve	11,091	7,383	–	18,474
Heritage restoration fund	46	2	–	48
Insurance claims reserve	90	–	–	90
Art gallery reserve	48	1	–	49
Resort and recreation reserve	261	289	–	550
Car park fund	485	–	(40)	445
North of the Merri developer contribution reserve	1,170	–	(259)	911
Hopkins Point Road developer contribution reserve	248	124	–	372
North East growth area developer contribution reserve	164	877	–	1,041
Small infrastructure fund	–	595	–	595
Horne Road developer contribution reserve	–	803	–	803
Total Other reserves	14,002	10,074	(509)	23,567

Main Drainage Fund is maintained specifically for future major drainage works.

Committed Reserve is specifically for future works and Council's small infrastructure fund.

Heritage Restoration Fund is maintained specifically for grant loans for heritage works.

Insurance Claims Reserve is maintained specifically for Council's self-insurance.

Information Technology Reserve is maintained specifically for major information technology upgrades.

Art Gallery Reserve is maintained specifically for the purchase of art pieces.

Resort and Recreation Reserve is maintained specifically for public open space works.

Car Park Fund is maintained specifically for future major car park works.

North of the Merri Developer Contributions Reserve is maintained specifically for contributions held in this growth area.

Hopkins Point Road Developer Contributions Reserve is maintained specifically for contributions held in this growth area.

Northeast Developer Contributions Reserve is maintained specifically for contributions held for this growth area.

Small Infrastructure Fund is maintained specifically for Council's small infrastructure grant program.

Horne Road Developer Contributions Reserve is maintained specifically for contributions held for the Horne Road Industrial Estate.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus		
Surplus for the year	10,637	19,052
Non-cash adjustments:		
Add / (deduct) non-cash items:		
Depreciation/amortisation	23,347	13,682
Loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,456	4,234
Contributions - Non-monetary assets	(14,107)	(6,647)
Prior year WIP written off	959	580
Bad and doubtful debts expense	39	212
Interest on lease liabilities	57	29
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(1,049)	98
(Increase)/decrease in inventories	10	12
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	(113)	(435)
Increase/(decrease) in contract assets	(95)	(482)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	719	(867)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	325	69
Increase/(decrease) in trust deposits	377	(8)
(Decrease)/increase in contract and other liabilities	(3,005)	933
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20,557	30,462

9.3 Superannuation

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

Accumulation

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

Defined Benefit

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

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

Funding Arrangements

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

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

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

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

Employer contributions**(a) Regular contributions**

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

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

(b) Funding calls

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

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

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

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

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

The 2023 triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts

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

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

	2023	2022
	(Triennial)	(Interim)
	\$m	\$m
- A VBI Surplus	84.7	44.6
- A total service liability surplus	123.6	105.8
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	141.9	111.9

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2023.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 9. Other matters (continued)

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2023.

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

The 2024 interim actuarial investigation

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2024 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2024.

The VBI of the Defined Benefit category was 105.4% as at 30 June 2024. The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2024 VBI were:

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

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

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

The 2020 triennial investigation

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

	2020	2023
	Triennial investigation	Triennial investigation
	\$m	\$m
Net investment return	5.6% pa	5.7% pa
Salary inflation	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter	3.50% pa
Price inflation	2.0% pa	2.8% pa

Superannuation contributions

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

Scheme	Type of scheme	Rate	2024 \$ '000	2023 \$ '000
Vision Super	Defined benefit	11.0% (2023: 10.5%)	189	184
Vision Super	Accumulation fund	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	2,295	2,180
Other Funds	Accumulation fund	11.0% (2023:10.5%)	1,324	985

In addition to the above contributions, Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$0 during the 2023/24 year (2022/23 \$0).

There were \$322k contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2024.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2025 is \$180k.

Warrnambool City Council

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 10. Changes in accounting policies

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2023-24 year.

7.2. Middle Island Project Annual Report 2023-24

This report is being considered during an election period. The recommended decision is not a prohibited decision in accordance with the meaning of Council's Election Period Policy.

DIRECTORATE : City Infrastructure

Purpose:

This report is provided for information on the Middle Island Project Annual Report 2023-24.

Executive Summary

- The Middle Island Project is a wildlife conservation project to help protect the colony of Little Penguins on Middle Island.
- This report provides an annual update on the project's implementation and outlines the Middle Island Project Season Report 2023-2024's outcomes.
- The highlights of the season include continued effectiveness of the Maremma guardian dogs protecting the Little Penguins and ongoing interest and participation in the education program.
- Challenges during the season include the health of the Maremma guardian dogs as they age, weather and tide conditions which impacted safe crossing to the island and limited the ability to undertake monitoring to estimate the population.

MOVED: Cr Richard Ziegeler

SECONDED: Cr Angie Paspaliaris

That the Middle Island Project Annual Report 2023-24 be received.

CARRIED - 7:0

Background

The Middle Island Project (the Project) has contributed to the conservation of the Middle Island Little Penguin colony for nineteen years.

The project's innovative use of Maremma guardian dogs to protect Little Penguins in a world-first conservation project of this kind, is now known as 'The Warrnambool Method' of wildlife conservation. By controlling fox predation on Middle Island, the project saw the recovery of the Little Penguin colony to over 200 individuals in the 2016-17 breeding season and continues to assist with this recovery.

Warrnambool City Council (Council) oversees the Project, with the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network (WCLN) undertaking monitoring of the Little Penguin colony, Deakin University contributing to research and the Warrnambool Field Naturalists Club. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Parks Victoria, also provide support and advice for project delivery via the Middle Island Project Committee. These organisations come together with major sponsors Petstock Warrnambool and The Vet Group to ensure the ongoing success of the Project.

The project's education program has become a focus in the past two years, particularly ways to grow the program and hence associated funds raised through it. This has become increasingly important as costs to run the program (primarily care and training of the Maremma guardian dogs as well as staff wages) have increased over the same time period.

Middle Island Project Season Report 2023 – 2024

The Middle Island Project Season Report outlines the key achievements and challenges during the 2023-2024 Little penguin breeding season - **refer to Attachment 1.**

The Project Highlights for 2023-24 include:

- No evidence of foxes on Middle Island during the season
- On-going interest in the Penguin Protectors Warrnambool - Education Experience and the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum & Village - Education Program
- Continued sponsorship by major sponsors PetStock and the Vet Group
- Local businesses and the wider community continue to support the Project
- Correspondence from interstate and overseas grows
- Renewed Ethics Approval for Penguin Monitoring

Key Penguin Statistics:

- Limited arrival counts undertaken outside of prime breeding times counted less than ten Little Penguins
- Limited counts don't form a reliable estimate of the population size
- Short-tailed Shearwater's continue to nest on Middle Island during their migration
- Breeding surveys weren't completed due to difficulties obtaining ethics approval
- Marine and Coastal Consent Act (MACA) permits have been submitted for acoustic surveying and other new surveying methods
- 83 volunteer hours from WCLN volunteers have been spent on the project this season

Project Challenges:

- As the Maremma guardian dogs age their health concerns increase
- Damage to infrastructure on Middle Island caused an unsafe workplace for unsupervised dog activity
- Island accessibility limited as dependent on favorable weather and tide conditions

Issues

Weather conditions have hampered the ability to house the Maremma Dogs on the island over the past two seasons and have made access for maintenance activities difficult also.

Financial Impact

The Middle Island Project requires resourcing to implement. This includes staffing to care for and train the Maremma guardian dogs and deliver tours and the education program. The tourism and education program and donations are the main sources of revenue for the project. Project oversight, coordination and administration support is accommodated within the City Sustainability budget.

Legislation / Policy / Council Plan Context

1 A healthy community

1.6 Community learning pathways: Council will support and encourage lifelong learning that helps build community resilience and preparedness for change.

2 A Sustainable environment

2.1 Natural environment: Council will enhance open spaces and infrastructure that support a healthy community, wildlife, flora, fauna and biodiversity.

2.2 Water and coastal management: Council will protect and enhance the health of Warrnambool's coastline and inland waterways to protect and improve biodiversity

2.3 Environmental impact and a changing climate: Council will encourage innovation and initiatives that minimise Warrnambool's environmental impact.

2.6 Awareness and celebration: Council will foster community awareness and recognition of the benefits of positive outcomes for Warrnambool's environment

3 A strong economy

3.3 Visitor growth: Council will facilitate Warrnambool's visitor growth and year-round visitation through industry development, effective destination management and promotion of attractions, experiences and by leveraging key events.

Timing

This report covers the 2023 – 2024 Little penguin breeding season.

Community Impact / Consultation

The community has a strong connection to Middle Island and the Maremma guardian dogs that protect the Little Penguin population. As a result of the success of 'The Warrnambool Method' and the promotion it has given Warrnambool, protecting the Little Penguin colony has an economic value through its ability to provide a tourism experience. The Little penguin colony on Middle Island provides an opportunity to contribute to research undertakings and is a valuable tool for teaching the next generation about wildlife conservation.

The Middle Island Project continues to strive to positively contribute to the conservation of the Middle Island Little penguin colony. The ongoing success of the project is in large due to the collaborative efforts of Warrnambool City Council, stakeholders, sponsors and the local community who continue to come together in support of 'The Warrnambool Method' of wildlife conservation.

Legal Risk / Impact

The Middle Island Project continues to implement the 'Warrnambool Method' which has proven successful in protecting the colony of Little Penguins. Predation by foxes continues to be a significant threat to the Little Penguin colony on Middle Island.

The fox control program alone would not be sufficient to deter the foxes from Middle Island or eliminate the fox population, however, is an effective measure to reduce the population and provide a multifaceted and coordinated year-round approach to the protection of the Little Penguin.

Officers' Declaration of Interest

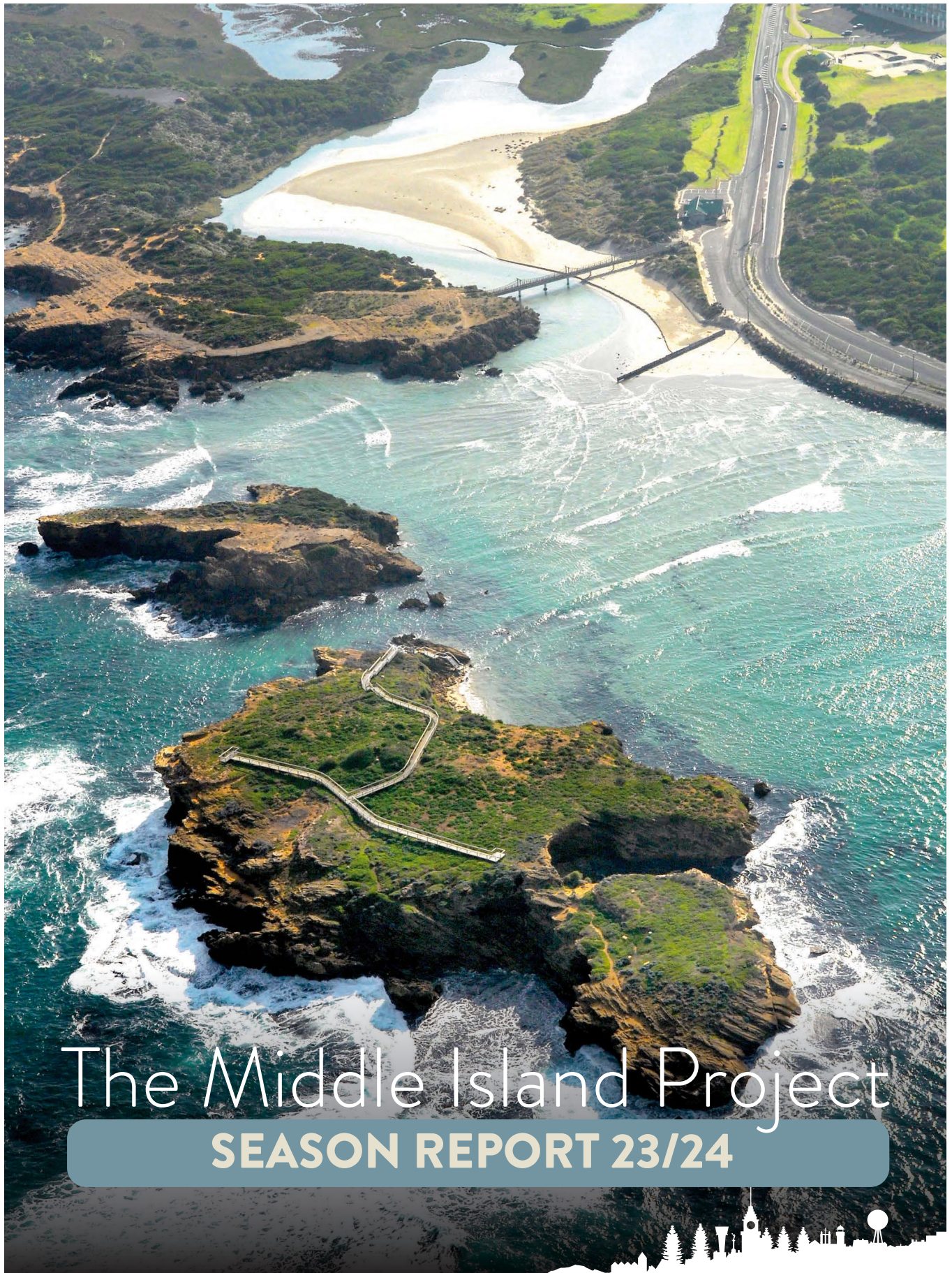
No Officer involved in the Middle Island Project has declared interest.

Conclusion

The Middle Island Project has been a long-running and successful program that has a strong link to the community. The use of Maremma guardian dogs to protect the Little penguin colony of Middle Island is now widely recognised as an innovative world-first in wildlife conservation. The ongoing long-term monitoring of the Little penguin colony and biodiversity of Middle Island is important to continue to guide conservation efforts into the future. The Middle Island Project Annual Report 2023-24 provides an opportunity to reflect on the key achievements and challenges and adapt implementation of the project across the Little penguin breeding season and prepare for the upcoming season.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Middle Island Project Season Report 2023 24 [7.2.1 - 14 pages]



The Middle Island Project

SEASON REPORT 23/24

The Middle Island Project **SEASON REPORT 23/24**

SEASON REPORT 23/24

The Middle Island Project (the Project) has contributed to the conservation of the Middle Island (the Island) little penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) colony for nineteen years.

The project's innovative use of Maremma guardian dogs to protect little penguins in a world-first conservation project of this kind, is now known as 'The Warrnambool Method' of wildlife conservation. By controlling fox predation on the island, the project saw the recovery of the little penguin colony to over 200 individuals in the 2016-17 breeding season. In August 2017, before the Maremma guardian dogs could safely access the island, another fox kill occurred. The little penguin colony has been recovering since with the continued protection of the Maremma guardian dogs.

Warrnambool City Council (Council) oversees the project, with the Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network (WCLN) undertaking monitoring of the little penguin colony, Deakin University contributing to research and the Warrnambool Field Naturalists Club, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Parks Victoria providing support and advice for project delivery via the Middle Island Project Committee (Committee). These organisations come together with major sponsors Petstock Warrnambool and The Vet Group to ensure the ongoing success of the project.

The aim of the Middle Island Project Season Report is to provide feedback regarding the key achievements of the project from July 2023 to June 2024 in the context of the objectives outlined by the Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

The Project Highlights for 2023-24 include:

- No evidence of foxes on the island during the season
- On-going interest in the 'Penguin Protectors Warrnambool' education experience and the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum & Village (FSH) education program
- Continued sponsorship by major sponsors Petstock and the Vet Group
- Local businesses and the wider community continue to support the project
- Correspondence from interstate and overseas
- Renewed ethics approval

Project Challenges:

- As the Maremma guardian dogs age their health concerns increase
- Damage to infrastructure on the Island caused an unsafe workplace for unsupervised dog activity
- Island accessibility was dependent on favourable weather and tide conditions

Key Penguin Statistics:

- Limited arrival counts undertaken outside of prime breeding times counted less than ten little penguins

- Limited counts don't form a reliable estimate of the population size
- Short-tailed shearwater's continue to nest on the island during their migration
- Breeding survey's weren't completed due to difficulties such as poor weather, crossing conditions and obtaining ethics approval
- Marine and Coastal Consent Act (MACA) permits have been submitted for acoustic surveying and other new surveying methods
- 83 volunteer hours from WCLN volunteers have been spent on the project this season

Key Maremma Statistics:

- Mezzo, Isola and Oberon continued their work protecting little penguins from fox predation through on-site guarding, scenting the island and surrounds as well as fur spreading when possible
- Avis and Amor continue to be valuable ambassador dogs on the education team, increasing awareness of the project and conservation efforts as well as highlighting the important role that guardian dogs can have in the protection of native wildlife
- All five dogs are aging and the need for a succession plan has been highlighted for the 2024/2025 season



Key Education Statistics:

- The 'Penguin Protectors Warrnambool' education experience ran over the summer (January) and Easter (April) School Holidays. The FSH education program was available all year round
- Funding received from these education experiences/programs assists with the cost of undertaking the project
- There was an increase of visiting schools taking up the opportunity to learn about the project and penguin conservation

Deakin University

- Continued support and advice provided to the project and the WCLN Seabird monitoring program, including ethics approvals and research permit requirements
- Continued collaboration/integration between the project and the Bachelor of Marine Science degree providing students with the opportunity to learn about this world-first conservation program


www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au


The Middle Island Project **SEASON REPORT 23/24**

MIDDLE ISLAND PROJECT COMMITTEE

The committee met quarterly throughout the 2023-24 season. Participation from stakeholders provided guidance and advice on the implementation of the project. An interest in the project from the community and key agencies assists with the progression of the project and assures its longevity. This season there was a slight change in membership as the committee continues to develop under the management of council.

The committee is comprised of a representative from the following organisations, groups and agencies, in addition to a Project Officer and a Penguin Monitoring Officer.

1. Deakin University
2. Warrnambool Field Naturalists Club
3. Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network
4. Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
5. Parks Victoria
6. Community Representative
7. Warrnambool City Council – Officer
8. Warrnambool City Council - Executive

Council would like to thank all committee members for their contribution and support to the project this season.



The Middle Island Project **SEASON REPORT 23/24**

WARRNAMBOOL COASTCARE LANDCARE NETWORK SUMMARY

WCLN volunteers have monitored the little penguin colony on the island since the project's inception in 2006. During the breeding season, little penguin arrival counts and breeding surveys are conducted following Phillip Island Nature Park's (PINP) methods to monitor colony recovery, reproductive success and to inform project success and adaptive management.

A small team of experienced volunteers dedicated over 83 hours to the WCLN seabird monitoring program during the 2023-24 season, despite a restricted capacity to undertake monitoring on the island. Volunteers continually monitored island accessibility throughout the season however prolonged unsafe crossing conditions and adverse weather events

continued to prevent safe access to the island for the majority of the season. Monitoring on the island was only possible during a 6-week period across December (2023) and January (2024) when tide, swell and weather conditions facilitated safe access.

Breeding surveys were not undertaken this season as the project did not have a current ethics approval. This approval has since been received and will be valid for

the upcoming 2024-25 breeding season. WCLN is also in the process of applying for consent under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 to deploy camera traps and acoustic recorders on the island to expand the program's monitoring capacity. WCLN aims to establish a baseline dataset for the large breeding colony of Short-tailed shearwaters which also occupies the island from spring to autumn each year.


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LITTLE PENGUIN MONITORING

Three little penguin arrival counts were conducted on the island this season, with little penguins observed arriving at two of these counts. This is the first time since the 2021-22 season that volunteers have observed little penguins arriving during a count, as the island was also inaccessible during the peak breeding period last season.

The first arrival count this season occurred in the first week of December (2023), with two little penguins observed arriving at the site called 'The Reef.' Two little penguins were again observed arriving at this same site during the final arrival count a month later (January 2024), however beyond this date, no further counts could be conducted due to restricted access to the island. A number of additional counts planned throughout the season had to be cancelled at short-notice due to unpredictable changes in crossing and weather conditions.

A valid population estimate cannot be made from the data collected this season as it would result in a significant underestimate as volunteers were only able to safely conduct arrival counts during a limited period in December (2023) and January (2024). To reliably estimate the size of the colony, arrival counts should be undertaken fortnightly, from as early as October and continue until after the post-moult period in approximately March.

Earlier breeding than expected was reported at other colonies along the Victorian coastline including Phillip Island, where little penguin arrivals in late 2023 peaked in October and were lower, on average, compared to the previous year (PINP, 2023). The island colony tends to follow similar general patterns of peak arrival and breeding as the Phillip Island colony. Therefore, it is reasonably expected that the peak arrival period on the island occurred at a similar time to the Phillip Island colony and therefore before volunteers could safely access the island to undertake arrival counts.

WCLN received reports from community members with in-direct evidence of little penguin activity in the Stingray Bay area despite a reduced capacity to collect direct evidence on the island. This included a deceased fledgling observed in Lady Bay, which is likely to have hatched on the island, providing in-direct evidence



of little penguin breeding this season (it is normal to observe a small percentage of little penguin chicks not surviving the fledgling process). WCLN volunteers did observe direct evidence of short-tailed shearwater breeding on the island this season.

The short-tailed shearwaters are also ground-nesting like the little penguins and therefore their survival during the breeding season also relies on council's conservation management techniques including the Maremma guardian dogs, fox baiting and fox den fumigation to reduce the threat of predation. Environmental changes associated with climate change continue to pose a rising threat to the little penguins and short-tailed shearwaters on the island. This includes the changes to little penguin arrival times and breeding

patterns already observed which have the potential to increase their susceptibility to existing threats including predation. It is imperative that existing conservation management on and around the island continues, and is adapted as necessary as the little penguin colony continues to face new and evolving threats to their survival.

References:

Phillip Island Nature Parks (2023), 'Conservation News – Spring 2023,' accessed 7th July 2024, <https://www.penguins.org.au/conservation/conservation-news/conservation-news-spring-2023/>.

The Middle Island Project **SEASON REPORT 23/24**

CONSERVATION & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Maremma guardian dog deployment on the island this season was significantly reduced due to a combination of factors including dog health challenges, infrastructure damage and unsafe crossing conditions.

Dog health

Avis, Amor and Mezzo have been provided with ongoing medication for health issues. All dogs have been ramp trained to ensure easy transportation and conditions aren't aggravated when moving in and out of the vehicle. Dog handlers continue to adjust when they work on the island and as education dogs. As our three guardian dogs and two ambassador dogs continue to age the need for succession planning is once again highlighted.

Infrastructure damage

The island is exposed to harsh environmental conditions (including strong winds) which has contributed to the deterioration of the boardwalk and fencing over the years. Significant storm events at the start of the season caused further damage to the island infrastructure which made it unsafe for the Maremma guardian dogs to be left unsupervised due to the risk of injuries.

Unsafe crossing conditions to the island delayed the repair and maintenance of the damage on the island until later in the season. The work undertaken by council included replacing a number of broken and rotten planks on the boardwalk, patching holes in the rusted chicken-wire fencing and repairing the shade cloth.

Crossing conditions

Crossing conditions remained unsafe for prolonged periods throughout the season significantly limiting the deployment of the Maremma guardian dogs. The condition of the crossing was routinely monitored throughout the season and accessed when safe. Maremma guardian dog fur was spread by project staff when the island could be safely accessed during these routine checks, and took the Maremma guardian dogs across to scent when conditions were conducive.


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Maremma Guardian Dogs

The Maremma guardian dogs remained a team of five, consisting of three guardians and two ambassadors.

While deployment onto the Island was significantly reduced, the guardian team continued to scent both on the island, and on Stingray Bay beach. Scenting involves a dog handler walking one of the Maremma guardian dogs around Stingray Bay, allowing their scent to be left through their fur and urine. This deters foxes from the area when the Maremma guardian dogs cannot be deployed onto the island.

The ambassador team enjoyed another busy season joining project staff for the 'Penguin Protectors Warrnambool' education experience, and spent the majority of weekdays in the paddock at FSH showcasing the Maremma breed and their important work protecting the little penguins on the island.

Guardian Dogs



Mezzo (7 years old)



Isola (6 years old)



Oberon (5 years old)

Ambassador Dogs



Amor (9 years old)



Avis (8 years old)

The Maremma guardian dog team is ageing, with examples of age-related health issues in both the ambassador and guardian dog teams this season. Amor, the oldest, will turn 9 in December 2024 while Oberon, the youngest, will turn 5 in June 2024.

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RESEARCH

Deakin University continued to support the project this season.

A PhD student based at Deakin's Warrnambool campus completed the first year of their program. An explanation of their studies can be seen below. A poster presentation of this study was presented at the Australasian Ornithological Conference in Brisbane in December 2023, outlining a brief history of the project, the current operations and future planning, including the importance of research-informed management of the colony in the future.

Deakin University continued to collaborate with the project as part of their Marine Science degree at the Warrnambool campus, providing the chance for first-year students to learn about the world-first use of Maremma guardian dogs in wildlife conservation on their doorstep. This learning experience has been coupled with Canidae Development to highlight the different roles dogs are undertaking. The students participated in a 'Penguin Protectors Warrnambool' Education Experience before hearing from Canidae Development about the role of their detection dogs in council's fox control program.

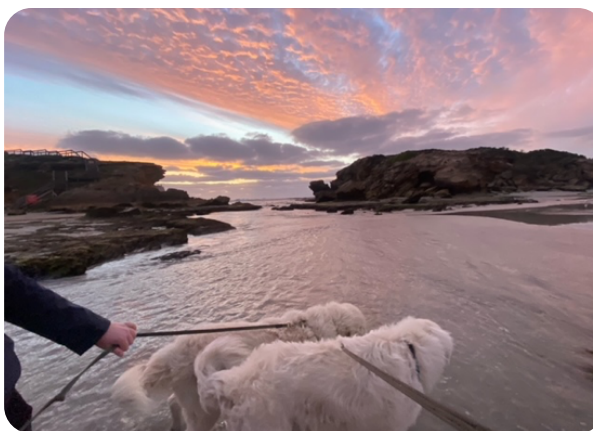
Research-informed conservation management of little penguins in a changing climate

Climate change has been associated with variability in the environmental determinants of little penguin breeding timing and success across the spatial range of the species. In recent years, increased variability in environmental conditions is thought to have contributed to decreased population size, reduced breeding success and unpredictable arrival times on the island.

Climate change is a rising threat placing further survival pressure on the recovering island little penguin colony, having the potential to increase susceptibility to existing threats and reduce the effectiveness of current conservation management strategies. This research investigates the complex combination of environmental determinants driving the observed responses at the island colony in recent years, including variations in sea surface temperatures, Chlorophyll-a levels (a proxy for marine productivity), and the timing and strength of the Bonney Upwelling.

Long-term little penguin monitoring data, collected by volunteers on the island since the 2006 breeding season, and publicly available environmental data are being used to investigate the mechanisms of influence and complex relationships between the little penguin responses and environmental determinants at varying spatial and temporal scales.

Subsequently, the capacity to predict the future impacts expected at the island colony under changing climatic conditions is also being explored, to inform proactive and targeted adaptive conservation management going forward. For example, by predicting the expected arrival time of the little penguins based on the environmental conditions experienced in the lead up to the breeding season to inform the deployment of the Maremma guardian dogs in anticipation of their arrival. This research is also anticipated to inform the development of longer-term conservation management strategies based on predicted responses of the little penguin colony under future climate change scenarios.



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EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Education Program

There continues to be an interest in the education program not just locally but nationally and internationally as well. With talks for kindergartens, schools, camps, TAFE's, universities and tourism operators throughout the year.

The education program focuses on the Maremma guardian dogs and little penguin conservation. With participants learning how to take and record measurements of little penguins. Participants also learn about Short-tailed shearwaters and their amazing migratory journey from the northern hemisphere to spend a summer on our coast.

Bookings as part of an education experience at FSH increased in 2023-04. Talks were held for school holiday programs, seniors week, local and neighbouring schools and other education providers (some being repeat participants), as well as tour operators coming to Warrnambool as part of a larger experience. These talks occurred all year round with the majority occurring at the end of the school year.

There is an interest in an online model of delivery for the talks from schools around the country. This will be investigated and considered as a way of expanding the education program.

The 'Penguin Protectors Warrnambool' educational experience talks were undertaken on weekdays during the month of January and Easter school holidays. During January there were a total of 259 participants being made up of 133 adults, 104 children, 17 concessions and 5 students. The talks run at 62% full overall and made a slight profit after recovering costs. All funds raised have gone into the management of the Maremma guardian dogs. Promotion of the talks was again through social media, community event pages and local news outlets. The use of digital traffic signs placed along Pertobe Road and A frame signage at the entrance of FSH, as well as at public talks was trialled with some success.

Work experience

The student-placement program continued this season with a Marine Science student from Deakin University dedicating 80 hours, primarily to the Middle Island Project, as part of a placement with the Natural Environment & Sustainability team at Council.

Tasks undertaken involved researching eco-tourism models used throughout the world and examples of social media posts to promote the Project.

Community and Partnerships

Community Engagement

The project continues to generate interest from around the country as well as overseas, enquiries about the Maremma guardian dogs continue to be received via email, social media, phone calls and post. The popular children's book 'Chooks in Dinner Suits: A Tale of Big Dogs and Little Penguins' by Diane Jackson Hill and Craig Smith continues to create interest from school aged children with many classes having read this book as a part of their curriculum then reaching out for more information.

Oddball the Movie continues to have a strong following and its popularity continues to generate awareness of the project almost ten years after its release.

Community Support

The project continues to be well supported by the wider community with the Warrnambool Athletics Club choosing to support the project as a part of their 'Flaggy 5' fun-run series held weekly during January, donating \$900 of funds raised from entry fees. This donation will go towards the care and training of the Maremma guardian dogs.

Continued support from local artist Mandy of 'Lucky Little Penguins' through donated proceeds of Christmas cards.

Handmade leather collars donated to the Maremma guardian dogs from William, Kylie and Deegan at WK&D Australia, who kindly reached out to the project via social media.

Sponsor

Petstock Warrnambool and The Vet Group continued as major sponsors of the project.

Purina Pro Plan increased their sponsorship to provide their 'Sensitive Skin and Stomach' food for two of our Maremmas.

4CYTE™ came on board as a sponsor of the project providing their vet endorsed joint health supplement containing the scientifically proven ingredient Epiitalis® for all five of the Maremmas. To learn more visit: 4cyte.global

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Media and communications

Things were a little quieter on the media front over the past season however, the project still generates both local and international interest with warrnamboolpenguins.com.au website views totalling 73,629 for the year with average engagement time sitting at 1 minute and 21 seconds. The website remains an important source of reliable information for the public.

The most significant media coverage was provided through 9Now's Drive TV series and their documentary titled "The Lap":
<https://www.drive.com.au/news/the-lap-the-ev-adventure-down-under-continues/>

Wild Pacific Media did some filming on

the island and at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum & Village in January. This documentary looked into penguin colonies around the world interacting with humans and is planned for viewing on IMAX screens around the world. Recently we've had an enquiry from Definition Studios enquiring about including the

island in a documentary on penguins living in unusual places. We've also had some Maremma guardian dog images supplied for a textbook tentatively titled "Animal Welfare Science – An Interdisciplinary Textbook" which is being written by Tina Rich and Emily Gay-Patterson and to be published by Taylor Francis.

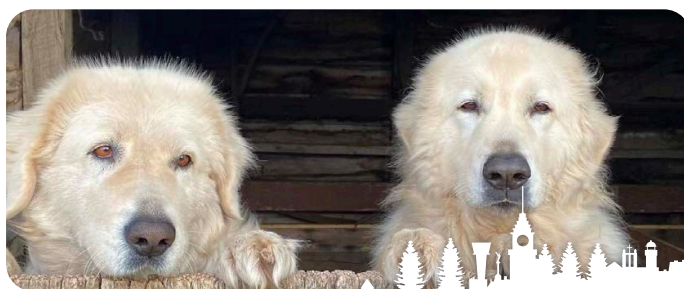
Social Media

Social media has become important for recognising and promoting our sponsors, with our two newest sponsors (4CYTE and Purina) only asking for recognition on social media as part of a 'sponsorship agreement.' This is a time and cost effective way of showing our appreciation.

Our 'Penguin Protectors Warrnambool' education experience was promoted across all of our social media platforms and this proved to be a good way of informing the public of up-coming sessions.

Engagement on posts is still high, with 18,747 followers on Facebook and 12,202 Instagram followers regularly interacting with posts via comments and 'likes' as well as 'sharing' content.

Whilst analytics show an increase in 'unfollows' over the twelve month period between July 1st 2023 and July 1st 2024, the project remains a popular brand that has the potential to expand reach and retain followers over the 2024/2025 season.





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The Middle Island Project **SEASON REPORT 23/24**

Middle Island - Maremma Penguin Project
Published by Lillian Maher
December 23, 2022

Penguin Protectors Warrnambool tickets are selling fast! 🐾🐾
Don't forget to book into one of our education sessions this summer to learn about Little Penguins, the importance of conserving them and how our world-first project uses Maremma dogs to protect them on Middle Island 🐾🐾

Book now: <https://book.bookeasy.com/middle-island.../tours/62201>
Sessions from December 29th!

Learn all about the world-first conservation project that uses Maremma dogs to protect Warrnambool's Little Penguin colony.
It's a fun and engaging educational experience with the opportunity to take a photo with one of our Maremma dogs!
All funds raised from these experiences go towards the care of the Maremma dogs and the conservation of the Little Penguins.

See insights and ads Boost post

41 1 comment 12 shares

Fox control

Protection of the little penguin colony on the island remains a critical priority for council's integrated fox control program, with fumigation and baiting programs continuing across the foreshore during the 2023-24 financial year.

From July 2023 to June 2024, two fox baiting and fumigation programs were completed by council's Environment, Playgrounds and Coastal Maintenance Team.

The annual program commenced in September 26 to October 24 2023 with the laying of 10 singular bait stations. Locations were selected using information gathered on fox and kill numbers from the 2022/23 season, prioritising targeted

baiting at the following zones:

- Pickering Point
- Worm Bay
- Lady Bay - prioritised behind the Warrnambool Skate Park
- Lake Pertobe
- Levies/ Shelly Beach areas

The 2023 spring program ran for a four week period, and recorded a total 20 baits taken across ten sites.

Bait stations were refreshed systematically and re-scented weekly with unspent baits removed at fortnightly intervals during each baiting program. Significant bait activity was noted at Lake Pertobe and Worm Bay localities.

Pre-baiting surveys determined the presence of active fox dens, with nine known sites fumigated and collapsed in accordance with best practice guidelines. As during previous treatment seasons, council ran a focused engagement and media campaign to ensure beach goers, residents and pets were protected from baiting activity.

Installation of bait stations was completed to prescribed guidelines, being

strategically placed away from footpaths for safety, and geo-referenced for easy removal at program conclusion.

A second baiting and fumigation program ran from **April 22 to May 20 2024**, operating at the same localities. A total of 16 individual baits were taken from across the ten sites.

The majority of baits taken were again from the Lake Pertobe and Pickering Point zones. Pre-baiting surveys identified nine fox dens for fumigation.

Over the 12 month period, a total of 36 baits were taken with highest levels of fox activity noted at Pickering Point, Worm Bay and Lake Pertobe. Pre baiting surveys found a total 18 dens for treatment, with post fumigation surveys showing no signs of activity or opening.

The protection of wildlife and non-target species was a priority during each baiting and treatment program. Best practice

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management techniques included the use of PAPP (Para-aminopropiophenone) baits and fumigants within the foreshore region, due to toxins being active in the primary animal only.

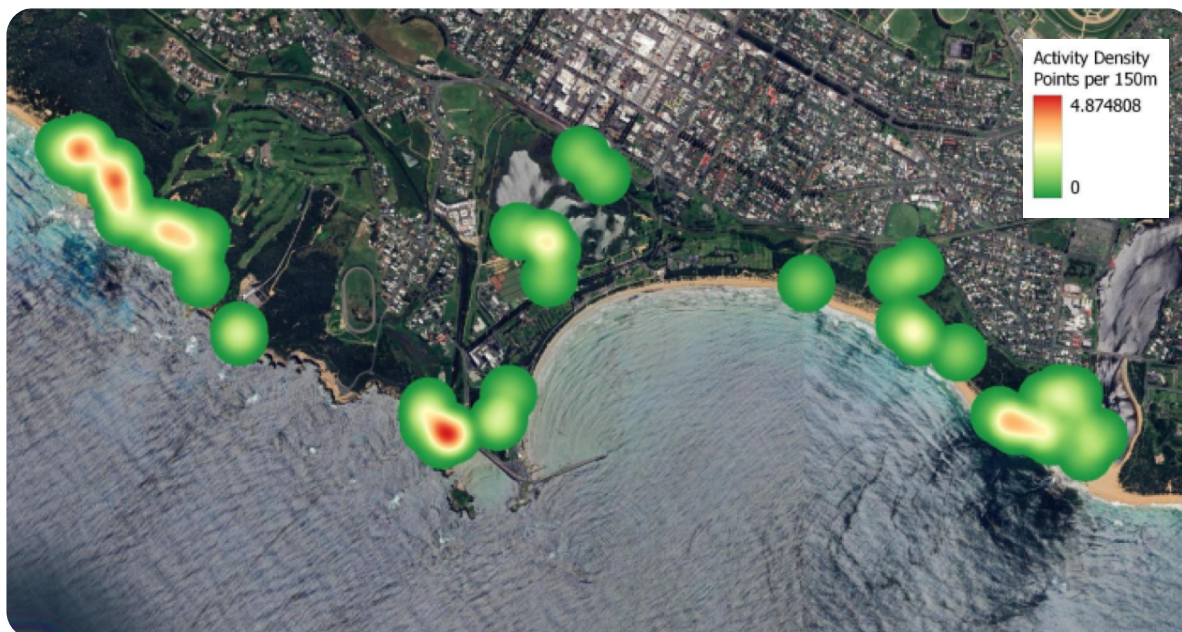
Fox and pest rodent interactions were recorded at several sites through the

laying of monitoring cameras. Surveillance footage will help to further inform the location and management of baiting across the Warrnambool foreshore, and options to expand monitoring are being considered.

For further information on Council's

invasive species priorities please refer to the *Invasive Plants and Animals Framework*, adopted by Council August 2023.

Please visit <https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/natural-warrnambool>



Conclusion

The Middle Island Project continues to strive to positively contribute to the conservation of the Middle Island Little Penguin colony. The ongoing success of the Project is in large due to the collaborative efforts of Council, stakeholders, sponsors and the local community who continue to come together in support of 'The Warrnambool Method' of wildlife conservation.





SUPPORT THE MIDDLE ISLAND PROJECT

The Middle Island Project is supported by Warrnambool City Council, some great sponsors and a crew of wonderful volunteers.

You can help the Middle Island Project by following and sharing our social media, hosting a donation box or becoming a sponsor.

If you'd like to help please get in touch: green@warrnambool.vic.gov.au

And if you'd like to help the Project financially you can make a donation through our website at this link: www.warrnamboolpenguins.com.au/get-involved

Facebook: Middle Island – Maremma Penguin Project

Instagram: @wboolpenguins

Twitter: @wboolpenguins



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7.3. Advisory Committee Reports

This report is being considered during an election period. The recommended decision is not a prohibited decision in accordance with the meaning of Council's Election Period Policy.

Purpose

This report contains the record of the Warrnambool Airport Reference Group meeting held on 5 August 2024 and the Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee meeting held on 6 September 2024.

Report

1. Warrnambool Airport Reference Group Meeting – 5 August 2024 – refer **Attachment 1**.
2. Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee – 6 September 2024 – refer **Attachment 2**.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Minutes WARG 5 August 2024 [**7.3.1** - 7 pages]
2. Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee Minutes - 6 September 2024 [**7.3.2** - 6 pages]

MOVED: CR DEBBIE ARNOTT

SECONDED: CR MAX TAYLOR

1. That the record of the Warrnambool Airport Reference Group meeting held on 5 August 2024 be received, noting Item 5, commentary on Strategy and Development Plan, Item 10, commentary on AirBP Fuel Facility and Item 13, commentary on Leases.
2. That the minutes of the Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee meeting held on 6 September 2024, be received.

CARRIED – 7:0

WARRNAMBOOL REGIONAL AIRPORT REFERENCE GROUP (WRARG) MINUTES				
Date: Meeting Objective: Attendees: WCC Attendees: MSC Attendees: For Information: Apologies:	Monday 5 August 2024.		Time: 11.00 am.	Location: Airport Aero Club Rooms.
	Discussion & Advise on Airport Operations and Development, Security, and Emergency Management.			
	Stephen Lucas (Chairman) Cr Max Taylor (Warrnambool City) Jim Doukas (Moyne Shire) Errol Stewart, Ken Veal.			
	David Leahy (Director City Infrastructure) Abel Farrell (Manager Infrastructure Services) Terry O'Sullivan (Coordinator Airport Operations & Compliance)			
	Vicki Askew Thornton (Senior Energy Projects Liaison Officer)			
	Shane Robe (ARO)			
Jodie McNamara (Director Economy & Place) John Stuart, Chris Daffy, Troy Bentley, Sue Rondeau, Mat Deans, , Senior Base Pilot/Engineer (Integrated Helicopter Services)				
No	Discussion		Who	Action
1.	Welcome & Apologies.		Chairman.	
2.	Declaration of conflict of interest.			Stephen Lucas – Hangar Owner/Aero Club. Errol Stewart – Hangar Owner/Aero Club. Ken Veal – Hangar Owner/Aero Club. Abel Farrell has a family connection with Chairman.
3.	Confirmation of minutes of Meeting Monday 13 May 2024. Minutes tabled at Council Meeting Monday 1 July.		All.	Moved: Stephen Lucas. Seconded. Errol Stewart. Carried.
4.	Business arising from the Minutes.		All.	Nil.
5.	2021 Airport Development Plan, ADP, and Strategic Plan. Future development of the Airport is centred on enhancing safety and catering for larger Aircraft as the region grows. Going forward there is a need for a Strategic Plan to complement the ADP covering but not limited to closer liaison with Moyne Shire (on nearby development, protection of		David Leahy/Abel Farrell.	Strategic Plan circulated to neighbouring Councils for review and comment. Next step local community consultation then review and comment from Reference Group.

	<p>Airspace, etc) leases, commercial activities, permitted usage, etc.</p> <p>Officers to review the Airport Development Plan and to develop an Airport Strategy with particular reference to the protection of Airspace around the Airport (Minimum Safe Altitude, MSA, and Obstacle Limitation Surfaces, OLS) as highlighted by recent State Government Panel Hearing's on Windfarm Developments.</p> <p>With the proposed works of lengthening and strengthening Runway 13/31, when funding is available, it may be sensible to commence discussions now on how works would be staged to allow for the Airport to remain operational, ie, sufficient runway length, night lighting, PAPI, and when works are undertaken at runway intersection, etc.</p>	All for further/ongoing discussion.		
6.	<p>CASA.</p> <p>CASA on site Thursday 30 May undertaking drug and alcohol testing.</p> <p>2 x CASA Flight Ops personal on site Friday 19 July.</p>	Terry O'Sullivan.	Noted by Group.	
7.	<p>Runway 04/22.</p> <p>Pavement works to improve drainage carried out week 17-21 June.</p> <p>Runway swept Thursday's 27 June and 25 July.</p>	For information.	Noted by Group.	
8.	<p>Apron/parking area.</p> <p>The Airport Development Plan identifies additional area as the highest priority for works. Council has funding allocated for further improvement works 2024/2025.</p> <p>Back in May Federal Government announced funding of \$40 million over three years</p>	All, for discussion.	Awaiting notification for Regional Airports Funding Program Round 4.	

9.	<p>Off Shore Operations. Operations have recently scaled back to periodic maintenance as required. On site for week 17-21 June and 23-27 July.</p> <p>Ops scheduled for 22-25 August, 9-10 September, 8-15 October, 11-22 November, 9-13 December, 22-24 January, 10-14 February, and 11-25 March.</p>	For information.	Indications are Off Shore Energy Operations will ramp significantly up late 2024 early 2025.	
10.	<p>Air BP Fuel Site. 10.1. Council has requested AirBp to review payments under current agreement to Council for the services Council is providing.</p> <p>AirBp are investigating if others parties are interested in proving service that Council is currently providing.</p> <p>10.2. Air BP have reviewed plans for an upgrade of the AVGAS Facility. Likely scenario at this point in time is decommission underground tank, leave it in situ, and install an above ground container on current site.</p> <p>10.3. The existing fuel site lease is due for review late 2024 so timely for Council to review the above collectively.</p> <p>Council needs to determine its position on whether it's an appropriate role to be a fuel provider?</p> <p>Tenants/Operators views on provider/s supply welcome.</p> <p>Timely for further review/discussion on current facility/site and future locations.</p>		<p>Council's position is that it is a short term fix in providing the service to ensure fuel supply.</p> <p>Chairman thanked Council for taking on this Function to ensure aviation fuel is available for HEMS4, local operators and the many others that utilise the Airport.</p> <p>AirBp still costing project and tank size.</p> <p>Ongoing discussion.</p>	

11.	<p>Obstacle Limitation Surfaces, OLS. 2024 OLS Survey carried out Tuesday 25 June.</p> <p>Results of survey provided to Council early July,</p> <p>Senior ARO/WSO maintains ongoing consultation with neighbouring property owners with regard to any vegetation identified infringing the approach, transition, and take off surfaces.</p>	Terry O'Sullivan.	<p>Further tree trimming to be undertaken subject to property owner consent, contractor availability and satisfactory ground conditions.</p>	
12.	<p>Wind Farm Developments. As previously agreed Warrnambool City Council's position that no change to the MSA occur in order to protect the current Airspace.</p> <p>Critical that Development and Strategy Plans for the Airport are adopted by Council.</p>	WCC & MSC Staff.	<p>Moyne Shire Council (resolved in September 2022) strongly recommends that the State Government pause the issuing of all wind farm planning permits in the Shire until strategic land use planning in the South West Renewable Energy Zone (SWREZ) is completed in consultation with Moyne Shire and other affected Councils and communities.</p> <p>Vicki Moyne's position is to have reasonable buffers around townships from developments and that Airports MSA/OLS and development is protected.</p> <p>Woolsthorpe site to be mobilised later in year.</p> <p>Hawkesdale site Turbines have been operating and site is obstacle lit.</p> <p>Hexham site nothing further to report since last meeting.</p> <p>Offshore Proponet has submitted their Feasibility Licence application for a site within the Declared Area. If that application is</p>	

			successful then expect project will move onto the next phase.	
13.	Leases. Council Property Officer/s working on lease agreements.		Chairman advised that the current lease (although excessive) is acceptable with covering letter to Council stating that the lease is for land occupied not the Hangar as this is owned privately .	
14.	Fees and Landing Charges. Income for 2024/2025 to date: Avdata charges \$0.00. Tax Invoices for Local Commercial and Recreational Operators to be raised in next 1-2 weeks Aircraft Movements: May 444. June 441. Numbers increase when local & other training + Ag Ops occur.		Noted by Group.	
15.	Drag Club. To be no further events.		Club has been progressively removing items from site.	
16.	Air Transport Operations. 2 x Kirkhope King Air Aircraft Wednesday 10 July each with 7 Pax.		Noted by Group.	
17.	Airport Works, Maintenance, & Miscellaneous. 17.1. Ongoing works applying herbicide on runway edges, markers, taxiways, drains, etc, to control vegetation.		Noted by Group.	
18.	Aero Club. Sunday 21 July Club had an open day to showcase renovated Rooms.		Noted by Group.	

19.	Australian Airports Association, AAA. ARO Monitors website, weekly e-mails and logs into appropriate Webinars. Annual membership recently paid. Next Victorian Division Meeting is in Melbourne Wednesday 21 August. National Conference is in Brisbane November		Noted by Group.	
20.	Hangar/Building Construction Lot 12. Site works in progress.	For information.	Noted by Group.	
21.	Weather Station/AWIS Weather information on Frequency 125.45 has been intermittent due to Telstra upgrade works in area. A NOTAM has been in place to advise Pilots.	Terry O'Sullivan.	Telstra works complete. Council/Airport staff continually monitor broadcast in day to day Airport operations and observed the facility not operating correctly. Bureau of Meteorology, BOM, Technicians are to undertake a site visit to inspect and undertake necessary repairs to the facility.	
22.	General Business.		Cr Max Taylor advised that he will not be seeking a further term as a Councillor. Max advised that he has had an enjoyable time whilst a member of the Reference Group and extended best wishes to all for the future. Chairman thanked Max for time and input into the Group.	
23.	23.1. Next Meeting. 23.2. Close of Meeting.		Monday 1 November 2024. 11.40am.	

MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date:	Friday, 6 September 2024	Time:	2 PM	Location:	Committee Room 1, Warrnambool Civic Centre
Purpose	<i>The purpose of the Committee is to provide strategic advice and direction in relation to Warrnambool economic development and tourism matters and to act as a conduit of information between stakeholders and the Warrnambool City Council.</i>				
Role/Objectives	<p>The role of the Committee is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Advise Council on significant strategic matters, trends or issues relating to the economic and tourism development of Warrnambool and the Great South Coast region. · To discuss new initiatives and major projects that support the Economic Development and Investment Strategy, Events Strategy and Warrnambool Destination Action Plan. · To act as a reference group and provide recommendations to Council on matters that fall within the Committees Terms of Reference. · Provide valuable industry/local knowledge to help inform Council decisions on economic development and tourism matters. 				
Committee Members In Attendance	Cr Max Taylor, Chair Cr Vicki Jellie Paul Dillon Leanne Williams Sarah Fitzgibbon Zita Tattersall Rod Brugman				
Council Officer in Attendees	Luke Coughlan – Director of City Growth Eddie Ivermee – Coordinator of Economic Development & Investment Emerson Wraight – Economic Development Project Officer				
No.	What	Actions			
1.	Welcome & Apologies	Declared 2:05 start time. Apologies: Steven Hoy			

		Paul Thompson Penny Irons Martin Elull
2.	Conflict of Interest Declaration	N/A
3.	Minutes from Previous Meeting - 8 March 2024 (7 June 2024 Meeting Cancelled)	Moved – Sarah Fitzgibbon Second – Rod Brugman
4.	Business Representative Group Update	<p>LC update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report attached to agenda. - Early interest promising but unfortunately unsuccessful from not enough nominations. - If interest shown in future by new Council or business community it can be revisited. Ideally a group would form organically. - RB – how many interested businesses/people needed to form? LC – Council was recommend 7-9 people. If a group came to Council wanting to form they would be supported by any means Council could provide at the time. - VJ – congrats to Eco Dev for efforts, big task. - PD - Disappointed but understandable. The uncertainty around time commitments may have prevented people from putting hand up. - RB – history makes for a lot of assumptions. - MT – end result not surprising. Only way to get off the ground now is a levy, but 2014 levy heavily criticised. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RB – reluctant to levy. Them vs. us culture.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EI – 2014 feedback from businesses was that they didn't know what levy was for, levy would require extensive and detailed plans/engagement. - LW - Lack of BRG could mean missed opportunities from organisations who don't approach Councils. - PD – hard to make it happen organically – needs strong governance and very dedicated people to work - RB – Is there any other groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VJ – Young professionals folded during Covid ○ LW - Business and professional women's group – what are their thoughts on BRG? - PD – Could Council have done anything differently? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Luke – open to feedback from attached report - Ed – Commerce Warrnambool used to have 100+ members but only 2-3 people were doing all the work. Lots of pressure.
5.	Have your say on parking in Warrnambool Results	<p>LC – Parking survey presented at Council Monday Sept 2nd.</p> <p>Overview of report, key findings and things to consider: parking sensors, review disabled provisions, 15 min parks at post office/banks/chemists, CBD all day parking, town shuttle, additional parking at hospital/raglan prde/railway precinct (inc. TAFE and Library), industrial line marking, improved signage at breakwater.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RB – Thoughts on 1 hour free on-street parking in CBD? Free parking at gateway a concern for CBD business owners. Notes it was not a question on survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LC – significant cost.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VJ – was not raised at Council meetings, if so would have been explored. ○ LC – if off-street parking 100 meters away available does it really drive business away? ○ RB – can appreciate difficulty of parking accessibility with kids. - RB – Commended bus service. Noted it is underutilised considering parking complaints. - LW – Inappropriately issued parking waivers – industrial estate. - LC – items of parking strategy can be prioritised by new Council. - VJ – strategy better than last one – not just CBD.
6.	Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB)	<p>LC update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warrnambool declared as refugee welcome zone. - TBB links skilled refugees to jobs. Different product to DAMA for businesses with different skills pool. - TBB singing and launch day – Wednesday Sept 11th.
7.	Investment and Attraction Prospectus	<p>LC - Nothing new since last meeting – looking to launch in NY. Targeted promotion in Melbourne/Geelong to identified groups, business, organisations, conferences etc. Document is ready for print bit awaiting new Council election results before publishing.</p>
8.	City Wide Accommodation Audit	<p>EI update -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed multi-page report to come. Shortened snapshot report in finalisation stage and will be released after caretaker. Currently ensuring no contradictory public tourism data.
9.	Winter Discount Card	<p>EI update –</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Program ran June – Aug (winter). Physical cards for tourists staying 2 or more nights. Handed thousands of cards, 850 registered card, and small amount claimed available deals. - Evaluation to come. Most likely fine tune, re-visit and try again next winter and hopefully ongoing. - RB – target tourism businesses instead. A local’s version could benefit more service-based businesses. - LW – Once established it has an opportunity to be successful - ZT – A local card could be used for businesses to reward employees - All agreed app could make it better. - PD – ‘Why leave town’ campaign – eftpos city card worked well in Swan Hill. Still going today.
10.	Ideas Place Overall Process Report	<p>Ed update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18 months into Ideas Places. Final report due EOM. 3 rounds with 3 sections (Ignite, Boot camp and Pitch Night). Final Pitch night completed on Wed Sept 4th. - Overall it has been great getting into start-up space and good numbers throughout programs. - LaunchVic funding now finished – evaluate and decide next steps collaborating with Moyne and Corangamite. - Young Entrepreneurs Program pitch night Sept 18th. - PD – 220,000 spent from LaunchVic? EI – Yes. - PD – suggested keeping in touch with alumni. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o EI – Confirmed participants of all rounds will be contacted by end of year.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ PD – In-person catch up with everyone together might help keep the pulse going. <p>RD - great moving events around to each LGA. Each community seems to embrace opportunity to host. As long as post-program support is available, the program is great.</p>
11.	Business Survey Work and Process	<p>Ed update –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 322 responses. Scott Salzman at Deakin University in Warrnambool to analyse and build report on data. At a high level businesses are experiencing a range of issues but still many remaining with a positive future outlook. Most responses 10+ years in business. Lots of challenges identified but also lots of opportunities.
12.	General Business	N/A
13.	Next Meeting – TBC after Council elections	Meeting close – 3pm

7.4. Informal Meetings Of Council Reports

This report is being considered during an election period. The recommended decision is not a prohibited decision in accordance with the meaning of Council's Election Period Policy.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with copies of Informal Meetings of Council (previously known as "Assembly of Councillor Records") as previously required under section 80A(2) of the Local Government Act 1989.

Background Information

Section 80A(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 required the record of an Assembly of Councillors to be reported at an ordinary Council meeting.

Assembly of Councillor Records are no longer a requirement in the Local Government Act 2020 as of 24 October 2020. However, under Council's Governance Rules, a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are required to be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

Report

The record of the following Informal Meetings of Council are enclosed:-

1. Monday, 9 September 2024 – refer **Attachment 1**.
2. Monday 16 September 2024 – refer **Attachment 2**.
3. Monday 30 September 2024 – refer **Attachment 3**.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Assembly of Councillors Record 9 September 2024 [7.4.1 - 2 pages]
2. Assembly of Councillors Record 16 September 2024 [7.4.2 - 1 page]
3. Assembly of Councillors Record 30 September 2024 [7.4.3 - 1 page]

MOVED: CR DEBBIE ARNOTT

SECONDED: CR ANGIE PASPALIARIS

That the record of the Informal Meetings of Council held on 9, 16 and 30 September 2024, be received.

CARRIED – 7:0

Informal Meeting of Council Record

Name of Committee or Group (if applicable):	Informal Meeting of Council (Councillor Briefing)
Date of Meeting:	9 September 2024
Time Meeting Commenced:	3.00pm
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr. B. Blain, Mayor Cr. D. Arnott Cr. V. Jellie Cr. A. Paspaliaris – arrived 3.15pm Cr. M. Taylor Cr. R. Ziegeler
Council Officers in Attendance:	Andrew Mason, Chief Executive Officer Peter Utri, Director Corporate Strategies Luke Coughlan, Director City Growth Brooke Love, Director Community Development David Leahy, Director City Infrastructure Wendy Clark, Executive Assistant Ashish Sitoula, Strategic Community Planning & Policy – 3.33pm – 4.03pm Lotti Dumesny, Youth Engagement Coordinator – 3.33pm – 4.03pm Stuart Miller, Service Manager, Healthy Engaged Communities – 3.33pm – 4.03pm Lauren Schneider, Manager Sustainability and Compliance - 4.04pm – 4.10pm Justin Hartzmeyer, Coordinator Natural Environment & Sustainability - 4.04pm – 4.10pm
Other persons present:	Kellie King & Grant Howland, Thriving South West Steering Committee Leith Thomas, Future Tense - Virtual
Apologies	Cr Otha Akoch
Matters Considered:	1. Thriving South West. 2. Youth Strategy Development update. 3. Middle Island Project Annual Report 2023-24. 4. Airport Reference Group Meeting Minutes 5 August 2024. 5. 2024/25 Christmas New Year Close Down.
Council and Officer Items Raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triple j's One Night Stand. • Warrnambool Art Gallery exhibition Claw Money. • Warrnambool Art Gallery shortlisting in 2024 Victorian Museum & Galleries Awards. • Growing Regions and Tidy Towns grant applications. • Hider Street discontinuance. • Upcoming Informal Meetings of Council. • Disabled car parks around Fletcher Jones building. • NBN/Telstra pits corner Lava and Banyan Streets. • Thefts and anti-social behaviour in CBD. • Small Infrastructure Fund. • Viaduct Road storm damage. • Surface of laneway from Koroit Street to Coles car park and cleanliness of the Shilton Place area. • Ozone car trialling of entrance/exit.
Councillor Conflicts of interest Disclosures:	
Councillor /Officer Name:	Nil.
Meeting close time:	4.46pm
Record Completed by:	Wendy Clark Executive Assistant

Informal Meeting of Council Record

Name of Committee or Group (if applicable):	Informal Meeting of Council (Councillor Briefing)
Date of Meeting:	16 September 2024
Time Meeting Commenced:	3.00pm
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr. B. Blain, Mayor Cr. D. Arnott – arrived 3.06pm Cr. V. Jellie Cr. A. Paspaliaris – arrived 3.38pm Cr. M. Taylor – until 4.51pm Cr. R. Ziegeler – arrived 3.06pm
Council Officers in Attendance:	Andrew Mason, Chief Executive Officer - Virtual Peter Utri, Director Corporate Strategies Julie McLean, Acting Director City Growth Brooke Love, Director Community Development David Leahy, Director City Infrastructure Wendy Clark, Executive Assistant Ashish Sitoula, Strategic Community Planning & Policy – 3.04pm – 3.19pm
Other persons present:	
Apologies	Cr Otha Akoch
Matters Considered:	1. Enervest-FRV Community Batteries Project. 2. Karratpeeteenween – Council and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation quarterly meeting. 3. Councillor reflection workshop.
Council and Officer Items Raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live and Local event. • One Night Stand. • Archie Graham Community Centre activities. • Key worker housing project. • Former Fletcher Jones building. • Stairs at Worm Bay Road. • Stormwater in Merri River. • Stairs at Stingray Bay.
Councillor Conflicts of Interest Disclosures:	
Councillor /Officer Name:	Nil.
Meeting close time:	5.27pm
Record Completed by:	Wendy Clark Executive Assistant

Informal Meeting of Council Record

Name of Committee or Group (if applicable):	Informal Meeting of Council (Councillor Briefing)
Date of Meeting:	30 September 2024
Time Meeting Commenced:	3.00pm
Councillors in Attendance:	Cr. B. Blain, Mayor Cr. O. Akoch Cr. D. Arnott Cr. V. Jellie - virtual Cr. A. Paspaliaris – arrived 3.13pm Cr. M. Taylor – until 4.38pm Cr. R. Ziegeler
Council Officers in Attendance:	Andrew Mason, Chief Executive Officer - Virtual Peter Utri, Director Corporate Strategies Luke Coughlan, Director City Growth Brooke Love, Director Community Development Abel Farrell, Acting Director City Infrastructure James Plozza, Manager Governance Wendy Clark, Executive Assistant Julie McLean, Manager City Strategy & Development – 3.00pm – 3.39pm Morteza Mirgholami, Strategic Planner - 3.00pm – 3.39pm Rob Wandell, Coordinator, City Development - 3.00pm – 3.39pm - Virtual Stuart Miller, Service Manager, Healthy Engaged Communities – 3.40pm – 4.12pm Peter Russell, Manager, Capacity Access & Inclusion – 3.40pm – 4.12pm Clare Vaughan, Coordinator Community Programs, Healthy Engaged Communities – 3.40pm – 4.12pm Jenni Katsaros, Capacity Access & Inclusion Admin Team Leader – 3.40pm – 4.12pm
Other persons present:	Sarah Ancell, Victorian Planning Authority Sarah Salem, Victorian Planning Authority
Apologies	Nil.
Matters Considered:	1. East of Aberline Road PSP Update. 2. Archie Graham Community Centre and Community Programs Update. 3. Annual Report 2023-2024. 4. Minutes Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee meeting – 6/9/2024. 5. Notes – Environment & Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting – 5/9/2024. 6. Mayoral diary update.
Council and Officer Items Raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of Hycl Technology hub at Deakin Warrnambool campus. • Spinifex Offshore Wind Farm feasibility licence announcement. • CBD traders/Police meeting. • Early childhood centre of excellence. • Share the load laundry. • Drummond Street road surface and dust problem. • Chips in new kerbing at Lava Street/Kepler Street roundabout. • Coles car park toilets.
Councillor Conflicts of interest Disclosures:	
Councillor /Officer Name:	Nil.
Meeting close time:	4.44pm
Record Completed by:	Wendy Clark Executive Assistant

7.5. Mayoral & Chief Executive Officer Council Activities - Summary Report

This report is being considered during an election period. The recommended decision is not a prohibited decision in accordance with the meaning of Council's Election Period Policy.

Purpose

This report summarises Mayoral and Chief Executive Officer Council activities since the last Ordinary Meeting which particularly relate to key social, economic and environmental issues of direct relevance to the Warrnambool community.

Report

Date	Location	Function
5 September 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor - Minister Dimopoulos, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events visit to Warrnambool Art Gallery.
11 September 2024	Warrnambool Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive officer – Attended launch of Talent Beyond Boundaries program. Mayor – Attended Student Leaders Congress Celebration night.
14 September 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer - Attended Triple J One Night Stand.
26 September 2024	Portland	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Attended Southern Ocean offshore wind industry announcement by Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Hon. Chris Bowen.
1 October 2024	Warrnambool	Mayor and Chief Executive Officer – Attended opening of Hycel Technology Hub at Deakin Warrnambool.

MOVED: CR OTHA AKOCH

SECONDED: CR RICHARD ZIEGELER

That the Mayoral and Chief Executive Officer Council Activities – Summary Report be received.

CARRIED - 7:0

8. Notice Of Motion

No Notices of Motion have been received.

9. General Business

Nil.

10. Urgent Business

Nil.

11. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.20pm.

CHAIRMAN